The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 27, 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. Braamse, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 13, 1994 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Potvin and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: That Item 8a be a resolution supporting the appointment of Mr. Hugh Kahler to the State Advisory Council on Aging.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period September 9, 1994, through September 22, 1994 in the amount of $1,348,612.75 be approved.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from the Central Dispatch Policy Board for an engineering study to upgrade Central Dispatch. First Lt. Joseph W. Van Oosterhout and Jeff Selesky from Central Dispatch were present to discuss the recommendation and answer questions. The system was not designed for the present level of use. Federal Grants were the backbone of the Central Dispatch System in 1982 which included fifteen agencies. Over the past twelve years many “add on” replacement pieces have been used to accommodate new agencies that have formed. Replacement parts are becoming difficult to find due to technological advances. Today there are 47 agencies on line but the tower sites and the equipment are the same.

The Central Dispatch Policy Board recommends that a professional engineering firm be contracted to study the existing system and determine what course of action is needed to bring Central Dispatch into the 21st Century. Some of the options to be considered are: Relocating to the K.I. Sawyer site and obtaining the new radio system at that location, taking a serious look into the new 800 megahertz statewide communication systems to be place in the Upper Peninsula in about three years, and attempting to revamp the existing system in hopes of extending its life expectancy. Central Dispatch leases tower space and is at the call and mercy of the owners of these towers every time the configuration changes. Central Dispatch is not sure as to what direction it must take and therefore they believe the study is absolutely necessary.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, agrees that the engineering study must be done. The funds are available in the Central Dispatch budget, however, before going ahead, Mr. Aloia recommends Central Dispatch develop a study plan. He has offered the assistance of our Planning Staff to help. A plan is necessary to set goals for the study to determine what must be studied.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board commit itself to approving the engineering study to upgrade Central Dispatch, contingent upon a development of a study plan with the assistance of the County Planning Department before bids are let out for an engineering contract.

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The Committee considered a memo from James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, regarding delinquent tax fund indebtedness. Mr. Sodergren reported that the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund balance as of 8/31/94 is $725,194.58.

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

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The Committee considered a request from the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority that the County Board of Commissioners consider including the $10,000 allocation for EMS training purposes in the 1995 Budget. Prior years to 1993 the County Board funded such special requests, however, Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, explained that the County has not funded this special request for the last two years.

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

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The Committee considered the endorsement of Mr. Hugh M. Kahler, of 132 Timberlane Road, Marquette, Michigan, for membership on the State Advisory Council on Aging. Mr. Kahler was appointed to the Marquette County Commission on Aging by the County Board in 1986. Mr. Kahler has served one year as its Secretary, three years as its Vice-Chairperson, and two years as its Deputy Treasurer. Mr. Kahler was appointed to the Area Agency on Aging (Region XII) Advisory Committee in 1987. He has been elected to the Executive Board of the Area Agency on Aging Committee in 1988 and has served to the present. Mr. Kahler has served on many and various committees for the Marquette County Commission on Aging and in the Marquette Community.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter endorsing the appointment of Mr. Hugh M. Kahler as a member of the State Advisory Council on Aging.

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It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 10 ayes (Comm. Seppanen, Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Potvin, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 nays, that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss a litigation settlement in the case Taylor v. Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear commission chambers.

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CLOSED SESSION

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The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 5:15 p.m. No action was forthcoming as a result of the closed session.

The County Board considered a Budget Discussion Summary based on the consensus developed over a series of Committee of the Whole Budget Work Sessions. County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, presented a list of adjustments to the Administrator’s Recommended Budget showing total General Fund Revenues amounting to $12,805,048 and General Fund Expenditures of $12,523,048. This places the budget out of balance (revenues exceed expenses) by $282,000.
Administrator Aloia also outlined some additional technical changes to be made to the budget. In revenues, the Convention Tourism Tax is up by $11,380, however, the Cigarette Tax Revenue is down by $46,402 which requires a minus $34,022 adjustment to revenues. On the expenditure side the U.P. Substance Abuse gets an additional $5,690, however, the Health Department appropriation is lowered by $29,378 requiring an expenditure adjustment of minus $23,688. This results in the budget being out of balance (revenues exceed expenses) by $271,666. The following budget summary items were considered by the Committee of the Whole.

