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


It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 16, 1994 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: item 11) Communication to Comm. Greg Seppanen from James R. Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding additional millage to fund health care; item 12) Discussion regarding Board of Commissioners volunteering at the Marquette County Fair; and item 13) Support of the Marquette County Home Health Care Program.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 12, 1994 thru August 25, 1994, in the amount of $2,591,723.13 be approved.

Doug Morton, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health, gave a presentation to the Committee of the Whole concerning Community Mental Health Financing. He presented material entitled Marquette County Commission; CMH Budget Overview. Mr. Morton briefly outlined I. Revenue Summary; II. Line Item Expense Summary; III. CMH Cash Flow; IV. State Budget Format; V. CMH Fiscal Terms; and VI. Questions. Mr. Morton and Commissioners briefly discussed each category and thanked Mr. Morton for his presentation.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file. Mr. Morton then left the meeting.

The Committee considered a memo from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding the Michigan Air Service Grant Program. Mr. Pawley was present and explained that the purposes of the Michigan Air Service Grant Program are to increase public awareness of community airports having scheduled air carrier service and promote increased use of air carrier services at these airports. The State provides 90% funding of eligible costs. The Airport has applied for and has received an offer of a grant for the Airport Awareness Program. The proposed amount of State grant funding is $21,250 and the local match is $2,361. The plan is to use the funding to advertise available air service and publicize flight information on television, radio and in printed media; to host receptions and open house for travel agents, travelers and the public; and other appropriate promotional activities.

The State requires execution of a contract by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), and a certified resolution by the Board of Commissioners approving the contract and designating the officials who are authorized to sign the contracts.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Michigan Air Service Grant Program by adopting the appropriate resolution and execution of the contract.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  AUGUST 30, 1994

The Committee considered communications from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, and Brian Rochon, Northern Michigan Aviation, concerning Airport Fuel Prices. Superior Aviation wanted to set up a fueling account for Superior's UPS flight that comes into Marquette. It was estimated that they would require approximately 4000 gallons Jet-A/month for $0.10/gallon. Superior Aviation has since decided to fuel the aircraft in Houghton due to the cost differential in fuel farm costs between Marquette and Houghton. Houghton County Airport's price offer to UPS equated to $0.07/gallon. The cost difference is $1,220.00 per month for the delivery of 4000 gallons. Their concerns were that because of Marquette's high fuel farm costs business is going elsewhere.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a Mid-Year Budget Review and Financial Condition Projection Report from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager. Mr. Yoder was present and explained that the review reinforces the projections made for the 1995 budget where costs continue to increase while the revenues to support them are decreasing. The review shows expenses increasing by $171,000, with revenues and transfers in increasing $21,000. If the change for the 21st Century grant is removed ($90,000 to both revenue and expense) there will be an increase in expense of $81,000 with a decrease in revenue of $69,000. This is a net budget shortfall of $150,000.

Major adjustments are needed for expense and revenue. Adjusting the budget to cover these and other various line items will resolve the current budget problem. The problems with this year's budget further indicates the need to increase revenues which would allow for an increased contingency account to cover changes in the overall budget.

Mr. Yoder further explained that in order to balance the mid-year budget review he suggested increasing the appropriation from the Budget Stabilization Fund by $100,034 and reducing the Contingency Account by $50,000. This would leave a Contingency Account Balance of $11,313 and an unused balance in the Budget Stabilization Fund of $132,925.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the budget amendments for the General Fund, Friend of the Court Disaster Aid, S.O.D.A. Grant, Probate Child Care, Building Authority, M.C.T.V., Central Dispatch, Park & Recreation, Community Development, Forestry, Service Center and Copy/Computer, and Soldier/Sailor Relief Fund, and also approve the General Fund Financial Condition Projection Report as of June 30, 1994 as presented by Staff.

