The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 24, 1995 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 January 10, 1995 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 7, 1995, through January 20, 1995 in the amount of $1,936,367.71 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions and changes: That Item 16, the language for the County-wide ballot proposals be moved forward on the agenda to Item 6a and that the Committee add Item 17, Michigan Association of Counties Conference, February 12-14, Lansing, Michigan. Item 18, Notice of Public Hearing on the Michigan Drain Code and 18a, Discussion of County Bidding Procedures.

* * * * * * *

The Committee considered a request from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, for a budget amendment in the amount of $1,900 to be added to the capital outlay line item in the Enterprise Fund. Brent Nault was present and explained that the administrative division of the Sheriff’s Department is in need of a printer upgrade. The reason for the upgrade is twofold: 1) The current printers are at least five years, old, slow, and of questionable quality, and 2) The Sheriff’s Department now has seven PC’s on a Novell network that could utilize the upgraded printer. The Sheriff’s Department should have been scheduled to receive a laser printer upgrade to be shared with their Novell users but, Mr. Nault mistakenly omitted the printer from the Enterprise Purchase Fund request. This change in the total expenditure will be from $47,000 to $48,900. The expense is offset by a total of $63,669 in revenues generated by computer use charges, leaving a balance of $14,769 in the Enterprise Fund to be carried over for future years.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the budget amendment in the amount of $1,900 from the Enterprise Fund for an upgraded printer for the Sheriff’s Department Novell Network.

* * * * * * *

The Committee considered the ballot language for two County-wide millage proposals. The Ad Hoc Millage Committee, comprising of Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Trudell have worked several months on developing the language.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the ballot language as follows:
COUNTY-WIDE PROPOSITION NO. 1
MILLAGE FOR MARQUETTE COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FACILITY

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes as equalized on all property in Marquette County be increased by up to .55 mills, being Fifty-Five Cents ($0.55) per One Thousand dollars ($1,000) of assessed valuation, to be levied for five (5) years (1995 through 1999, inclusively) for the purpose of funding Marquette County's current and future maintenance of effort obligation for the County Medical Care Facility located at the Frank S. Valente building? This proposal will raise approximately $508,727 in its first year.

Yes or No

COUNTY-WIDE PROPOSITION NO. 2
SHERIFF'S ROAD PATROL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT MILLAGE

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes as equalized on all property in Marquette County be increased by up to 1.45 mills, being One Dollar Forty-five Cents ($1.45) per One Thousand Dollars ($1,000) of assessed valuation, to be levied for five (5) years (1995-1999, inclusively) for the purpose of continuing and/or enhancing funding for the County Sheriff’s Road Patrol and substance abuse education and enforcement programs? This proposal will raise approximately $1,341,190 in its first year.

Yes or No

* * * * *

The Committee considered the bids for the purchase of two Resource Management/Development Department vehicles. Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Department Director, was present and explained that bids were sent to all local dealers and only three responded. The low bid for two small pickups is from Nelson Chevrolet Oldsmobile, Negaunee, for a total amount of $18,723.10 with one vehicle being traded in and another vehicle will be retired to the Community Development program for use in the House Rehabilitation Program. The two new vehicles are S-10, 4 cylinder small trucks with seven foot boxes.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the purchase of the two small pickups for the Resource Management Development Department, low bidder, Nelson Chevrolet Oldsmobile, Negaunee, in the amount of $18,723.10.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a memo from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, regarding the Shooting Sports Complex. Mr. Koshorek was present and explained that the preliminary design for the Shooting Sports Complex has been completed. Construction cost for the project is much higher than anticipated. The County budgeted $299,000 with a 75% grant for that amount from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, however, our architect estimates that construction costs will be approximately $1,019,000.

Ron Koshorek recommends that the County Board pursue the project at a reduced level. Specifically all the facilities shown in the original project could be built with the exception of the indoor pistol range for approximately $750,000. This would require the County Board to pledge $187,500 (presumably from the Land Acquisition Fund) which currently has a balance of $222,000. Should the County Board agree, Staff will make every attempt to secure outside funding for this project which would reduce the County local match.
County Administrator Aloia, with all due respect to Ron Koshorek's request, recommends that the County Board discontinue the project. The cost is way out of line and would nearly drain all resources in the land acquisition fund. Administrator Aloia suggested that the County Board request that the State of Michigan build the Shooting Sports Complex. They have built similar facilities around the State, all in Lower Michigan, perhaps it is time to construct one in the Upper Peninsula.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board discontinue the Shooting Sports Complex Project and forward a resolution to the State of Michigan explaining why Marquette County cannot accept the grant.

