The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 13, 1994, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


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

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the August 30, 1994 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following deletion, changes, and additions: Item 6) The FY 1993 Audit Report from John Blumberg, Anderson, Tackman & Co. be deleted; Item 7) A County Insurance Benefits Analysis Presentation by David M. McCleer, of ARMTECH, be moved to Item 9a) and considered during Closed Session; add item 9b) MCTV Grant Proposal.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 26, 1994 through September 8, 1994, in the amount of $774,785.43 be approved.

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The Committee considered a Local Emergency Management Work Agreement Proposal for FY 1995 from Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager. The Agreement is an administrative tool designed to provide a summary of projects and activities that the jurisdiction intends to carry out during FY95 (October 1, 1994 through September 30, 1995) in an effort to enhance the Emergency Management Program throughout Marquette County.

An approved Emergency Management Assistance Agreement and Local Emergency Management Work Agreement is required of all jurisdictions receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency Funding. The Local Emergency Management Work Agreement is a statement of intent on the part of the County. The agreement will require the approval and signature of the Chairperson of the County Board of Commissioners prior to submission to the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Local Emergency Management Work Agreement for FY 1995.

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The Committee considered a letter from Brad Cory, Medical Care Facility Administrator, to Tony McGriff, Rust Engineering, regarding water related problems since switching from surface water to the well system. Authorized service representatives obtained water samples from the Dietary and Laundry Departments to test water quality. The results indicated that the calcium and magnesium contents of the water have increased 300%, causing not only a substantial unbudgeted cost increase but also decreases the efficiency of the equipment. The Marquette County Medical Care Facility is concerned about the decrease in water quality and increase in the operating costs.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.
The Committee of the Whole considered the grant application for third year funding for Project Marquette County Team Voice (MCTV), the youth impaired driving prevention program funded by the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Michael Quayle, Undersheriff, and Sue Girard-Jackson, Project Coordinator, were present to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

This application is consistent with previous applications and requires a County 50% cash match for the project coordinator’s salary only. This cash match amounts to $19,108 and has been appropriately budgeted during the Marquette County budgeting process.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the grant application for third year funding for Project Marquette County Team Voice (MCTV) as presented by Undersheriff Michael Quayle and Project Coordinator Sue Girard-Jackson.

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

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, September 13, 1994, they considered going into closed session to discuss the County Insurance Benefits Analysis presented by David M. McCleerey of Advanced Risk Management Techniques, Inc. (ARMTECH) and the strategy for negotiating labor contracts.

Earlier this year the County entered into a consultation agreement with Advanced Risk Management Techniques, Inc. to professionally evaluate the types of programs we have, the levels of coverage, the cost of coverage, and the manner of funding within our financial parameters. The portion of the analysis dealing with insured employee health benefits is now ready for County Board consideration for use in negotiating with County employees.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 10 Ayes (Potvin, Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Seppanen, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 Nays, that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss the County Insurance Benefits Analysis.

Chairperson Corkin declared a two minute recess to clear Commission Chambers.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, to take the following action steps:

1) Market to see if plan desired is available.
2) Negotiate
   - Withdraw opt-out program
   - Trade employee payment for new benefits
3) Inquire into joint action with area employees
4) Push vendors for higher discounts and patronize reasonable providers.
5) Educate or brief employees carefully before implementing new plans.
BUDGET WORK SESSION

The Committee considered a memo from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, summarizing the budget-discussion consensus developed on a number of issues by the Committee of the Whole. Chairman Corkin pointed out that a final budget recommendation based on the consensus will be considered at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Comm. Potvin contended that he is not ready to vote on the budget, because the Committee has failed to discuss in a meaningful manner a number of issues, such as analysis of the pluses and minuses of the fuel farm situation, Ishpeming District Court, CUPPAD, UPCAP, Contingency, and the Millage Proposal. He believes the Committee has been speculating on passing the millage and not on the "or else" should the millage be defeated. The "or else" ought to be written out. Comm. Potvin will work to defeat the millage proposal.

Comm. Joseph also has major concerns regarding the budget that he believes have not been addressed. If employee salaries and benefits are cut, and then later there are raises, where is the money going to come from. He also does not want the rescue ambulance included in the millage proposal, and would like to see the details on where the millage money will be going.

A lengthy discussion continued regarding the millage proposal and related budgetary issues, between Commissioners and Staff.

Comm. Seppanen made two points of clarification in regards to the Administrator’s budget recommendations: First, the $25,000.00 carry-over in the Airport’s year-end fund balance is for this year only; and second, the Sheriff’s Department Warrant Officer will require a detailed review at the end of six months.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried on a roll call vote 8 ayes to 2 nays, (with Comm. Joseph and Comm. Potvin voting nay), that County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, be directed to draft a final budget recommendation to be considered at the next Committee of the Whole meeting based on the consensus outlined in his memo.

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

It was announced that the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners will be meeting October 14, 15, 1994 in Escanaba, any interested Commissioners should sign up with Karla in the Administrator’s Office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. A County Insurance Benefits Analysis Presentation by David M. McCleerey, of ARMTECH.
9. Letter from Brad Cory, Medical Care Facility Administrator, to Tony McGraff, Rust Engineering, regarding Water Related Problems Since Switching from Surface Water to Well Water.
11. mCT / Grant
12. "Closed Session"
13. PUBLIC COMMENT.
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
15. ADJOURNMENT.