The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 16, 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. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the May 2, 1995 Regular Board Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following proclamation designating the week of May 14-20, 1995 as Emergency Medical Services Week.

PROCLAMATION

To designate the week of May 14-20, 1995 as Emergency Medical Services Week in Marquette County

Whereas, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

Whereas, timely access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

Whereas, the members of the emergency medical services team in our community are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

Whereas, emergency medical services providers have traditionally served as the safety net of America's health care system; and

Whereas, emergency medical services in Marquette County consists of emergency physicians, emergency nurses, first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, rescue specialists, dispatchers, educators, administrators, and others; and

Whereas, approximately two-thirds of all community emergency medical services providers are volunteer professionals; and

Whereas, the members of emergency medical services organizations, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

Whereas, the residents and visitors of our community benefit daily from the knowledge, skills, and dedication of these highly trained individuals; and

Whereas, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; and

Whereas, injury prevention and the appropriate use of the EMS system will help reduce national health care costs; and
Whereas the designation of Emergency Medical Services Week will also serve to educate the public about the life saving aspects of the EMS system, each represented by a point on the EMS Star of Life emblem.

Now, therefore, I, Gerald O. Corkin, Chair, Marquette County Board of Commissioners in grateful recognition of our local EMS services do hereby proclaim the week of May 14-20, 1995, as

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

and encourage the residents of our community to observe this week by showing appreciation for the life saving services provided by our EMS providers and to actively support this vital system of emergency care.

Adopted this 16th day of May, 1995
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Brian Rochon, 209 W. Nicolet, Marquette, supports the County Commissioners who voted against moving the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer until the feasibility study is complete and all financial implications are known. Mr. Rochon contended that political and emotional reasons, rather than the facts, are being considered in this move. Such a decision should be market driven.

Cynthia Nyquist, 901 Grove Street, Marquette, requested to speak during Item 10a. Sam Elder, 2425 W. Grove Street, Marquette, spoke in favor of the move. He has 26 years experience in real estate and the basic rule in real estate is location, location location. There are many small airports like the Marquette County Airport in the Upper Peninsula but there are none like K.I. Sawyer. In the 38 year history of the Marquette County Airport, other than those involved in the operation of the Airport, there has only been one employer. Already K.I. Sawyer has two new employers and ten others are under contract negotiations. The Marquette County Airport is surrounded by rocks, development, and bluffs. The K.I. Sawyer runway is much larger, and has overruns on both ends of 1,000 by 300 feet. It is only a matter of time until the FAA will have to cut costs and begin the regionalization of airports. This is an opportunity for Marquette County and yes the opportunity involves risk.

William Birch, 455 W. Ridge Street, a former Kalamazoo County Commissioner, former School Board Member and a former Mayor of Marquette, understands the stresses that Commissioners are facing in making this important decision. This is an opportunity for the County Board to build something like the Mackinac Bridge. History will look favorably upon it. He urged Commissioners to vote unanimously to move the Marquette County Airport and even go further by naming the Airport the K.I. Sawyer Regional Airport.

Joe Pietro, Little Perch Lake, pointed out that this is Michigan Week. After 45 years of flying in the sky he was paid not to get excited, but he is excited tonight because the County Board is on the verge of making a decision to move the Airport. The whole State of Michigan is watching. There is a ground swell of government and civic organizations who are saying lets go for it! Moving the airport means jobs, jobs, jobs!

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following additions: That under 8a) Privileged Comment Commissioners may read letters from organizations and governmental units regarding moving the County Airport, and that the Closed Session also include pending litigation regarding Aho vs. Marquette County Medical Care Facility.
PRIVILEGED COMMENT

Chairperson Corkin read four letters regarding moving the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer from the following organizations:

a. The Gwinn Area Business Association urges the County Board to move of the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.

b. The Negaunee Township Board is unanimously opposed to the proposed relocation of the County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.

c. City of Negaunee has not taken a formal position regarding moving the Marquette County Airport and urges County Commissioners to look at the total picture before making a long term commitment and seriously consider the cost and long term of impact of such a move to the residents of Marquette County.

d. The Negaunee Public School Board of Education expressed its concern that moving the Airport seems a bit hasty prior to development of a good reuse plan, and urged the County Board to exercise caution because the move will also require a large financial investment.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board accept and place the following communications on file.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   c. Letter to U.S. Senator Carl Levin (also U.S. Senator Abraham) from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, urging Their Support of Senate Bill 729 to Provide Funding for Airport Improvements.
   d. Letter from U.S. Senator Carl Levin Concerning the Closure of the Coast Guard Station in Marquette.
   e. Response from State Representative Paul Tesanovich to Marquette County Resolution regarding Headlee Amendment Violations Associated with PA 61.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10c, 10d, and 10e be approved as follows:

10c) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve Sheriff Maino’s request to transfer two bicycles that are in the County’s possession to the Forsyth Township Police Department.