And Further,

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff to write a letter requesting that the State of Michigan build a Shooting Sports Complex in the Upper Peninsula.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a Staff position paper on the reuse of K.I. Sawyer. A Staff Committee comprised of Administrator Dennis Aloia, Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, Civil Council David Payant and Senior Planner, Jim Kippola, concluded that a successor entity created by the authority for governing K.I. Sawyer must be empowered to accomplish the following criteria:

1. The entity must have the legal ability to manage the property under its control.
2. The entity must have a mechanism for raising funds so that the infrastructure necessary to support re-use activities can be maintained.
3. The entity needs full corporate powers including the power to sue, to own property, and to contract.
4. The entity needs the power to buy, sell, or lease property.
5. Taxation powers as a mechanism for raising revenue.
6. The legal ability to run utility systems and to collect charges for their use.
7. Planning and zoning powers to provide for future development and controls at the site.
8. Police powers and ordinance-making powers so that a single governmental entity can enact regulations governing the entire area of the Base.
9. The power to provide security and police protection.
10. Either a permanent corporate existence or a plan for a gradual phase-out of the need for the re-use Authority.

Civil Counsel Payant pointed out several options that could be considered: 1) Annexation of the Airport to one of the Townships that presently comprise part of the K.I. Sawyer property. 2) A new Township could be created which would require State legislation and 3) Legislation to give the governing authority the power to implement the ten criteria suggested.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, wanted it made clear that should the County Airport be moved it must be a separate entity, run by the County to maintain a proper public transportation system for its citizens. It should also be made clear that the County should not operate any of the other facilities at the Air Force Base. It appears that none of the options presented so far by the study would be able to generate any tax revenue in order to maintain the infrastructure that is on the Base.

Paul Riis, of 516 Riverside Road, Harvey, representing a committee of the three who in turn represent General Aviation and 38 aircraft owners made a presentation to the Board. Mr. Riis pointed out that there has been no dialogue with General Aviation in regards to the possible moving of the County Airport to K.I. Sawyer or the reuse of either airport by any public entity.
Out of the 237 public use airports in the State of Michigan, only 19 are served by scheduled air carriers. The remainder are exclusively used by General Aviation which accounts for nearly 83% of all departures and arrivals in Michigan, excepting military operations. Furthermore, business related flights comprise over two-thirds of all General Aviation operations which last year carried 120 million more people than American Airlines. His committee would like to work with the County Board, the Conversion Authority, the Aviation Committee, and any of the entities involved in the conversion and reuse process.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board forward three options to the Base Conversion Authority for their consideration:

1) Consider the annexing of K.I. Sawyer to one of the Townships,
2) Seeks special legislation to create a new Township, and
3) Implement a governing body under HB 5464, Trade Port Legislation.

and along with these three options the County Board also forwards the ten criteria established by County Staff as listed above.

And Further,

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend (at the request of the Ad Hoc K.I. Sawyer Committee) that the County Board direct Staff to work on the various options regarding the moving (or not) moving the County Airport.

* * * * *

The Committee considered the year-end budget amendments presented by Gary Yoder, Finance Manager. Mr. Yoder was present and explained that Budget Amendment #47 is an additional appropriation of $4,000 for the Law Library Fund. During 1994 changes have been made to cut costs by dropping unused volumes and their supplements, however, these cuts will begin to show up in 1995.

Budget Amendment #48, the Soldiers Sailors and Relief Fund is normally in need of additional funds, however, this year there is an excess, and Mr. Yoder recommends we use this excess to fund the additional appropriation to the Law Library.

Budget Amendment #49 adjusts several line items in the General Fund. The net effect of the changes is a reduction of $56,437 in revenues and $64,109 in expenditures. The difference of $7,672 is proposed to be added to the Contingency Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1994 Year-End Budget Amendments as presented.

* * * * *

The Committee considered the purchase of County lands by the Road Commission. Civil Counsel David Payant has reviewed the matter and has met with the Resource Management Department and has determined that there is no detrimental effect to the County. The County lands being deeded to the Road Commission would be 50 foot right-of-way strip along County Road 550 adjacent to Perkins Park in Powell Township.

It was moved by Comm. Seppen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the conveyance of some County land along County Road 550 to the Marquette County Road Commission as requested.