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS SUMMARY**

* **Employee Salaries and Benefits:** No raises would be included in next year’s budget and reductions in an amount equal to $320,000 will be made first by reductions in insurance benefits, then through job elimination.

* **Millage:** A request for millage in 19995 for health care in an amount up to two mills will be made. That millage would include raising funds for the Health Department, Mental Health, Medical Care Facility and the Rescue Ambulance.

**Tax Delinquent Fund:** We will utilize the earnings in the Tax Delinquent Fund on an annual basis. Earnings would include all interest generated from the principal and any penalties paid on delinquent taxes. No principal from the fund will be used.

**Use of Equity and Budget Stabilization:** We will not use Equity and Budget Stabilization to fund the ongoing budget. Budget Stabilization will be used to handle year end budget deficits. Any equity would be returned to the Budget Stabilization Fund to replenish it.

**Contingency:** An amount of $200,000 to be included in Contingency.

**Specific Ore Tax Distribution:** The Board was in agreement with the tax distribution formula as proposed and supported by legal opinion.

* **Medical Care Facility:** The Medical Care Facility will contribute $382,000 to the County General Fund to pay for the Maintenance of Effort for 1995 in exchange for being included in the millage in 1996.

**Forest Recreation Fund:** The establishment of the Forest Recreation Fund to be an enterprise fund which would include Forestry, Perkins Park, Harbor and Shooting Sports programs.

* **Airport Appropriation:** The Airport appropriation would remain the same but the Airport will be allowed to carry over up to $25,000 of year-end fund balance from 1994 to support the 1995 budget for this next year only.

**Commission on Aging Salary Equalization:** The Board agreed that the positions that are not currently in the Wage and Compensation System should be included in the Wage and Compensation System for future years.

* **Sheriff Warrant Officer:** A deputized warrant officer will be included in the Sheriff’s Department with the sole duties being collection of outstanding warrants. That expenditure would be offset by a like revenue increase in warrant collections. The position will be reviewed at six months and if not financially justified, re-evaluated.

* **DARE Grant:** The Sheriff will find the revenue to support the DARE Program in an amount equal to the grant that was reduced by the State of Michigan.
County Administrator’s Recommendation: The remainder of the budget shall be recommended to the full County Board as was presented in the County Administrator’s Recommendation.

These items we changed in the Administrator’s recommendation by the County Commission.

It was moved by Comm. Seppaen, seconded by Comm. Trudell that the Committee of the Whole recommend the FY 1995 Budget to the County Board Annual Meeting and include the items listed in the above Budget Discussion Summary.

DISCUSSION

Comm. Seppaen pointed out that he didn’t like several of the items in the Budget Summary, however, was willing to compromise and approve the Budget as presented.

Comm. Joseph contended that this is not a recommendation. There are many things he would still like to discuss. If the millage doesn’t pass he would like to know what the alternatives are for 1995 and the future. If the millage passes he would like an itemized list on how we plan on spending the money. He would like to review the consensus list one item at a time.

Comm. Potvin expressed displeasure with the present budget. He contended that a number of things haven’t been addressed including an analysis of the District Court operation in Ishpeming, the airport fuel farm, the inmate pay proposal, elimination of EDC funding, and CUPPAD. He will vote not and will work to defeat the health millage proposal. Comm. Minelli would like to discuss the various options, one at a time.

Comm. Arsenault is not opposed to reviewing the budget discussion items once more but he would like suggested specifics rather than just general talk and going in circles. We have reached the point where it is time to finalize the budget.