10d) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board direct Chairperson Corkin to schedule a special Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss legal counsel for indigent defendants sometime in June. (The Special Committee of the Whole has been scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 1995 in Commission Chambers).

10e) The County Board approved the appointment of D/Cpl Emil Kezerle as a Medical Examiner Investigator for Marquette County.
ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10a) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to approve the concept of moving the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.

Cynthia Nyquist, 901 Grove Street, Marquette, representing the Marquette Area Ambassadors encouraged those Commissioners who voted no at the Committee of the Whole meeting to please be open minded. In regards to funding, grants from the FAA and the EDA should be available. She urged all Commissioners to support the move and there would still be time for the County Board to pull back if the figures don’t add up. Ms. Nyquist pointed out a May 10th article in the Wall Street Journal indicated that the U.S. Senate is considering cutting funding for small airports. This means that the regional concept will be a reality and Marquette County should be hosts to the inevitable. Thank you.

Comm. Rapport thanked the public, individuals, and organizations, for their phone calls and letters. At the last meeting Commissioners did not have an evaluation from the Airport Commission. It is clear that Marquette County cannot support two airports, and neither will the FAA or the Michigan Aeronautics Commission. Future funding for Airport improvements will be shrinking and the concept of regional airports will no doubt be used. Millions of dollars are needed to improve the present airport but there will be large costs also associated with moving the Airport. A levy of one mill County wide has been considered in the past, however, voters and businessmen are silent on this issue. Mr. Ellwood Mattson at the last Committee of the Whole meeting said that we are not in this alone. She hopes so because this will be a costly venture and the future of the County is at stake.

Comm. Rapport made a substitute motion to the Committee of the Whole recommendation: It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, that the County start the process to move the Airport while addressing the eight concerns outlined by the County Airport Commission.

After a lengthy discussion the motion was defeated 4 Ayes (Comm. Rapport, Arsenault, Seppanen, Corkin) to 6 Nays (Comm. Angeli, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Trudell).

It was then moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, that the County Board approve the Committee of the Whole recommendation but add the words "start the process" into the recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried that an amendment be made to the motion to add that the eight concerns listed by the Marquette County Airport Commission be addressed along with the Committee of the Whole recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, that the Committee of the Whole recommendation be approved as amended as follows:

Be it resolved that Marquette County "start the process" and be granted a 99 year lease or ownership from the K.I. Sawyer Base Conversion Authority for the purpose of relocating the Marquette County Airport. In addition, if the Federal Aeronautical Agency approves the financial viability of the Marquette County Airport in consultation with Marquette County and the K.I. Sawyer Base Conversion Authority, then the Marquette County Board of Commissioners recommends transferring the National Plan of Integrated Airport System (NPIAS) and the State Airport System to the facility at K.I. Sawyer, and further that the following eight concerns issued by the Marquette County Airport Board be addressed in the relocation process:
1. While relocation of the airport to Sawyer seems to be a very important factor in the community’s economic recovery from closure of the base, it is necessary to consider other important factors, primarily financial feasibility, in making the final decision.

2. It is necessary to obtain additional information (e.g. reuse of existing airport, reinvestment value in Sawyer, etc.); and improve the projected costs and revenues associated with development and operation of the airport at Sawyer, to facilitate the final decision on relocation.

3. Determine whether airlines operating at the present airport will relocate to Sawyer.

4. Determination of any legal responsibility or liability for tenant facilities, investment and leases at the present airport.

5. Likelihood of reuse of current airport and sale of land and facilities, so it won’t be an added burden to taxpayers.

6. Availability and sources of funds for other than recurring operating costs, such as initial capital improvement projects at Sawyer; FAA required reinvestment from current airport; and relocation costs from current airport to Sawyer.

7. Impact of potential national budget reductions on survival of smaller airports, possibly resulting in federal funding for only regional airports; and the likelihood of either the current airport or Sawyer becoming a regional airport.

8. Recommendations:
   a. The airport at Sawyer continue to be operated as a County Airport, rather than under a joint or other jurisdictional airport or base authority; and that present county Airport employees necessary for operation at Sawyer be allowed to continue their employment.
   b. Land and facilities necessary for the airport operations be owned rather than leased.