* * * * *
The Committee considered a letter from Henry L. Green, Executive Director, Michigan Department of Labor, Bureau of Construction Codes, to Mr. Don Paulosky, Executive Director of the Home Builders Association of Superiorland. Mr. Green indicated he is happy that the home builders are working towards a team approach for code administration and enforcement and will be glad to assist them in any way possible. A request for evaluation of the Marquette County Code Administration and Enforcement Program, by Statute, must come from County officials, i.e. either the building official or the Chairperson of the County Board. Upon receipt of such request from a County Official Mr. Green will schedule an evaluation.

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

* * * * *

The Committee considered a resolution from the Lake County Board of Commissioners opposing HB 5398 which would require that any notice relating to unpaid or delinquent taxes be sent by Certified Mail. This would create an additional expense and burden on County government.

The resolution has been reviewed by County Treasurer James Sodergren who recommends Marquette County oppose HB 5398.

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 adopt a similar resolution opposing HB 5398.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a letter from James F. Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, to the Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit and Finance Division. The letter indicates that for the distribution of the CFA taxes (PA 362), the law specifically states that a portion of the State payments and the tax per acre be distributed to the local schools and ISD’s. CFA Taxes and Iron Ore Taxes are to be apportioned in the same manner as the General Property Tax Act. The State Education Tax is not structured as a General Property Tax, therefore, the State is not entitled to a portion of the specific taxes.

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

* * * * *

The Committee reviewed a letter from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director of the Marquette County Health Department, regarding Health Department Budget Amendment #4 for 1994. As a result of a spreadsheet formula error in the 1994 budget, $7,303 in community health indirect expenses was inadvertently carried through as a net expense in that division rather than spread among all division programs. In order to adjust for this error, the Community Health Administration Budget was amended by increasing the education materials and printing expenditure line item by $5,000 and the travel expenditure line item by $2,303. The amendment was approved by the Board of Health at their December 20th meeting. The County Board of Commissioner’s resolution of May 19, 1992 delegates responsibilities for amending the Health Department’s Budget to the Board of Health provided such an amendment does not require additional County funds.

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

* * * * *
The Committee considered sending representatives from the County Board to the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Conference to be held February 12th through the 14th in Lansing, Michigan. County Administrator Dennis Aloia reported that three Commissioners, Comm. Bergdahl, Braamse and Rapport have expressed an interest in going.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of sending Commissioners Bergdahl, Braamse and Rapport to the February MAC Legislative Conference.

The Committee considered a letter from Mike Farrell, Marquette County Drain Commissioner, regarding a public hearing to discuss the review of the Michigan Drain Code and relates statutes. The memo was a formal invitation for County Commissioners and Staff to participate in the public hearing to be held on Thursday, February 2, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. at the Marquette High School Little Theater, (Room 156). It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a concern expressed by Comm. Angeli about bids for County signs from the State Prison Work Program. He had received an inquiry from Cook Sign Company. County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, explained that there is no County policy on this particular type of issue.

Ron Koshorek, Resource Development Manager, explained that the County received bids for approximately 400 signs that are being required by the American Disabilities Act. Wickham bid $20,096, Cook Signs bid $11,051 and the Michigan State Industries bid $5,428. Mr. Koshorek has not awarded the bid as of yet.

The Committee consensus was that Staff hold the bids and the issue will be place on the next Committee of the Whole meeting agenda for further review.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairperson Corkin announced that the K.I. Sawyer Base Conversion Authority has appointed Jim Story as Interim Director for a 90 day period.

County Clerk Dave Roberts reminded Commissioners that January is a five Tuesday month and there is no meeting scheduled for next week.

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. Request from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, for a Budget Amendment to the Capital Outlay Line Item in the Enterprise Fund.
8. Memo from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, regarding the Shooting Sports Complex.
11. Request to Purchase County Lands by the Road Commission.
12. Letter from Henry Green, Executive Director, Michigan Department of Labor, Bureau of Construction Codes, to Don Paulosky, Home Builder's Association, regarding Marquette County Building Code Administration and Enforcement.
13. Resolution from Lake County Opposing HB 5398 (Requiring Delinquent Tax Notices be Sent by Certified Mail).
14. Letter from James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, to the Michigan Department of Treasury regarding the Distribution of CFA Taxes.
16. Language for County-Wide Ballot Proposals.
17. PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS DRAIN CODE
18. BIDDING PROCESS
19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.