Comm. Corkin pointed out that Dennis Aloia has been our County Administrator for the last ten years and has done an excellent job in preparing our budgets. Our employees have received moderate raises over the last ten years. Our County staffing levels are already low but the services we provide are very valuable to our constituents. If any Commissioner has good ideas on how we can eliminate $1,000,000 from our budget without jeopardizing these services then please let us know. Chairperson Corkin believes that the public will support the County Board in its request for millage help because our services are valuable.

Chairperson Corkin called a roll call vote on the motion to adopt a Committee of the Whole Budget recommendation utilizing the above Budget Summary list: 5 Ayes Comm. Seppaen, Angeli, Arsenault, Trudell and Corkin, Nays, Comm. Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli and Potvin. The Motion failed.

The Committee reviewed the Budget Summary List one item at a time as follows:

Employee Salaries and Benefits.

Comm. Minelli questioned could we really ask employees to take a freeze on their wages and also cutbacks on benefits? Does that seem feasible? Comm. Trudell indicated that in his over 30 years with CCI there were 9 years with no raises and several years with concessions. In the business world they speak of “down sizing,” so he believes it to be possible.

Administrator Aloia felt at the beginning of the budget process that it would be possible to negotiate a freeze in salaries and wages and also negotiate some reductions in benefits. He cannot give an exact figure on wages and benefits at this time. We are currently in the process of bidding out insurance, and there won’t be a clear picture of how negotiations are going until December or January.
It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braamse and carried by voice vote
8 ayes with 2 nays (Comm. Corkin and Joseph voting nay) that the Committee of the Whole
recommend that no wage and salary raises be included in next year’s budget, and reductions in
the amount equal to $320,000 will be first made by reductions in insurance benefits, then through
job eliminations.

Millages.
Comm. Bergdahl would like to remove the ambulance from the health millage. Comm.
Braamse thought the County should go for a two mill general operating rather than a health care
millage. Comm. Potvin suggested that if the funds for the rescue ambulance cannot come from the
Search and Rescue millages then he would support a one time expenditure from the Tax
Delinquent Fund up to $200,000 to buy the ambulance, as a capital improvements project.
It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried by voice vote
8 ayes to 2 nays (Comm. Angeli and Joseph) that the Committee of the Whole recommend that
the ambulance be removed from the health care millage proposal and that it be paid for from the
Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund, as a capital project.
Comm. Arsenault suggested that a Committee be formed to decide the particulars of the
millage, what should be in it? how it should be worded? and should we separate the millages? etc.
County Clerk Roberts pointed out that a millage has to pass by September 30, 1995 in
order to be levied in December. If the County Board goes for a millage in March and it fails, there
is ample time for them to re-evaluate the proposal and try a different millage.
Chairperson Corkin explained that even though the millage question does not have to be
decided this evening, there is a connection to the 1995 budget because of the $382,000 from the
Medical Care Facility for Maintenance of Effort.
Comm. Joseph questioned how do we pay back the Medical Care Facility if the millage
didn’t pass? If the funds that the Medical Care Facility have on hand right now are technically the
County Boards, then let’s just use them.
It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and carried on a roll call
draft vote 8 ayes to 2 nays (Comm. Joseph and Potvin) that the Committee of the Whole recommend
that a Millage Committee be formed to make a recommendation back to the Committee of the
Whole.
Specific Ore Tax Distribution.
It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried
by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend placing $146,000 of specific tax funds
distributed by the formula proposed and supported legal opinion into the Budget Stabilization Fund.
NOTE: (This drops the $271,666 excess down to $125,606.)
Contingency.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and carried by voice vote
9 ayes to 1 nay (Comm. Angeli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend contingency be set
at $150,000 rather than $200,000.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and carried on a roll call
draft vote 9 ayes to 1 nay (Comm. Angeli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the
$50,000 previously earmarked for contingency be used as a down-payment on the rescue
ambulance, any leftover funds from the $50,000 to go into budget stabilization.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and carried on a roll call vote 9 ayes to 1 nay (Comm. Potvin) that the remainder of the items on the Budget Summary Listing be recommended as previously presented in the Budget Discussions Summary. (Page 3)

