BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MARQUETTE
AUGUST 16, 1994

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 16, 1994, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 26, 1994 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 15 become the appointment of an Employer Delegate to the annual Michigan Employment Retirement System Convention and Item 16 be Resolution Honoring the Pigs-N-Heat Fire Relief Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period July 22, 1994, through August 11, 1994, in the amount of $1,311,420.29 be approved.

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The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on a Community Development Block Grant Program Application to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Treasury requesting an allocation of $750,000 to be used for work force training projects for existing and potential employees of Upper Peninsula companies.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

Chairperson Corkin opened the hearing for Staff and Commissioner's comment. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that Marquette County will serve as the local unit of government applicant for this program which will be administered by the Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation, a Marquette based 501(C)(3) Community Development Corporation that provides business assistance services. Administrator Aloia supports the project and recommends its approval. He has also asked that a contract be prepared by Civil Counsel Payant so that NEI Corp. would accept any liability for the expenditures of the grant funds. They have agreed to this.

This program is different from other training programs in that it will be working with businesses who need employees trained for specific skills. Most programs provide for phantom training, that is an employee is trained in certain skills but not necessarily geared to meet the specific needs of a specific business. NEI Corp. is proposing that business groups form plans that will be reviewed and would provide for targeted training, which may include courses at N.M.U. and/or on the job training. Marquette County does not have the expertise to run this type of program.

This program will serve businesses throughout the U.P., however, Marquette County must act as a conduit to get the Community Development Block Grant Funds from the Department of Commerce. Also, a Commission will be formed to review proposals from businesses. The NEI Corp. requests that a representative from the County Board sit on this Commission.

Chairperson Corkin related that he is very impressed with NEI Corp.'s professionalism and supports this project as well as other projects of theirs. He hopes that they can do more in the future.

There being no further comment, the public hearing was closed.
It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve of the Community Development Block Grant Program Application of $750,000 to be submitted by Marquette County to the Michigan Department of Commerce with the Northern Economic Initiatives Corporation administering the grant.

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The Marquette County Soil and Water Conservation District presented a series of slides to the Committee of the Whole of various projects in Marquette County directed at preventing and/or repairing damage caused by erosion, storm water runoff, and pollution, etc. Those Soil and Water Conservation staff members making slide presentations included Laurie Boudoi, Administrator, Laurie LaBombard, Forester, Carl Lindquist, Chocolay Project Manager, Rich Fisher, Whetsome Project Manager, Mike LaPointe, District Conservationist and Noreen Heitman, District Director. Chairperson Corbin on behalf of the Committee of the Whole thanked the Soil and Water Conservation District Staff for the informational session and for conducting many worthwhile projects around Marquette County.

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The Committee considered a memo from James F. Sodergren regarding House Bill 5680 which provides for the distribution of Commercial Forest Act monies. Treasurer Sodergren was present and explained that HB 5680 will rob revenues from Upper Peninsula Counties and Townships. Many specific taxes, TIFPA, the Headlee Amendment, and lands owned by State and Federal Government have already eroded the tax base in the Upper Peninsula where there is no tax equity.

Mr. Sodergren reported that HB 5680 provides for using 1993 tax rates to distribute CPA monies. As a result a higher proportion of County and Township funds would go to the State of Michigan. The Legislature is trying to make up for the farmlands that was exempted from the 18 mills in Senate Bill 1.

Treasurer Sodergren read a letter from State Representative Dave Anthony, 108th District, acknowledging receipt of his letter of opposition to House Bill 5680. Mr. Anthony will keep Marquette County apprised of this legislation.

Mr. Sodergren added that the Michigan Townships Association is opposed to this legislation. There is plenty of time to react because the State Legislature does not reconvene until September. He requested the County Board take action opposing this legislation.

It was moved by Comm. Polvin, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send letters to all Upper Peninsula Counties and to our State Legislators opposing House Bill 5680.

