The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 18, 1992 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Angeli, Comm. Seppanen, and Comm. Corkin. Excused: Comm. Arsenault and Comm. Potvin, they are attending the MAC Conference in Lansing, Michigan.

A Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 4, 1992 be approved.

Proclamations, Presentations and Awards

Chairperson Corkin proclaimed March as Red Cross Month in Marquette County, and read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
MARCH IS RED CROSS MONTH

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is an organization dedicated to meeting the needs of millions and improving the quality of human life, in times of emergency, disaster, conflict and peace; and

WHEREAS, thousands of giving and talented volunteers devote their time to reaching out to others through a variety of Red Cross services including: food and shelter for victims of fire and natural disaster; service to military families; health and safety education in water safety, first aid, CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), babysitting and HIV/AIDS education, and a spectrum of community services; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is dedicated to giving people the tools they need to live safer, healthier, more fulfilling lives, and to assessing and meeting the changing needs and concerns of the American people; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross has been serving the County of Marquette for 75 years, bringing comfort, safety, education, humanitarian support and understanding to the people of Marquette and beyond through the efforts of volunteers-citizens of all ages, interests, backgrounds, and walks of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the month of March, 1992, to be American Red Cross Month in Marquette County, saluting this outstanding organization and the many people who so generously contribute their time, energy and caring to the needs of their fellow citizens. I also urge continued generous response to the financial needs of Red Cross so the organization may continue to meet local and world-wide emergencies and provide the high quality of service it has given the American people for over one hundred and ten years.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Robert Beams, Richmond Township Resident, expressed his dissatisfaction with the reply from Civil Counsel, David Payant, in regards to his complaint alleging violations by Richmond Township Officials of their neglect of duty by not enforcing the Township Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Beams does not expect any further action from the County Board, but wanted to express his opinion. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following Late Addition; 11a) become a discussion of Payment in Lieu of Taxes by the Federal Government.

Privileged Comment

8a) & 8b) Dr. Ron Davis, Chief Medical Executive of the Michigan Department of Public Health, cannot be present until approximately 8:00 p.m. and so the County Board will proceed with the agenda.

Privileged Comment Cont'd.

8c) Jennifer Bennon, Court Administrator/Magistrate, was present to comment and answer questions regarding the 96th District Court 1991 Annual Report. Ms. Bennon highlighted the report by explaining that the figures demonstrate a 35% increase in judgement collections over 1990, which also increased the general fund revenues by over 34%. The District Court has enacted Caseflow Management Procedures which have been shown effective in eliminating court document congestion and also meeting the required length of time from arraignment to trial, which has been reduced from 6 months to approximately 60 days. District Court has demonstrated it has a capable hardworking and dedicated staff that has pulled together as a team to maintain operations, and solve problems, thereby resulting in increased revenues and more efficient operations and services.

District Court Judge, James Collins, was also present and pointed out the important bottom line from the last page of the report which shows that since 1987 case filings have increased from 15,477 to 18,277 or 18%; however, because of emphasis on enforcing orders and collecting unpaid judgments due to the court, revenues have more than doubled or increased by 110%. General fund revenues have increased by 130%, while operation costs have increased by only 47%. In 1987 court expenditures cost the general fund $184,626.00, but in 1991 revenues over expenditures put $75,206.00 in the County general fund. Judge Collins also thanked the County Board for their support in District Court operations.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board commended District Court for an excellent job.

Informational Items

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the following informational items be placed on file; 9a) Dept. of Employment Programs Monthly Report for January, 1992; 9c) Memo from Henry Schneider, Equalization Director, regarding Certified Assessing Officers; 9d) Letter from Marquette Township regarding the appointment of Commissioner Paul Arsenault to the Township DDA/TIF; 9e) Letter from Civil Counsel, David Payant, regarding complaint of a violation MCL 750.478 in Richmond Township; 9f) Letter from Civil Counsel, David Payant, regarding Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Bond Issue; 9g) Sheriff's Dept. Activity Report for the month of November, 1991; and 9h) Sheriff's Dept. Activity Report for the month of December, 1991.

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Informational Items Cont'd.

