The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 2, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


A Salute to the Flag was given, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Annual Equalization meeting held on April 11, 1995 and the County Board of Commissioner’s Regular Board Meeting held on April 18, 1995 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: 11a) House Bill 4365 Supplemental Health Bill effecting Fiscal Year 1994-1995.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the following informational items on file:

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   b. Lease Application for Building 1210, K.I. Sawyer, from the Marquette County EDC.
   c. County Budgeting and Finance Workshop Schedule Sponsored by MSU Extension.
   d. Resolution Dissolving the Marquette Township EDC.
   e. Letter from Law, Weathers and Richardson regarding Trial Court Financing Class Action Lawsuit Against the State of Michigan.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10a, 10b, 10c, and 10d be approved as follows:

10a) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board direct Staff to delay the hiring of a Commission on Aging Director for thirty days and form a ten member committee made up of two County Commissioners, two members from Commission on Aging, one Advisory board member, one Commission on Aging staff member, one Health Department staff member, one Health Department Board member, one member of UPPCAP, and Administrator Aloia to review the possible reorganization of the Commission on Aging as a division of the County Health Department and then make a recommendation to the County Board.

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10b) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt the resolution supporting the Marquette County Road Commission and the County Road Association of Michigan regarding legislation to increase the Michigan Gas Tax for the construction and maintenance of roads, resolution as follows:
RESOLUTION
MORE FUNDING FOR COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, the Michigan Gas Tax rate ranks 44th lowest in the country and hasn't been raised since 1984 creating $1.4 billion in lost road improvements; and

WHEREAS, the "Build Michigan" program will sunset in September of 1995 thus eliminating more than $45,000,000 of revenue to local road agencies, and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Road Commission stands to lose approximately $400,000 in revenue for 1996, and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Road Commission has a total of $12,256,000 in unfunded resurfacing, unfunded reconstruction, and unfunded bridge needs, and

WHEREAS, there is a legislative proposal to increase the gas tax 5 to 7 cents per gallon while at the same time giving a larger portion of the new money to the Michigan Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation is already receiving its fair share of road funding under the existing distribution formula,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners opposes this legislation because the additional revenue generated by the 5 to 7 cent gas tax increase will not be enough, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that new funds generated by a gas tax increase should continue to be distributed under the old formula, thereby, addressing both MDOT’s needs and the needs of the local road systems.

Adopted this 2nd day of May, 1995
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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10c) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt the resolution supporting House Bill 4950 (Swamp Tax) with an escalator clause of 5% or the cost of living, resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION
AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4590
(SWAMP TAX)

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan reimburses local Units of Government for State owned land at $2.50 an acre ($1 for County, $1 for the Townships, and 50 cents for Schools), and

WHEREAS, Proposal A has changed the funding mechanism for Michigan Public Schools, through the State Education Tax (SET), and

WHEREAS, House Bill 4590 would require the 50 cents per acre Swamp Tax to go to the State Education Tax rather than local schools,
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners supports the concept of House Bill 4590 in directing the school’s portion of the Swamp Tax to the State Education Tax, but

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners supports an escalator clause to be included in House Bill 4590 for an annual increase of 5% or cost of living to local units, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent to the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan Association of Counties, and all Upper Peninsula Legislators.

Adopted this 2nd day of May, 1995
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Directors

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10d) A Committee of the Whole recommendation directing Civil Counsel, David Payant, and Mine Inspector, Rudy LaFreniere, to review abandoned mine legislation and make recommendations for changes in the law so they can be forwarded to our State Legislators.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a communication from Vernon Davis Anthony, Director of the Michigan Department of Health, to local health officers regarding House Bill 4365, a supplemental health bill. Comm. Rapport, who is also a member of the Marquette County Board of Health, explained that Public Act 327 of 1992 earmarked 6% of all tobacco tax revenues to be used to supplement Health Department services, however, that funding ran out as of March 31, 1995. House Bill 4365 would continue the supplemental health funding, however, there seems to be a legislative impasse because of the 4 cent increase in the cigarette tax.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that a letter be faxed to our U.P. Legislators, tomorrow, May 3, 1995, urging their support in the immediate passage of House Bill 4365.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Rapport requested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Mr. Hugh Kahler for his service to Marquette County as a member of the Commission on Aging and the Marquette County Humane Society.

Comm. Angeli, County Board Liaison to the Chamber of Commerce, reported that the Chamber would like to see the County Airport moved to K.I. Sawyer and they are pushing towards this end.

He further reported that 24 people from Ishpeming, Negaunee and Marquette went to Lansing and met with our Legislators for two days. State Senator Don Koivisto was very helpful. He also learned that Representative Anthony from Escanaba is working against moving the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.

Comm. Seppanen reported that Representative Anthony would like to see a regional airport located in Escanaba.
Comm. Bergdahl reported that last week his wife went to Lansing lobbying on behalf funding for State Fairs. While she was there she met with State Senator George McManus who questioned why Marquette County has not been lobbying for a regional airport? Senator McManus claimed that every week there is a lobbying effort by Delta County for a regional airport to be located there. Comm. Bergdahl further reported that two snow plows left K.I. Sawyer this morning. He believed the County Board must act to make a decision very soon to move the Airport or there will be nothing left at K.I. Sawyer should the decision be made later.

Chairperson Corkin, who is also a member of the Base Conversion Authority, disagreed with Comm. Bergdahl on the equipment issue. There will be sufficient equipment left at K.I. Sawyer for them to operate. He further explained that there are many pluses and minuses regarding moving to K.I. Sawyer. It appears that moving the Airport would be good, however, some important information is not available yet, and that is, how much it is going to cost and who is going to pay for the move. Until we get that information he cannot support the move.

County Administrator Dennis Aloia further explained that two issues that must be resolved before a final decision can be made and it is not the County Board that has been holding up the issue. First, the ongoing operational and maintenance costs at the new Airport are in question and Hal Pawley has been going through the Greiner Study line by line to determine where the Greiner Study figures have come from. Second, the OEA has approved $50,000 to study the costs involved in closing down the Marquette County Airport, however, they require that the Base Conversion Authority advertise for bids which will add approximately two months to the process.

Comm. Seppanen reported that Central Dispatch will soon be doing its study regarding the overhaul of technical equipment and the potential move of its operations to K.I. Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin emphasized to the public watching this meeting that the recent County-wide millage election will reflect in the 1996 budget. The 1995 budget was already in place last year and is balanced. The voters spoke in March and budget cuts for 1996 will be reviewed during the annual budget process.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 2, 1995 at 7:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   b. Lease Application for Building 1210, K.I. Sawyer, from the Marquette County EDC.
   c. County Budgeting and Finance Workshop Schedule Sponsored by MSU Extension.
   d. Resolution Dissolving the Marquette Township EDC.
   e. Letter from Law Weathers and Richardson regarding Trial Court Financing Class Action Lawsuit Against the State of Michigan.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
   a. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to form a Committee to Review Possible Reorganization of the Commission on Aging as a Division of the County Health Department.
   b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Supporting Legislation to Increase the Michigan Gas Tax for the Construction and Maintenance of Roads.
   c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution Supporting House Bill 4590 (Swamp Tax) with an Escalator Clause.
   d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation directing Civil Counsel David Payant and Mine Inspector Rudy LaFreniere to Review Abandoned Mine Legislation and Make Recommendations for Changes in the Law.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
   a. FY 94-95 HB 4365 - Supplemental Health Bill
   b. 
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.