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The Committee considered a request from Sheriff Joseph Maino to establish a computerized time clock for the Sheriff's Department. County Administrator Dennis Aloia supports the project at suggested the $3,000 be taken from the Contingency Account, and not from the $16,000 leftover from patrol vehicles purchased in the capital budget. Administrator Aloia further contends that a policy for use and control of the time clock system be established. It must be determined by a 30-day trial if the system will work and meets the needs of Marquette County.

Undersheriff Michael Quayle was present and wanted to clarify that the request for the time clock system has nothing to do with the integrity of the employees. At present the employees make out their own time sheets. The problem they are attempting to solve is the administration of the payroll for 70 employees. They are currently working with Brent Nault, Data Processing and Randy Girard, Human Resource Director.
Currently payroll calculations for the various sub-departments within the Sheriff’s Department must be done by hand, including computations of overtime, shift premiums, salary steps, etc. The Accounting Department would like payroll reports in their office by Monday, but more often than not the Sheriff’s Department cannot get them in until Wednesday morning. This makes it difficult for Accounting to distribute payroll checks by Friday morning.

Undersheriff Quayle desires this system to automatically calculate the hours worked by employees along with other items, such as overtime, vacation, shift premium, pay increases, etc., and then prepare a printout for the Payroll Department in a timely fashion. If the system works as planned, it will save the Sheriff’s Department many hours of work.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appropriate $3,000 from Contingency for the hardware and software for an automated time clock system for the Sheriff’s Department, and further that administrative staff be involved with the Sheriff’s Department to establish protocol and policies for implementing the system.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a Letter of Understanding between Community Mental Health, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, and the Alger County Board of Commissioners. Comm. Seppanen serves as a liaison between the County Board and Community Mental Health however in that he was ill and could not attend the meeting, it was moved by Comm. Braunme, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to table discussion on the Letter of Understanding until the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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The Committee considered a communication from the Burt Township Committee on the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge. The Committee requests that Marquette County provide a letter of support for the Grand Marais Harbor Project. In 1992 the Water Resources Act directed a reassessment of the Grand Marais Harbor. Also, the 95th Congress reassessed the harbor and listed break wall repairs as urgent. The budget for these repairs was $45,000,000 at the time of the study, however, the Federal Army Corp of Engineers has not yet responded.

Studies indicate that the Grand Marais Harbor is filling with sand at the rate of 100,000 cubic yards per year. Without repairs to the breakwall the Grand Marais Harbor will be totally destroyed in the near future.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter in support of the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge Committee to our State and Federal Legislators.

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The Committee they considered a memo from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, regarding the Deficit Fund Plan for FY 1993. Public Act 275 of 1980 requires a Deficit Fund Plan be filed with the State of Michigan detailing any corrective actions that has been taken or will be taken to eliminate the deficits in the future. The funds and deficit amounts are as follows:

- Law Library Special Revenue Fund: $4,843
- S.O.D.A. Grant Fund: 462
- D.S.S. Child Care Fund: 7,104
- Probat Child Care Special Revenue Fund: 117,359
- Medical Care Debt Retirement: 30,295
- Badger Drain Capital Project Fund: 197,041
- Honey Creek Capital Project Fund: 3,637

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The deficits in the Law Library, S.O.B.A. Grant, D.S.S and Probate
Child Care Funds will be resolved by transferring equity from the General
Fund. The Medical Care Debt Retirement Fund was resolved by leaving the
millage rate at .92 mills. The Badger Drain deficit will be resolved with
the sale of construction bonds. The Raney Creek Drain Fund was resolved
through increased borrowing by the Drain Commissioner. The bond sale was
held on March 28, 1994.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and
unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend
the County Board approve of the Marquette County Deficit Fund Plan for FY
1993 as presented.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a Resolution from Kalkaska County
supporting the Michigan Heritage and Resource Foundation. It was moved by
Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Potvin and unanimously carried by voice
vote to place the communication on file.