9b) Chairperson Corkin was pleased to announce that the W.K. Kellogg Foundation has awarded a grant to Marquette County in the amount of $5,000.00 to help develop a Youth Profile to be used as a planning tool that will communicate the needs of our children to the community. Work on the grant proposal was done through a Committee which included Chairperson Corkin, Leslie Bek, Health Department Educator, Karen Dubow, MAISD Board Member, and Gary Johnson, Republic Township Supervisor.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the communication be placed on file.

Action Items

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Action Items 10b), 10d), 10e), 10f), and 10g), be approved as follows:

10b) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to send a resolution to the Michigan Department of Public Health requesting that more nursing home beds be made available in Marquette County, and to also provide the survey documentation that there is a waiting list of 400+ residents in Marquette County for these nursing home beds. This resolution will also be sent to all Township Supervisors and City Managers in Marquette County, and to Governor Engler, State Senator Koivisto, and State Representative Jacobetti. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners has held a deep concern for many years on the shortage of available nursing home beds in Marquette County; and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners has surveyed various health agencies requesting copies of their waiting list for Marquette County residents requesting placement in area nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, this survey has documented a total of 400+ (non-duplicated) citizens waiting for placement in Marquette County nursing home facilities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners once again go on record as supporting the availability of more nursing home beds in Marquette County.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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10d) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt a resolution showing participation and membership in CUPPAD as follows:

COUNTY MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Overall Economic Development Planning (OEDP) Committee and the CUPPAD Regional Commission provide a means for public and private interests to jointly devise local solutions to area problems and to foster the economic, social, and physical development and conservation of the central Upper Peninsula; and

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WHEREAS, Marquette County wishes to participate as a member of the Marquette County OEDP Committee and the CUPPAD Regional Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Marquette will be an actively participating and dues paying member of the CUPPAD Regional Commission for 1992.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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10e) A Committee of the Whole recommendation for the County Board to adopt a resolution as described in tax law MCL 211.59(3), which will allow for the waiver of penalty for late payment of property taxes by eligible persons who have filed for State income-tax refunds for a trial period of one year, resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby waives, for a trial period of one year, the penalties for late payment of property taxes by eligible persons who have filed for State income-tax refunds as prescribed in the Michigan Tax Law MCL 211.59(3) which reads as follows:

(3) A county board of commissioners, by resolution, may provide that for taxes paid in the first year of delinquency before May 1 for the homestead property for which a senior citizen, paraplegic, quadriplegic, eligible serviceman, eligible veteran, eligible widow, totally and permanently disabled person, or blind person, as those persons are defined in chapter 9 of Act No. 281 of the Public Acts of 1967, as amended, being sections 206.501 to 206.532 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, makes a claim before February 15, for the credit provided by chapter 9 of Act No. 281 of the Public Acts of 1967, as amended, if that claimant presents a copy of the form filed for that credit to the county treasurer, has not received the credit before March 1:

(a) Any interest, fee, or penalty in excess of the interest, fee, or penalty that would have been added if the tax had been paid before February 15 shall be waived.

(b) Interest paid pursuant to subsection (1) or section 89(1)(a) shall be waived unless the interest is pledged to the repayment of delinquent tax revolving fund notes or payable to the county delinquent tax revolving fund, in which case the interest shall be refunded from the general fund of the county.

(c) The county property tax administration fee shall be waived.

(4) The local treasurer shall indicate on the delinquent tax roll of a 1% property tax administration fee was added to taxes collected before February 15.

(5) The fees authorized and collected pursuant to this section and credited to the delinquent property tax administration fund shall be used by the department of treasury to pay expenses incurred in the administration of this act.

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(6) The county property tax administration fee shall be used by the county to offset the costs incurred in and ancillary to collecting delinquent property taxes, and for purposes authorized by sections 87b and 87d.

