The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 11, 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. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 27, 1994 and the Committee of the Whole Departmental Budget Hearings and Budget Work Sessions held on August 24, 25, 30, and September 6, 1994 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 23, 1994 through October 6, 1994 in the amount of $1,778,922.80 be approved.

The Committee considered a recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, to award the bid for a Telescoping Maintenance Platform. Mr. Wright was present and explained that this equipment will provide staff a safe work platform at heights up to 37 feet on interior and exterior projects for our buildings. The approved capital budget for this project is $8,300. The County received three sealed bids. The lowest bidder did not meet the minimum working height specification and was disqualified. The next lowest bidder, Wisconsin Lift Truck Corporation, proposes an upright model UL 31/37DC which meets specifications fully. Staff recommendation is to accept the bid from Wisconsin Lift Truck for a purchase price of $5,619 delivered.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the bid from Wisconsin Lift Truck Corporation for the Telescoping Maintenance Platform at a price of $5,619.

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The Committee considered a memo from Patricia Manley, Chairperson, Marquette County Survey and Remeasurement Ad Hoc Committee, recommending that the Remeasurement Peer Group receive a per diem of $25.00. The County Remeasurement Plan authorizes per diems to be paid at the approval of the County Board of Commissioners. The cost of the per diems are estimated to be around $1,000 per year with the source of the funding to be the Survey and Remeasurement Fund Balance.

It was noted that the per diem paid to various appointed County Boards and Committees is $30 per member. Only two county appointed boards so not receive a per diem by their choice, namely the Commission on Aging and the EDC.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve of a $30.00 per diem, per member, for the Survey and Remeasurement Peer Group.

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The Committee considered a memo from Patricia Manley, Chair of the Survey and Remonumentation Ad Hoc Committee is recommending an amendment to the Marquette County Survey and Remonumentation Plan to allow the appointment of two alternates to the Remonumentation Peer Group. It has become very difficult for the Peer Group to maintain a quorum. Often corners to be considered were established by Peer Group members so they cannot vote because of a conflict of interest. Add illness or business reasons why members cannot attend meetings and it becomes very difficult for the Survey and Remonumentation Peer Group to obtain a quorum and conduct business.

The amendment to the Remonumentation Plan would add a paragraph Page 9 below the categories of membership for the six member peer group which would read as follows:

"The County Board will also appoint two alternate members from the list of qualified applicants who will serve in the event any member identified in categories 1 - 4 above cannot carry out their responsibilities as a result of illness, conflict, or other excused absence. Alternates will be appointed on an annual basis."

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried on a voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the amendment to the Marquette County Survey and Remonumentation Plan to allow for the appointment of two alternates.

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The Committee considered a request from Sheriff Joseph I. Maino for a Committee of two to four County Commissioners to review the recommendation of the Morley Study related to the wage policy of the County Board governing the Office of Sheriff. Sheriff Maino’s original request was submitted in 1990. He did not know that the new board had to approve this continuing study committee. Sheriff Maino contends that there still exists some point factoring concerns, wage percentage calculations, present classification, and payback issues that must be addressed.

Comm. Potvin questioned the time line of this request. The original Morley Study had a deadline by which appeals to the classification and compensation study had to be filed. If we resudy the Sheriff’s compensation we may open the door for others to make the same request.

Comm. Arsenault suggested that if a Committee is appointed, it should utilize the Marquette County labor market as has been done in past Morley Studies and also that Chairperson Corkin set a deadline for the Committee to make a recommendation.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, further pointed out that elected officials are not part of the Morley Study in terms of a negotiated contract or personnel policies. Whatever the County Board does in reference to the Sheriff’s salary will have no effect on the union or non-union County staff. Elected officials salaries are set by the County Board. Administrative staff only provides information when it is requested.

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 form a Committee appointed by Chairperson Corkin to study the Sheriff’s concerns regarding his classification and compensation.

(Chairperson Corkin tentatively appointed Randall Girard, Human Resources Director, along with Comm. Seppanen, Potvin, Minelli and Joseph, should the County Board approve this recommendation).

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The Committee of the Whole considered letters from Inspector Edward Buikema, Governor’s Authorized Representative, Department of State Police, Emergency Management Division, regarding the return of unobligated funds for State Disaster Assistance from Marquette County.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communications on file.

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The Committee of the Whole reviewed the Lake Independence Dam Inspection Report from Mike Farrell, Marquette County Drain Commissioner. The report concluded that the Dam is of sound structure and in good condition and no repairs are necessary at this time.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the report on file.

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The Committee considered a request from the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority for reimbursement by the County of $4,185 expended by Bittner Engineering for the design of a contaminated soil storage facility.
County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, indicated the County is not responsible for this expenditure and gave a brief history of the matter. The County Board was in the process of developing a loan contract with the Solid Waste Authority money from the Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund, at no interest, for the construction of a fuel contaminated soil storage facility at the landfill. This was one solution being considered. Another potential solution surfaced, that being the making of blacktop with fuel contaminated soils. The County Board put the loan agreement on hold. Meanwhile, the Solid Waste Authority hired Bittner Engineering to start the design of the storage facility. There was no contract or agreement with the County Board to begin this work.
Chairperson Corkin concurred. The County Board has no obligation to pay for this expenditure. The solution to the fuel contaminated soil problem has rested with the Solid Waste Authority all along. All the County Board was trying to do was to bring various organizations together to help resolve the matter.
It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board going on record as not being responsible for the expenditure by the Solid Waste Authority for the design of a soil storage facility and that the reimbursement request for $4,185 be denied.