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10b) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole that the County Board approved the Economic Adjustment Preapplication request for K.I. Sawyer/Marquette County. Jay Sherbense, EDC Director, was present to discuss the preapplication and answer questions.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the preapplication request to the Economic Development Administration for a grant for the redevelopment of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base into a productive industrial airport, total cost of the project, $3,333,160, with the EDA funding request amounting to $2,499,870, and a local share being sought from the State of Michigan in the amount of $833,290.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, was present and addressed the water line study. Wells were recently tested again in Sands Township and the aquifer is down by ten inches again. Mr. Yelle believes the Sands aquifer if diminishing because of pumping being done by K.I. Sawyer.
Mr. Yelle also pointed out that the Base Conversion Authority does not own the K.I. Sawyer property, the U.S. Department of Defense owns the property, and the Authority has only three more years of existence. However, in another five years there will be a tax base at K.I. Sawyer worth millions of dollars.

Joseph Pietro, Little Perch Lake, Gwinn, thanked the Commissioners for doing their duty and voting to relocate the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer. He contended the County Board served its taxpayers well. Mr. Pietro is Vice-Chair of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission and he will be attending a meeting tomorrow. He will bring back information regarding status of any funding.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Comm. Angeli had asked several weeks ago if County Commissioners, who are acting as liaisons to various County Boards and Commissions, are allowed to sit in on a closed session? He is currently serving as a liaison to the Social Services Board.

Civil Counsel David Payant pointed out that some are advisory boards, therefore, the County Board could require that its liaisons be allowed to sit in at closed sessions. Other Boards have their own statutory authority such as the Social Services Board and a Commissioner could sit in on closed sessions only with permission of that Board.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, believed that the County Board should encourage its various Boards and Commissions to allow the liaisons to sit in on only closed sessions. This has been a general practice of the County Board when closed session items involve another County Board or Commission, representatives of that Board are invited to sit in on the County Board’s closes sessions.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board direct all its advisory boards that County Commissioners acting as liaisons are to be allowed to sit in on its closes sessions, and further urge all boards with separate authority allow County Board liaisons to sit in on their closes sessions also.

Comm. Arsenault reported that Comm. Braasme, Chairperson Corkin, along with himself attended a regional County Commissioner’s Conference. A number of issues were discussed and resolutions were passed regarding the gas tax and unfunded mandates. He pointed out it was good to meet and discuss problems with other County Boards. They are all having problems as a result of budget restraints.

Chairperson Corkin reported that he can set up a trip to the Delene property in Baraga County some Saturday morning. Should any Commissioner be interested, please let him know.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, announced that the Base Conversion Authority is setting up a negotiation meeting to discuss governance. It was bringing in Lynn Harvey from MSU and would like to meet with the three Township Boards and the County Board. The suggested day is Monday, June 5th at 7:00 P.M.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, 10 Ayes (Comm. Seppanen, Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Trudell and Corkin) to go into closed session to hear a quarterly litigation report to discuss pending litigation regarding Williams vs. Marquette County Health Department, et al., Four Seasons Towing vs. Marquette County, Brandon vs. County of Marquette and Gary Walker, and Aho vs. Marquette County Medical Care Facility. Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear commission chambers.

..................................................CLOSED SESSION.................................................................

The County Board came back into open session. No action was forthcoming as a result of the closed session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts  
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
   a. Proclamation Designating the Week of May 14-20, 1995 as Emergency Medical Services Week.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   c. Letter to U.S. Senator Carl Levin (also U.S. Senator Abraham) from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, urging Their Support of Senate Bill 729 to Provide Funding for Airport Improvements.
   d. Letter from U.S. Senator Carl Levin Concerning the Closure of the Coast Guard Station in Marquette.
   e. Response from State Representative Paul Tesanovich to Marquette County Resolution regarding Headlee Amendment Violations Associated with PA 61.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Support Relocating the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.
    b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Economic Adjustment Preapplication Grant Request for K.I. Sawyer/Marquette County.
    c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Transfer of Two Bicycles to the Forsyth Township Police.
    d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Schedule a Special Committee Meeting in June to Discuss Legal Counsel for Indigent Defendants.
    e. The Appointment of Dt/Cpl Emil Kezerle as a Medical Examiner Investigator for Marquette County.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a.
    b.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
    Re: Williams v. Marquette County Health Department, et al.
    Four Seasons Towing v. Marquette County
    Brandon v. County of Marquette and Gary Walker
15. ADJOURNMENT.