Last Am. 1983; Act 254, Imd. Eff. December 29, 1983.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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10f) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to appoint the Advisory Ad Hoc Committee on County Remonumentation, the list as presented by Register, Patricia Manley, and further that Resource Management/Development Staff, particularly Jim Kippola, be charged with the responsibility for background preparation and work on the plan development. Appointees as follows:

James Kippola - Liaison for County Board
Patricia Manley - Register of Deeds - Plat Board
Robert Menard - County Road Commission & Drain Commission
Larry Bussone - Industrial Division - Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co.
Glen VanNeste - Registered Land Surveyor
Gerald Carlson - Registered Land Surveyor
Robert Lannan - Mead Co. - Forester
Robert Haapala - City of Marquette - Engineer
Dawn McGladdery - Abstractor
Keith Sackett - Dept. of Natural Resources - District Surveyor
Alan Pierce - Registered Land Surveyor
David Lynch - Board of Light & Power - Engineer
Patrick Farrell - Northern Michigan Univ. - Professor - GIS System
Harold Reichardt - U.P. Power Co.

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10g) The County Board approved the Registration Form and Annual Expenditure Report submitted each year by the Sheriff's Department to the State Department of Management and Budget. Sheriff Maino explained in a memo that this Registration Form is consistent with prior years, requires County Board approval and is necessary to receive the Annual Criminal Justice Training Funds, with this years total being $17,444.00.

Action Items Cont'd.

10a) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Community Mental Health Liaison Committee which consists of representatives of the Alger County Board, Marquette County Board, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board, and Marquette County staff. The meeting was held on Friday, February 14, 1992, to discuss the various options for financing new construction for the AMCMH capital projects program. The consensus of the Liaison Committee and the AMCMH Board was to recommend that the County Board pledge their full faith and credit behind the issuance of bonds in the amounts of approximately $1.5 million dollars, and that the first priority for financing the sale of bonds should be through a negotiated sale with local banks (all local banks should be contacted through a bid process), and if that first priority is not feasible the County should then consider limited general obligation bonds in the like amount.

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Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board Chairperson, Rudolph Kemppainen, was present and pointed out that CMH must have a contingency plan in place when the Newberry Hospital closes. It will then be the responsibility of local Community Mental Health agencies to provide services for clients who would have no means to care or protect themselves.

Dr. William Birch, CEO, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health, further added that as a result of the Community Mental Health capital project expanded programs and construction, 50 to 60 new employees will be needed in the Marquette County area. Dr. Birch is pleased with the recommendation that came out of the Liaison Committee.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the County Board concur and approve the Liaison Committee recommendation and pledge their full faith and credit for the sale of bonds with first priority being a local bank, and if this is not feasible then the County should issue limited general obligation bonds.

10c) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve Phase II of the re-carpeting projects, the low bidder being Sherwin Williams in the amount of $14,976.49 for the Courthouse Annex Project, and $5,337.83 for the Jail Administration Project. Comm. Seppanen did not see the need for re-carpeting Room 41 at this time. The tile in Room 41 is in excellent condition, and by not carpeting Room 41 the County could save approximately $500.00.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried to accept the re-carpeting bids with Sherwin Williams being the low bidder without Room 41 being re-carpeted, which is part of alternate II. George Wright, Facilities Manager, will have to renegotiate alternate II with Sherwin Williams.

Late Additions

11a) Comm. Angeli requested that Commissioners consider and support a resolution which provides for a payment in lieu of taxes for those lands owned by the federal government in the Upper Peninsula in the amount of $2.50 per acre. Chairperson Corkin requested that Comm. Angeli investigate the matter further and with the help of staff draft a resolution to be considered at a future Committee meeting.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Lynn Emerick, Director, Commission on Aging, was present and explained that the Marquette City Treasurer will also waive penalties for late payment of property taxes by eligible persons. This affects 24 people in the City of Marquette, the total taxes involved $24,000.00, and at a 1% fee amounts to a mere $246.00. The City Treasurer informed Lynn Emerick that the fees being waived were only 1% and not the 6% that County Treasurer Sodergren was speaking of.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, had further information from the County Treasurer that indicates that Marquette County must pledge its full faith and credit to repay any tax delinquent notes, this includes any administration fees, late penalties, and interests, which amounts to about 6% at the County level.