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The Committee considered a memo from Ken Salo, Chairperson of the Marquette County Forestry Commission, recommending a revision of the enabling resolution establishing the County Forestry Commission. The amended resolution changes the old resolution to accomplish the following:

1. Expend the authority of the Forestry Commission to include all County lands in matters of forestry.
2. Retains interest accrued on the Forestry Enterprise Fund.
3. Establishes that the Forestry Enterprise Fund not be used to support non-forestry capital projects.
Comm. Bergdahl, the County Board Designee to the Forestry Commission further explained that it is not the Forestry Commission’s intent to clear cut any County properties, but the Forestry Commission contends that the County is losing money because some of the present lands that are classified as non-forest lands, such as the Acocks Property, hasn’t been managed. The timber on the Acocks property may be worth $40,000 to $50,000, however, it could well have been worth $80,000.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, concurs with the Forestry Commission’s intent to manage forests on some of our non-forest lands such as the Acocks Property, Valente Property, Perkins Park, and the Shooting Sports Complex, however, he is concerned about giving the Forestry Commission absolute authority on all County lands. He also is concerned that the Forestry Commission would like its Enterprise Fund used only for forestry capital projects. The County Board usually intends to use these funds only for forestry projects, but it would not be appropriate that these funds be boxed in so the County Board could not utilize them for other projects.

With Committee of the Whole concurrence Chairperson Corkin directed the resolution be reconsidered at the next Committee of the Whole meeting after Administrator Dennis Aloia and the Forestry Commission have an opportunity to rework the resolution.

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The Committee considered a memo from the Marquette County Planning Commission regarding the Keewenaw Bay Indian Community Application for a Casino in Section 12 of T47N-R24W (Chocolay Township). The Planning Commission, reviewed an inquiry from the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and provided comments. The Planning Commission recommends the County Board forward their comments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Comm. Braamse questioned comment number 2, regarding impact on the social structure in the community. The Planning Commission indicates that the previous opening of a bingo hall at the site of the proposed casino had a significant impact on local community bingo games which are sponsored by various non-profit organizations. While this may have been true with the bingo game, Comm. Braamse contended that this would not be true with the opening of a casino. Casino gamblers are generally not interested in playing bingo. The opening of a casino should have very little, if any, impact on local bingo games.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that all that is being requested is that we forward the Planning Commission comments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The County Board has not been asked to approve or disapprove the opening of a casino in Chocolay Township.

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 forward the Planning Commission comments to the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the Keewenaw Bay Indian Community application for a casino.

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The Committee considered a memo from Norman Holmes, Chairperson of the Marquette County Planning Commission, regarding K.I. Sawyer governance. The Planning Commission, as directed by the County Board, has been monitoring the situation regarding the future governance of the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base properties. It is the Planning Commission’s opinion that the County Board take no action supporting the draft Governance Agreement at this time. The Planning Commission is concerned that inadequate attention has been paid to the examination of alternatives for future governance. Any decisions to use a particular form of governance ought to be based upon a description of what will be governed as determined in the Aviation Feasibility Study and the Re-use Plan. When these documents are released then it will be possible to consider appropriate forms of governance for the K.I. Sawyer properties.
Chairperson Corkin reported that many hours of meetings and study has taken place regarding governance already. The initial governance plan will be copied and put in the Commissioners’ Room for any Commissioner to review.

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

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The Committee considered a memo from David Payant, Civil Counsel, regarding an easement by the Northern Natural Gas Company for a pipeline through the Medical Care Facility property. Mr. Payant has negotiated a proposed easement with Northern Natural Gas Company and spoke with the Medical Care Facility Director, Brad Cory, who advised Civil Counsel Payant that the easement for the pipeline would not harm future plans for the Medical Care Facility. The pipeline already exists through the property and the easement is really a redrafting of a previous agreement.

Civil Counsel Payant also spoke with Resource Management Director, Ron Koshorek, regarding the easement. He indicated it should not be harmful to County interests to agree to its terms. Civil Counsel recommends the County approve of the pipeline easement.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the amended easement for the Northern Natural Gas Pipeline that runs through the Medical Care Facility property.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, October 11, 1994, 4:30 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skews Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, to Award the Work Platform Bid.
7. Request from the County Survey and Remonumentation Committee for Peer Group Compensation.
8. Request from the County Survey and Remonumentation Committee to Amend the Remonumentation Plan to Include Two Alternates to be Appointed to the Peer Group.
10. Request from the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division for Marquette County to Return Unobligated Funds of State Disaster Assistance Amounting to $260,970.
11. Lake Independence Dam Inspection Report from Mike Farrell, County Drain Commissioner.
12. Request from the Marquette County Solid Waste Authority for Reimbursement of $4,185 for Design of a Contaminated Soil Facility by Bittner Engineering.
13. Request to Amend the Resolution Establishing the County Forestry Commission.
14. Memo from the County Planning Commission regarding the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Application for a Casino.
16. Redraft of the Northern Natural Gas Company Easement for a Pipeline through the Medical Care Facility Property.

19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.

NOTE: The Committee of the Whole Meeting May Have to Temporary Recess for the Annual Meeting at 6:00 p.m. and Reconvene Afterward.