The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 12, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 22, 1996 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bob Kahl, 1738 Wilkinson, Marquette, and representing the Moosewood Nature Group, indicated that they are looking at the Honor Camp Property off of Silver Creek Road to determine its feasibility as a nature center. The property has seen some abuse. There has been dumping of trash and all terrain vehicles traveling through the area. Next the spring the Moosewood Nature Group would like to clean up the area and determine if the buildings could be renovated for their use.

Chairperson Corkin requested that the Moosewood Nature Group send its request to the County Board in writing for further consideration.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin 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 late addition: Item 21) A Resolution Regarding the Collocation of CUPPAD and the SCEO Office in Escanaba.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 18, 1996, through November 11, 1996 in the amount of $1,730,828.17 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following proclamation:

Marquette County
"Winter Safety Week"

Whereas, each year in Marquette County, lives and property are endangered, and residents and travelers suffer extreme hardships due to severe winter storms; and

WHEREAS, winter weather can cause death and injury through heart attack, traffic accidents, frostbite, hypothermia, isolation due to heavy snowfall and other related causes; and

WHEREAS, the probability of residential fires is significantly increased during the winter season due to improper use and installation of alternative heating sources, poorly maintained chimneys, and other factors; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of our community need to be aware of the danger of winter hazards and of the measures that can be taken to better prepare for such hazards; and

WHEREAS, Marquette County Emergency Management officials, the National Weather Service, local community safety organizations, and the area news media are cooperating to inform the public about winter safety issues; and

WHEREAS, by taking reasonable precautions, the residents and visitors of our area can lessen the hardships caused by severe winter weather and, as a result, more fully enjoy the winter months;
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MARQUETTE NOVEMBER 12, 1996

THEREFORE, I, GERALD O. CORKIN, hereby declare November 10th through November 16th, 1996 as "Winter Safety Week" in Marquette County. All residents are urged that this is an opportunity to learn more about family, home, and vehicle winter safety measures, and to better prepare for the winter season. Furthermore, I ask residents and travelers to fully cooperate with our local emergency services officials when severe winter weather hazards threaten the community.

Declared this 12th day of November, 1996
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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The Committee considered the 1997 Borrowing Resolutions for the 1996 Delinquent Taxes from James Sodergren, County Treasurer. Treasurer Sodergren was present and explained that no changes have been made in the resolutions from last year, except only in the amount of money that is to be borrowed. He will not know that exact figure until March of 1997 but it should be less than $1,000,000.

County Administrator Steven Powers has reviewed the resolution and recommends its adoption.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the 1997 Borrowing Resolutions for the 1996 Delinquent Taxes be approved.

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Commissioner Seppanen was excused from the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

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The Committee considered the adoption of the 1997-2001 Marquette County Recreation Plan. Steven Enright, County Planner, and Joe Erickson, Vice-Chairperson of the Planning Commission, were present to discuss the Plan and answer questions. This is a five year plan which helps the County obtain grant funding from the Michigan DNR and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. During the last five year cycle the County received dollars for Phase I improvements at Perkins Park. The Planning Commission urges the County Board to adopt the Recreation Plan as its working document.

Commissioners commended the Planning Commission and Staff for their excellent work.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the 1997-2001 Marquette County Recreation Plan.

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The Committee considered the Marquette County Team Voice (MCTV) Contract for Personal Services between the County of Marquette and Northern Michigan University. The Plan provides for reimbursement of one-fourth of the full-time salary of the Community Safety Coordinator's salary for the time period October 1, 1996 through September 30, 1997. NMU has received this grant through the Office of Highway Safety Planning for the Marquette County Community Safety Coordinator to help develop, produce, and distribute a "Guide Book" of youth alcohol countermeasure programming to use by various community groups. County Administrator, Steven Powers, has given the Plan an administrative review and recommends its adoption.

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 approve of the MCTV Personal Services Contract with Northern Michigan University.

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The Committee considered a bid for three 1997 Sheriff Patrol Vehicles. Undersheriff Michael Quayle was present and explained that eighteen bid packets with specifications were sent out, most locally and several to auto dealers in Lower Michigan. No local dealers responded. Only one bid was received by Campus Ford of Okemos, Michigan. Their bid meets the specifications in the amount of $20,776.50 per vehicle for a total of $62,329.50 minus the trade-in of $12,600 plus shipping costs of $1,170 for a balance of $50,899 to purchase the vehicles.

Mr. Quayle further reported that $59,865 was budgeted in the CIP Funding for 1997 so the bid will be $9,000 under budget.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the bid for three Sheriff Patrol vehicles from Campus Ford, Okemos, Michigan be accepted.

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The Committee considered a bid for a County Sheriff’s Department four wheel drive utility vehicle to replace the 1989 Chevrolet Suburban being utilized by the Department Road Patrol. Bids were received from Frei Chevrolet Geo of Marquette and Northern Motors of Escanaba. The bid amounts listed include the trade-in deductions. The low bid is from Frei Chevrolet Geo of Marquette at $20,736.52 which is nearly $2,000 under the budgeted FY 1997 CIP amount of $22,725.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the bid from Frei Chevrolet Geo for a 1997 Chevrolet Tahoe four wheel drive utility vehicle.