Chairperson Corkin appreciated the Commission on Aging efforts in this matter, and requested a future update from Lynn Emerick. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Chairperson Corkin announced that Comm. Arsenault, while in Lansing at the MAC Conference, had an opportunity to meet with State Senator Koivisto regarding the shortage of nursing home beds in Marquette County. Senator Koivisto was impressed with Marquette County's efforts and will introduce legislation in the near future to support the availability of more discretionary nursing home beds.

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7:30 p.m. Chairperson Corkin declared a recess until Dr. Ron Davis of the Michigan Department of Public Health arrives to make his presentation.

RECESS

7:50 p.m. The County Board came back in session.

Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Director, Marquette County Health Department, introduced Dr. Ron Davis, Chief Medical Executive, Michigan Department of Public Health, regarding the proposed State Tobacco Tax legislation.

Dr. Davis distributed the following information to Commissioners: House Bill #5467 and House Bill #5466; the "AHTTC" Ad Hoc Tobacco Tax Coalition to Attack Michigan's Health Problems; and a Community Health Investment Initiative Summary. Dr. Davis reviewed the "AHTTC" page by page which points out that Michigan's overall chronic disease death rate is the worst in the United States. One of the major causes of this death rate is smoking and the use of tobacco. The tax proposal will provide a net increase of $228 million dollars which would be used to fund a number of health services and education projects throughout the State of Michigan. Dr. Davis said the directors of the four Human Services Departments in Michigan support the initiative and requested County Board support.

Commissioners asked how much of this funding will come back to the local communities. Dr. Davis admitted that the Michigan Department of Health has not met its 50/50 Headlee obligations; however, they are trying to turn it around. Since 1978 the Health Department has backslid from a 24% funding of local health departments to only 14%; however, they need new sources of revenues to change this, and this tobacco tax initiative could provide that revenue. A survey conducted by Public Sector Consultants showed that 70% of the general public supported a 20 cent per pack tax hike, and 60% would support a 50 cent per pack tax. Dr. Davis is looking for resolutions, phone calls, letters of support, whatever the County Board could provide.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, thanked Dr. Davis for his presentation and indicated that the County Board will consider the tobacco tax legislation at a future Committee meeting.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 18, 1992, 7:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON February 4, 1992.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS:
   a. Resolution naming March as Red Cross Month.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. (None).
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
   8:00 am
   a. Dr. Ron Davis, Chief Medical Executive of the Michigan Department of Public Health, regarding the State Tobacco Tax.
   b. Dr. Ron Davis regarding Funding Inequities for Local Health Departments.
   c. Jennifer Bennon, Court Administrator/Magistrate, regarding the District Court 1991 Annual Report. (No packet materials).
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   a. Dept. of Employment Programs Monthly Report for January, 1992.
   b. Announcement of a $5,000.00 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to help develop a County Youth Profile.
   c. Memo from Henry Schneider, Equalization Director, regarding Certified Assessing Officers.
   d. Letter from Marquette Township regarding the appointment of Commissioner Paul Arsenault to the Township DDA/TIF.
   e. Letter from Civil Counsel, David Payant, regarding complaint of a violation MCL 750.478 in Richmond Township.
   f. Letter from Civil Counsel, David Payant, regarding Alger Marquette Community Mental Health Bond Issue.
   g. Sheriff's Dept. Activity Report for the month of November, 1991.
   h. Sheriff's Dept. Activity Report for the month of December, 1991.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
   a. Financing of Community Mental Health Capital Improvement Needs.
   b. Committee of the Whole recommendation to support the availability of more nursing home beds in Marquette County.
   Send to all City & Twps
   c. Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve Sherwin Williams Company as the low bidder for the re-carpeting bids.
   d. Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt the County CUPPAD Membership Resolution.
   e. Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt the resolution to waive penalty for late payment of property taxes by eligible persons.
   f. Committee of the Whole recommendation to appoint the Advisory Ad Hoc Committee on Remonumentation.
   g. Communication and attached Registration from Joseph I. Maino, Marquette County Sheriff, for Criminal Justice Training Funds.
11. LATE ADDITIONS. 11a PILT
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.

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