The Committee considered a memo from the Marquette General Hospital Staff Council regarding the Labor Dispute between Marquette General Hospital and the Registered Nurses. Because of all the conflicting information about the labor dispute the Registered Nurses want to tell first hand why they are on strike. I. Staffing and Patient Safety – II. Economics and Benefits. The Registered Nurses feel that their proposals for a new contract are not unreasonable and that a mutual agreement is attainable. Their loyalty is to their patients and to provide the highest quality of care possible.

Community support has been overwhelming. The registered nurses thank those who continue to support them and ask those who have not to consider supporting them at this time.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a communication written by James F. Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, and addressed to Comm. Greg Seppanen. Comm. Potvin read the following letter:
You have asked me to comment on a proposal to seek additional millage from the electorate to fund health care. You believe that the citizens need to know the facts and be given a choice via the ballot.

I believe the citizens should be given the opportunity to vote on the issue, however I will not support or vote to increase property taxes on homes or small businesses in Marquette County until some sense of equity is put back into the property tax system whereby the mining and timber interests pay their fair share. Some commissioners will argue that the board has asked our legislators to increase specific taxes and because our legislators have refused, that the matter be dropped. I say that's a cop out.

That effort should continue and I would suggest that the County Board allow the voters to vote on increasing the specific tax on iron ore as suggested in A.G. opinion 5561-Sept. 1979. Although the opinion is directed to Mobile Homes, I'm sure you can see where the iron ore tax is a parallel to the Mobile Home tax, defined as a local tax, and subject to the provisions of Headlee.

Marquette County is rich in Natural Resources. There is no reason for this County to be struggling with the budget. Yes, let the people decide. Let them have a choice and the opportunity to vote on our specific taxes.

Comm. Potvin's feelings go along with Mr. Sodergren, in that the County Board should not obstruct the efforts to continue to get specific ore tax raised. Just because our local legislators did not want to support it, the matter shouldn't be dropped. He will not vote for or support additional millage unless the issue regarding a raise in specific ore tax is addressed. Comm. Potvin believes we must have integrity and believe in what we are talking about.

Chairperson Corkin reiterated by defending the action taken by the local legislators.

Comm. Potvin addressed the issue of the Marquette County Fair. He stated that earlier the party chair was asking for volunteers. He suggested that the County Board become more visible as County Commissioners in every way possible. Not just volunteering in party politics, but trying to help the Fair Board. He feels that each and every Commissioner could do something, sell tickets, collect tickets, judge, etc.

The Committee considered an issue raised by Comm. Potvin regarding Marquette County Home Health Care. Comm. Potvin stated that there was much discussion in the July 26, 1994 Health Department minutes regarding what should be done with the Home Health Care Program. Comm. Potvin would like the County Board to endorse the direction that the Health Department is going in revitalizing the Home Health Care Program for the citizens of Marquette County. He feels this is a very good program, worthy of support by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, for an even better program than in the past.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braame, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the direction of the Health Department regarding the Home Health Care Program.
Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

Chairperson Corkin asked if any Commissioner would be interested in participating in the Labor Day Parade. Comm. Potvin thought there should be 100% participation.

Chairperson Corkin declared a ten minute recess before beginning the Budget Work Session.

BUDGET WORK SESSION

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

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1994 at 4:30 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Presentation by Doug Morton, Concerning Community Mental Health Financing.
7. Memo from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding the Michigan Air Service Grant Program.
8. Correspondence from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, and Brian Rochon, Northern Michigan Aviation, concerning Airport Fuel Prices.
10. Memo from the Marquette General Hospital Staff Council regarding the Labor Dispute Between Marquette General Hospital and the Registered Nurses.
11. Song/Prayer
12. Co. Fee Justification/Co. Home Health Care
13. PUBLIC COMMENT.
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
15. ..........................................................

BUDGET WORK SESSION
(Beginning at Approximately 5:30 p.m.)

16. Public Comment
17. ADJOURNMENT.