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The Committee considered a letter from Mike Zorza, Emergency Program
Manager, to Ms. Terri Irwin, Michigan State Police Emergency Management
Division, regarding disbursement of Michigan Disaster Assistance Funds to
local units. It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and
unanimously carried by voice to place the communication on file.

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The Committee considered a memo from Randy Girard, Human Resources
Director, regarding the annual Michigan Employees Retirement System meeting
to be held on September 27 and 28, 1994 in Grand Rapids. The purpose of the
annual meeting is to elect representatives to the MERS Board of Directors
and provide information on pending legislation affecting MERS participants.
The County is required by State Law to identify an employer delegate and to
have an election by secret ballot for an employee delegate, regardless
whether or not the delegates actually attend the annual meeting. The
election for the employee delegate has been scheduled for August 24, 1994.

Mr. Girard is recommending that the Board of Commissioners appoint
himself as the employer delegate with Gary Yoder designated as alternate
delegate. Following the Board appointment a MERS "Delegate and Alternate
Designation Form" will be prepared for signature by Chairperson Corkin.

Mr. Girard is also recommending that the employer and employee delega-
tes not attend the annual MERS meeting this year due to budget constraints.
The benefits of attending the annual meeting do not justify the expenditure.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimous-
ly carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the
County Board appoint Randall Girard, Human Resources Director, as the
employer delegate with Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, as the alternate
delegate.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Braamse and un-
aminously carried by voice vote that the County of Marquette not send
delegates to the annual MERS Convention on September 27 and 28, 1994 in
Grand Rapids.

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The Committee considered a resolution honoring the Pigs-N-Heat Fire
Relief Fund. Commissioner Potvin pointed out that Pigs-N-Heat Fire Relief
Fund has generated $105,000 and has distributed $75,000 to 135 families in
Marquette County. This is good work being done by our citizens which has
helped many people throughout all of Marquette County. Comm. Potvin
requested the County Board adopt this Resolution and invite the Pigs-N-Heat
Fire Relief Program founders, Larry Grimesby, Dave Rotterman, and Dan Dagenais to the County Board meeting on August 23rd to receive the proclamation.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the proclamation honoring the Pigs-N-Heat Fire Relief Fund.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, announced that Ken Verberg, Consultant from MSU who conducted the County Board goals and objectives session would be available on the morning of August 24th between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Only four Commissioners could be available for that meeting so the Committee directed Administrator Aloia to find another date for the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1994 at 4:30 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
   HELD ON JULY 26, 1994.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. a. PUBLIC HEARING on a Community Development Block Grant
      Program Application to be Submitted to the Michigan
      Department of Commerce Requesting $750,000 to be Used
      for Work Force Training Projects for Existing and
      Potential Employees of Upper Peninsula Companies.
    b. Committee Discussion and Recommendation.

7. Update by the Marquette County Soil and Water Conservation
   District on their Various Projects. (No Packet Materials).

8. Legislative Alert from James Sodergren, Marquette County
   Treasurer regarding HB 5680, Distribution of Commercial
   Forest Act Dollars.

9. Request from Sheriff Joseph Maino to Establish a Computerized
   Time Clock for the Sheriff's Department.

10. Letter of Understanding Between Community Mental Health, the
    Marquette County Board of Commissioners, and the Alger County
    Board of Commissioners.

11. Request for a Letter of Support from the Grand Marais Harbor
    Project Committee.

12. Year End Deficit Fund Plan from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager.

13. Resolution from Kalkaska County Supporting the Michigan
    Heritage and Research Foundation.

14. Letter from Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, to Ms.
    Terri Irwin, Michigan State Police Emergency Management
    Division, regarding Disbursement of Michigan Disaster
    Assistance Funds to Local Units.

15. MENS

16. DIES & IILIP

17. PUBLIC COMMENT.
18. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
19. ADJOURNMENT.