The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 10, 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. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 26, 1994 and Statutory Finance Committee meeting held on April 21, 1994 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor and member of K.I. Sawyer Base Conversion Authority was present to speak about Items 6 and 7. Mr. Yelle contended that there is a vital need for industry in Marquette County and industry has to have trucks. The more restrictions that are placed on trucks, the less likely there will be industry. He agrees that no one likes the trucks, they are noisy, dusty, etc., but they are necessary. Mr. Yelle didn’t like the noisy bombers flying over his home for the past 34 years either but will be sorry to see them go. He asked the County Board to refrain from restricting trucks in any way.

Tom Meyer, 122 Genesee Street, Marquette pointed out that approximately 30 families on County Road 553 and two trailer parks see the trucks going by their homes on a regular basis. The trucks are traveling too fast and are dangerous. They also raise a lot of dust. When heading out of Marquette towards Gwinn the trucks go very slow up the County Road 553 hill causing dangerous passing conditions. When the trucks are coming back into Marquette they are going faster than the speed limit. There are kids who play on the streets during the summer and Mr. Meyer suggested that the trucks use U.S. 41 West out to Highway M-35 to travel to Palmer.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: That Item 16 become the Disaster Assistance Grant Agreement between the State of Michigan and Marquette County; and Item 17 become the Annual Bike Auction.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 22, 1994, through May 6, 1994 in the amount of $632,023 be approved.

The Committee considered a complaint by residents of South Marquette on Genesee and Division Streets about the truck traffic and also a letter from Marquette Township regarding truck traffic on County Road 500 (West Grove Street). Comm. Arsenault pointed out that there exists an Ad Hoc Street and Roads Committee which is made up of representative of the City of Marquette, Marquette Township and Comm. Arsenault. This committee is meeting regularly and their job is to study various truck routes. Comm. Arsenault believes a recommendation will be forthcoming within the next 60 days.

Chairperson Corkin distributed a memo from John Beerling, Superintendent/Engineer of the Marquette County Road Commission upgrading the status of County Road truck lane. The 1.6 mile passing lane is the County Road Commission’s number one priority project. The project is estimated to cost in excess of $1,000,000 and the hold up has been the availability of federal funding. The Road Commission is not permitted to go into arrears on Federal projects anymore and therefore must accrue $750,000 before proceeding. They anticipate doing so by April of 1995.
Comm. Potvin pointed out that even if the truck lane is built on the 553 hill it doesn't do anything for the traffic on Genesee and Division Streets, in fact it may increase it. He also pointed out that if Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company was on the ad valorem rolls or paying its fair share of specific taxes, this road could have been fixed a long time ago. Besides the Ad Hoc Committee, Comm. Potvin would like the Road Commission to review the matter.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bramme and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole refer the Complaint regarding the truck traffic on Genesee and Division Streets and on W. Grove Street to the Ad Hoc Street and Roads Committee of the City of Marquette and to the Road Commission for review.

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The Committee considered a proposal from the Marquette County Judicial Council for a Unified Court Automation System. Judge Patricia Micklow, on behalf of the Judicial Council, began the presentation. The automation proposal would bring the Marquette County Courts into the 21st Century. In 1993 Marquette County received a Phase I $45,000 grant from the State Court Administrator's Office as one of five pilot counties participating in a 21st Century Commission Project. These projects provide a way for the Courts to look into modifying and improving the judicial systems in Michigan. Marquette County is now the recipient of a Phase II $90,000 grant pending approval by the County Board of Commissioners. The grant offer ends in October of 1994. The proposal for a Unified Court Automation System is the result of the effort and cooperation of many County employees and would substantially advance the goals of the 21st Century Commission on Courts. Judge Micklow introduced Joe Levandoski, Project Director.

Mr. Levandoski thanked the Board for their support up to the present. He referred the Board to Section V of the proposal, which lists the nine committees and their members who have worked the past seven months, and continue to meet on a regular basis, in order to review our existing systems, determine possible alternatives, and evaluate the options for the best possible Court system. Mr. Levandoski introduced Probate Judge Michael Anderegge, who actually presented the proposal to the County Board, with technical backup from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager.

Judge Anderegge explained that the Proposal for Integrated Automation System represents many hours of work and study by County staff and boils down to a recommendation from all five judges that the County purchase the full Integrated Court System. The bottom line cost of the hardware and software is $256,000. The State Legislature appropriated $450,000 to the State Court Administrator's Office of which Marquette County is getting 1/5 for the Phase II $90,000 grant. Should Marquette County not accept this proposal the $90,000 would revert back to the State Court Administrator's Office and be divided among the other four pilot counties.

This automated system will not eliminate any staff, however, it should keep our Courts from having to add staff far into the future. By utilizing the State's OSM Software the system will provide for automatic updates when administrative rules and state laws are changed that affect the Courts. The disadvantage is that there is an ongoing annual maintenance fee for each Court amounting to approximately $10,000 per year. The Courts have agreed that they must provide the $30,000 per year of ongoing maintenance costs, should the County Board provide the initial cost of the system.

Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, explained that the IBM AS/400 System will support 60 to 100 users. The Judicial Council's proposal will have 65 users. The life expectancy of an automated system is five years, however Marquette County normally gets seven to ten years. IBM assures us that this system can be stretched beyond the year 2000.
Commissioners, Administrator Aloia, and Staff engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the United Court Automation Proposal. The Judges stressed that the Courts are not interested in a reduced service system and recommend the purchase of the full service system. Judge Anderegge distributed a partial list of new efficiencies that will be provided with the new system. As time goes on, more efficiencies will be found. This proposal is only based on Phase II funding of the 21st Century Commission Project. Should the State Court Administrator’s Office provide for a Phase III then we could get more funds from the State.

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 approve the purchase of the full system for the Unified Court Automation Project with each Court committing the necessary funds to pay the annual maintenance costs from within their budgets.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a letter from the 96th District Court Judges Patricia Nicklow and James M. Collins regarding delinquent account collections. Judge Nicklow was present and explained that through the 21st Century Project (Collections Committee) the District Court has identified delinquent general fund accounts in the following areas and amounts:

- Civil Infraction Traffic Violations $66,000.00
- Misdemeanor Traffic Violations $142,000.00
- Misdemeanor Criminal Violations $51,000.00

Although enforcement methods have been successful with the majority of delinquent accounts, they have not been successful with this particular portion or hard-core delinquent offenders. The District Court on May 3, 1994 has embarked on an experimental project aimed at the collection of a portion of these accounts. They believe in order for this effort to be successful, they must make an offer to compromise with these hard-core offenders encouraging them to settle up with the Court. Letters will be sent to each Defendant and the Court will offer to accept payment in the original amount of fines and costs, along with the State License Reinstatement Fee thereby waiving all late costs, recalling bench warrants and foregoing contempt penalties. The data processing department has agreed to help develop an automated system to measure the effectiveness of this program. The compiling of this specific case information is not available through the current Court’s software program. After the closing date of the program we’ll measure the results and decide whether or not to continue with this process.

Judge Nicklow further pointed out that the Delinquent Account Collections project does not require any funds, but we are providing this letter as an informational item for the Board. This has been another positive result of the 21st Century pilot project.

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 Perkins Park Master Plan Report which was prepared by U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc. Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, was present and explained that in September of 1993 Marquette County contracted with U.P. Engineers and Architects to provide professional
services to develop a master plan for Perkins Park which includes an inventory, review, and analysis of existing facilities. Also provided was a market research and analysis of regional camping facilities, national trends, summarized by a series of recommendations. The Master Plan provides a framework for decision making and development of Perkins Park well into the future.

U.P. Architects and Engineers has developed a plan with five phases, estimated costs for the whole project total $822,000. As pointed out by Mr. Kippola, it is obvious that the County Board would not consider undertaking all of the phases, however, the main attraction at Perkins Park appears to be fishing. The Phase I Project recommends improvements to the boat launch/dock/parking and fish cleaning facilities.

Mr. Kippola introduced Barry Polzin, Architect and Pat Coleman, Planner, with U.P. Architects and Engineering who presented the plan with large diagrams for Commissioners and answered questions. Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, commended U.P. Engineers and Architects for an excellent job in providing the Master Plan Report on Perkins Park.

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 direct staff to continue to seek possible grant funding to complete parts of the Perkins Park Master Plan as recommended in the study.

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 accept the Master Plan Report prepared by U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc. on the Perkins Park Facility and pay them $4,690.00 for their professional services.

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The Committee considered language for millage ballot proposals to be presented during the August 2, 1994 Primary for the Commission on Aging, for Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue Program, and for Central Dispatch 911 Services.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Bramse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the millage languages and place them on the August 2, 1994 Primary.

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The Committee considered a list of grant applications for Federal and State funding for Services to the Aging during FY 1995. The applications must be submitted by June 10, 1994.

Edie Ball, Director of Commission on Aging, was present to explain the various grant applications and answer any questions.

It was moved by Comm. Bramse, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Commission on Aging list for FY 1995 grant applications.

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When the Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, May 10, 1994 they considered a request from Jay Scherbenske, Director, Marquette EDC, that the County remit their committed contribution in the amount of $5,000 for the first year as part of a local match to a Title IX Grant from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce to develop the Canadian/ American Highway Study.
County Administrator Dennis Aloia, explained that the County Board did commit $5,000 per year for a two-year period back in 1989. However, these funds were unused for several years and as with all County funds after a period of time, the monies were recaptured and put back into the general fund.

Comm. Seppanen expressed concern regarding the remaining local matches that were to be raised by the EDC through various sources in the private sector and other units of government. Perhaps the Committee of the Whole should get a report on other matching funds before it approves this request. Commissioner Potvin believed the Canadian/American Highway Study to be a waste of taxpayer dollars and the County should not participate.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, to table the request. Motion failed four Ayes (Comm. Potvin, Braamse, Minelli, Seppanen) to six Nays (Comm. Angeli, Arsenaault, Bergdahl, Joseph, Trudell and Corkin).