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It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell and carried on a voice roll call vote 7 ayes (Comm. Seppanen, Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Minelli, Trudell and Corkin) to 3 nays (Comm. Braamse, Joseph and Potvin) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the following FY 1995 budget to the County Board at its Annual Meeting on October 11, 1994:

**Adjustments to Administrator's Recommended Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Revenues:</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>As recommended:</td>
<td>12,496,237</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District Court Revenues</td>
<td>970,778</td>
<td>1,014,273</td>
<td>35,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheriff-D.A.R.E. Grant</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(9,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from Medical Care</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>382,000</td>
<td>282,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention Tourism Tax</td>
<td>136,186</td>
<td>147,566</td>
<td>11,380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette Tax</td>
<td>105,000</td>
<td>59,598</td>
<td>(45,402)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer Delinquent Tax (for capital)</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>335,000</td>
<td>135,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Review Changes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>409,789</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Fund Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12,906,026</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenditures**

| As recommended | 12,496,237 |
| Sheriff-Warrant Officer | 0 | 43,495 | 43,495 |
| Sheriff-Public Safety | 682,064 | 674,380 | (7,684) |
| Sheriff-D.A.R.E. Grant | 28,610 | 19,610 | (9,000) |
| E.U.P. Substance Abuse | 68,093 | 73,783 | 5,690 |
| Health Appropriation | 678,742 | 649,364 | (29,378) |
| Budget Stabilization Approp. | 0 | 296,666 | 296,666 |
| Approp. to Public Improvement | 200,000 | 360,000 | 160,000 |
| Contingency Account | 200,000 | 150,000 | (50,000) |
| **Total Expenses Charged** | | | **409,789** |
| **Total General Fund Expenditures** | | | **12,906,026** |

**Capital Budget**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues:</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer from General Fund</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td><strong>160,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue Changes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>160,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures:</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rescue Ambulance</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td><strong>160,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>160,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Actions taken by C.O.W.
1. Left hospitalization & employee reductions as recommended. (No Change)
2. Purchased a Rescue Ambulance using Delinquent Tax moneys (Loan of $160,000)
3. Will set up millage study committee.
4. Placed difference in Inte tax computation method into Stabilization Fund ($146,092)
5. Reduced Contingency from $200,000 to $150,000.
6. Use $25,000-$30,000 of above to make 1st payment on Ambulance loan. Balance to Budget Stabilization.
7. Rest of items approved as listed (assumed this included technical changes)
   Any remaining differences go to increasing Stabilization Appropriation.
8. Increases total FY 1995 Capital Improvements Budget from 331,070 to $491,070. (Rescue Ambulance $160,000).

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

Commissioner Comments

Comm. Angeli, County Board Liaison to the Social Services Board, passed around information and pointed out that Social Services has distributed over $30,000,000 in funds in Marquette County.

Comm. Potvin contended that the Marquette County EDC is continually violating the Open Meetings Act and has still not responded to a Freedom of Information Request from John Hallberg of the Mining Journal. Delay is claimed because of waiting for an Attorney General's Opinion regarding closed sessions.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts,
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Recommendation from the Central Dispatch Policy Board for an Engineering Study to Upgrade Central Dispatch.
7. Memo from County Treasurer, James Sodergren, Listing Delinquent Tax Bond Indebtedness.
8. EMS Medical Control Authority Request to Consider Including a $10,000 Allocation for EMS Training in the FY 1995 Budget.
9. Resolution for [Signature]

CLOSED SESSION: TO DISCUSS LITIGATION SETTLEMENT
RE: TAYLOR v. BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD

11. 
12. 
13. PUBLIC COMMENT.
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
15. ADJOURNMENT.