The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 28, 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. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 14, 1995 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 3, 1995 thru February 23, 1995 in the amount of $2,143,586.91 be approved.

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The Committee considered a request from Charles Bergdahl, President, Marquette County Economic Development Corporation, regarding the EDA Application for K.I.Sawyer AFB. The EDC requests the County pass a resolution designating the Economic Development Corporation as the lead agency for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration application for the redevelopment of K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base. This resolution is not an endorsement of the reuse plan, the moving of the airport, or any form of governance. The resolution would appoint the EDC as the Lead Agency for the creation and administration of the Economic Development Administration Grant.

County Administrator Dennis Aloia strongly opposed the EDC being the Lead Agency for the administration of the EDA Grant and recommends County Staff administer it.

Commissioners and Staff engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the responsibility the EDC will have in administering such a large project, and what role the County will have if the EDC is designated as the Lead Agency. Concerns were raised that if the EDC is designated as the Lead Agency the County will have no idea of how the grant money is being spent, and the County will still be responsible for it. The County needs to have more control ensuring that the dollars are being spent appropriately.


It was further moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and carried by voice vote 8 ayes to 2 nays (Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Angeli voting nay), to amend the original motion to include that the EDC be designated as the lead agency but all the accounting be done by the Marquette County Accounting Department and that the EDC follow all County policies and procedures.

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The Committee considered a communication from Sheriff Joseph Maino regarding Emergency Services Division Vehicle Bids. Bids were opened for the lease of a four wheel drive vehicle for the Emergency Services Division on February 13, 1995. Two, three and four year lease bids were received from Frei Chevrolet-Geo, Inc., and Nelson Chevrolet-Oldsmobile, Inc. The vendors met or exceeded the County’s bid specifications.
Frei Chevrolet-Geo, Inc.

2 Year Lease 3 Year Lease 4 Year Lease
$528.50/month $482.30/month $486.53/month
$550.00 security deposit $500.00 security deposit $500.00 security deposit
$11.00 title fee $11.00 title fee $11.00 title fee
$40.00 doc fee $40.00 doc fee $40.00 doc fee
$1,129.50/money down $1,033.30/money down $1,037.53/money down

Nelson Chevrolet-Oldsmobile, Inc.

2 Year Lease 3 Year Lease 4 Year Lease
$774.23/month $669.71/month $625.22/month

Sheriff Maino recommends the low bid submitted by Frei Chevrolet-Geo, Inc. for a three year lease in the amount of $482.30 per month be accepted. If approved, Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, indicated there may be an opportunity to negotiate an annual payment program that could further reduce the lease costs for the new vehicle.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, recommends approving the four year lease rather than the three year lease. There is an additional $4.23 more per month, but EMS would get an extra year of use of the vehicle.

Commissioners questioned the fact that there is no mention of what the mileage request would be in leasing this vehicle.

No one was present from the Sheriff Department to answer questions regarding the vehicle bids.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication from Sheriff Joseph Maino regarding Emergency Services Division Vehicle Bids be deferred to the County Board for consideration at their March 7, 1995 meeting without a recommendation and request Sheriff Maino or Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager to attend.

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The Committee considered a communication from Stephen Enright, Planner, Resource Management/Development Department, regarding the 1995 Recreation Grant Application for the Perkins Park Development Project. In 1994 the Marquette County Board voted to accept the Perkins Park Master Plan. The five-phase development plan proposes a variety of improvements throughout the park to enhance camping, boating and fishing access, and day use. Total project cost is estimated at $822,000. The estimated cost of Phase I is $176,000. State share being $132,000 and the County share being $44,000.

Civil Counsel, David Payant, was present and stated that he has reviewed the documents for the grant applications. He explained that this does not commit the County to accept the grants if they are awarded, it only signifies the intent of the County to enter into the loan at a future time. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, suggested that the County not make any commitment of funding for this grant at this time due the County’s current financial situation, but to consider the appropriation during the 1996 Capital Improvement Program, or other sources.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board schedule a public meeting on the application at the March 14, 1995 Committee of the Whole meeting as required for grant eligibility, after which the County Board adopt a resolution applying for grant assistance to undertake the Perkins Park Development Project.