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and carried on a roll call vote eight Ayes (Comm. Trudell, Angeli, Arsenaault, Bergdahl, Joseph, Minelli, Seppanen and Corkin) to two Nays (Comm. Braamse and Potvin), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a $5,000 appropriation from the unrestricted C.I.P. fund to the Marquette County EDC for its part of a first-year local match for an EDA Highway System Grant.

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The Committee considered an informational letter from Payne & Dolan, Inc. regarding the use of contaminated soils to manufacture hot mix asphalt. Comm. Corkin pointed out that this letter doesn't really indicate anything regarding the process which is currently being held up. Administrator Aloia has attempted to contact Peter Tolosa several times but his calls have gone unanswered. It appears that some necessary paperwork was not filed by Payne & Dolan with the Department of Natural Resources before the project continues. The Commissioners noted that should this blacktopping project fall through they will be very displeased.

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The Committee considered a memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding State Court financing. The State House approved a bill that provides for 100% Court funding by the State of Michigan. The vote was 60 Yea to 37 No. County Administrator Dennis Aloia explained this bill must now go to the Senate where it will have a much more difficult time passing. Should 100% Court financing ultimately come about, the County could realize 1 million to 1.5 million additional dollars however the Legislature is already talking about eliminating State Revenue Sharing which means we would lose a million dollars.

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

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The Committee considered the State of Michigan Disaster Systems Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of State Police, Emergency Management Division and the County of Marquette. Civil Counsel, David Payant, reviewed the Grant Agreement between Marquette County and the State, and pointed out that the County must now draft agreements between each unit of government that will receive part of the funds.
County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, added that the County supports the State’s Emergency Grant for the freeze-ups but noted the County will also have to assume responsibility for the approximately $975,000 that will be distributed according to the guidelines. It could be an accounting nightmare but we have to do it. When the Federal Government comes through with funding then Marquette County may have to assume further responsibilities in distributing funds.

Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Director, was present to discuss the grant and answer questions. The County has a relationship with the State in that we have a County-Wide Emergency Disaster System. Therefore, the State works through the County and then the County must work with the local units of Government.

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 Grant Agreement between the State of Michigan and the County of Marquette for Disaster Assistance as the result of the severe winter freezing conditions in Marquette County.

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The Committee considered a request from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, to allow the Sheriff’s Department to place approximately 30 bicycles in the annual Marquette City Bike Auction. These bikes are collected as a result of being lost or stolen and County policy allows the Administrator to dispose of such items. Administrator Aloia has spoken with Marquette City Police Chief, George Johnson, and Marquette City Manager, Dale Iman, and they are willing to allow the bikes in with their auction.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braaske, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow the sale of approximately 30 lost or stolen bicycles, currently held by the Sheriff’s Department, to be included in the Marquette City’s Annual Bicycle Auction.

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The Committee considered a request from Comm. Trudell regarding notification and agendas for liaison members to the Marquette County Medical Care Facility Board. Comm. Trudell recently missed a Medical Care Facility Meeting because it had been rescheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon and he was not notified. Comm. Angeli also missed the same meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to the Marquette Medical Care Facility Administrative Staff requesting more timely notification agendas to County Board liaison members.

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The Committee considered a request from Comm. Angeli for a letter regarding blowing sand from the Road Commission sand piles in Republic Township. Comm. Angeli has received several complaints about the large pile of sand that is stored near Republic. During windy conditions blowing sand is a problem for local citizens.
It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppala, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to John Beerling, Superintendent Engineer of the Marquette County Road Commission, requesting he look into the matter to determine what can be done to solve the problem.

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Chairperson Corkin distributed a letter from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding a Michigan Aeronautics Commission public meeting to obtain public input regarding the expansion of international air services for Michigan. This important meeting is scheduled in this region at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, May 16, 1994, at the Ludington House in Escanaba. Because of the interest in the possible use of E.I. Sawyer for International Air Service, Mr. Pawley suggested to the Bureau of Aeronautics that they hold another meeting in Marquette County.

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Comm. Braamse distributed her report on the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners meeting which was held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on May 6 and 7, 1994.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
May 10, 1994 at 4:30 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewes Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Formal Complaint by Residents of South Marquette About Excessive Use Through Genesee and Division Streets by Trucking Companies.
7. Letter from Marquette Township Regarding the Elimination of Truck Traffic on CR 500 (West Grove Street).
9. Request from the 96th District Court to Hire a Temporary Deputy for Delinquent Account Collections.
10. Perkins Park Master Plan from James Kippola, Senior Planner.
11. Request from the Commission on Aging for Approval of their Millage Ballot Proposals for the August 2, 1994 Primary.
12. Request from the Commission on Aging for Approval for their FY 1995 Grant Applications.
13. Request from Jay Scherbenske, Director, Marquette County EDC for Committed Contribution of $5,000 to Develop the Canadian/American Highway Study.
15. Informational Memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding State Court Financing Legislation.
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.