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The Committee considered a memo from Larry Bussone, Sundberg, Carlson, and Associates, Inc., regarding the first year evaluation of Remonumentation work completed. Marquette County selected Sundberg, Carlson, and Assoc. to do the Marquette County Remonumentation work with a three year contract. The stipulation being an evaluation and renegotiation after each year.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the first year evaluation of the remonumentation work completed by Sundberg, Carlson and Associates, Inc., and to commence renegotiations for the 1995 fees and work program.

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The Committee considered a memo from Annette L. Dedic, Plat Book Advertising Sales Rep., Marquette County 4-H Council, regarding the 1995-1997 Marquette County Land Atlas and Plat Book Contract. The Plat Book will be printed sometime in late June, and the deadline for purchasing advertising is March 20th. The cost of a full page ad inside the front cover is $800.00 including 23 copies of the Plat Book.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Marquette County Plat Book Advertising Agreement with the 4-H Council to again purchase the full page ad inside the front cover of the 1995-1997 Plat Book at a cost of $800.00 in exchange for 23 Plat Books.

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The Committee considered a communication from Attorney Peter C. Jensen, Jensen, Smith & Gilbert, P.C., Saginaw, Michigan, regarding Domestic Violence Act P.A. 61 of 1994 Headlee Amendment Violations. The Michigan Legislature recently adopted the Domestic Violence Act. This Act creates significant increases in costs for county clerks, prosecutors, courts and county jails. Furthermore, the Legislature has, in P.A. 62 through 70 of 1994, created a comprehensive statutory system which must be enforced, and which requires court personnel, prosecutors and jails to take immediate action.

The Saginaw County Board believes that a lawsuit should be instituted against the State of Michigan alleging that the extra costs incurred because of the implementation of this Act is clearly a violation of the Headlee Amendment. The Saginaw County Board has authorized the firm of Jensen, Smith & Gilbert, P.C. to solicit from other counties a request to participate in this litigation.

Circuit Court Judge, Edward A. Quinell, has reviewed Mr. Jensen’s communication, and stated in a memo that the legislation seems to be a fairly clear violation of Headlee, but the question remains as to whether the extra local time involved is worth a lawsuit against the State. Judge Quinell emphasized that no matter what happens with the legislation or any lawsuit, he wants to be sure that the availability of such orders is not jeopardized.

David J. Roberts, Marquette County Clerk, recommends waiting before considering whether or not to join this lawsuit, and let Civil Counsel, David Payant investigate and advise the County Board further.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file.

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The Committee considered a resolution from Baraga County regarding the Michigan DNR and Attorney General vs. Richard Delene. Baraga County requests the Governor of the State of Michigan to employ all legal and political means available to end this waste of taxpayer dollars, to protect private property rights and to reinstall confidence in and respect for government.

Comm. Corkin stated that he does not feel the County Board should get involved due to the fact that Commissioners have not seen the property. He suggested that perhaps Commissioners who are interested go and visit the Richard Delene property.

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

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The Committee considered a communication from Gregory Seppanen, Commissioner, regarding Second-Hand Smoke in the Workplace. Comm. Seppanen has some major concerns relative to the health issues of County employees. He is asking the County Board to put together a survey for all County employees to ensure their needs are adequately met in regard to second-hand smoke in the workplace.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board ask the Marquette County Health Department to conduct a survey polling County employees in regards to the present County smoking policy and second-hand smoke in the workplace.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, February 28, 1995, 4:30 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. Emergency Services Division Vehicle Bids.
12. Resolution from Baraga County regarding the Michigan DNR and Attorney General vs. Richard Delene.
13. Second Hand Smoke in the Workplace.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.