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The Committee considered a grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice (COPS) for an increase of three officers. Undersheriff Michael Quayle was present and explained that this would bring the authorized staff in the Sheriff’s Department back to the level it was in January of 1995.

County Administrator Steve Powers explained that the Sheriff’s Department originally requested a grant for 15 full-time officers but had no way of matching the 25% local match requirement. The grant was scaled down to three officers with a local first-year match of $62,088, which was procured from the Ojibwa Indians.

Undersheriff Quayle detailed that the cost for each officer is approximately $39,281 for salary and benefits, plus the training, equipment, and supplies required brings the cost for each officer to a total of $45,696 or $137,088 for the three officers. The COPS Grant will pay $75,000 of that which leaves a local match of the $62,088 which will be paid by the Ojibwa Indians from their gaming revenues.

Undersheriff Quayle further explained that he has assurances from Chief Dakota that the Ojibwa Indians will continue to allocate funds to cover the local match for the COPS program. The County Board in the past indicated to the Sheriff’s Department that if other sources for local matches for particular grants were found, such as DARE, Road Patrol, MCTV, and COPS, that the County Board would approve these grants. The Sheriff’s Department has done that with help from the Ojibwa Indians. The Ojibwa Indians prefer specific requests rather than giving a grant to the County General Fund. In fact, the Road Commission requested and received a grant last winter for additional road salt.

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 the COPS Grant of $75,000 with a local match of $62,088 to pay for the three additional road patrol officers for the Sheriff’s Department from the Ojibwa Indians.

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The Committee considered proposed environmental health, private duty, and dental clinic fee increases which are recommended by the Marquette County Health Department. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director, was present to discuss the fee increases and answer questions. Commissioners reviewed the recommended fee schedule changes in detail. Several Commissioners expressed concerns about the fee increases but it was also pointed out that 90% of the taxpayers in Marquette County do not utilize these specific services and therefore are subsidizing these services for a select few. The proposed fees would still not bring the user fee up to meeting the actual cost of providing these services.
It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 5 Ayes (Comm. Rapport, Angeli, Arsenault, Braamse and Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Joseph, Minelli, and Trudell), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the proposed environmental health, soil erosion and sedimentation, private duty, and dental clinic fee increase.

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The Committee considered information provided by Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding the Sawyer Capital Improvement Projects. Mr. Pawley distributed a list of proposed FY 1997 and 1998 projects that are eligible for AIP funding. A comparison of the estimated total cost of the projects and the AIP funds available show a substantial deficit. Also distributed was a list of capital improvement projects which are ineligible for AIP funding.

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

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, regarding the Marquette County EDC. Administrator Powers recommends that an Ad Hoc Economic Development Committee, including himself, Gary Yoder and Jay Scherbenske, finalize an agreement that the County provide the accounting function for the EDC. In other words, all revenues and expenditures of the EDC go through the County’s Accounting Department.

Several Commissioners expressed concern as to whether the County Staff could actually require the EDC to provide the information. The County Board has tried the last two years unsuccessfully to obtain information from the EDC. The County Board has cut off EDC funding because the audit was not completed by July 1st, however, the EDC is still operating. Chairperson Corkin questioned where the EDC Director has been the last several months. Many issues facing the County Board are directly related to the EDC and he has not been present.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct that the accounting functions of the EDC will be performed by the County Accounting Department with the transition to take place by January 1, 1997.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, to amend the application to the Michigan DNR for tax reverted lands at KI Sawyer. Mr. Powers is suggesting that Sands could amend its application to exclude the industrial property if a number of considerations were agreed to. If the County amends its application it has to do so by November 21st.

Commissioners noted that the Base Conversion Authority, Forsyth Township, West Branch Township, and the Michigan Jobs Commission are urging the DNR approve of the application of the County for the tax reverted lands.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Mildred Menze to display a collection of historical memorabilia featuring several prominent County residents. Ms. Menze is prepared to donate for this purpose photos, articles, and stories regarding Dr. Paul Van Riper of Champion, Herbert E. Perkins of Powell Township, KI Sawyer, and Charles J. Stakel, and Judge Frank Bell of Ishpeming.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote to direct this request to Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, for review and future recommendation.

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It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee place on file a status report on State Court Funding. Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, has received information that the State budget for FY 10-1-96 through 9-30-97 will include a first payment to counties in December for Court Funding.

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MARQUETTE NOVEMBER 12, 1996

The Committee considered the bids for the Indirect Cost Allocation Plan for Marquette County. Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, reported that a request for proposals drew two bids, one from D.M. Griffith and Associates, who has been providing the County’s Allocation Plan for the last ten years, and another proposal from Liske and Brusich, P.C., the low bidder. Mr. Yoder recommends Liske and Brusich, P.C., be awarded the contract for the preparation of the Annual Cost Allocation Plan for the next three years.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Liske and Brusich, P.C., preparing the Annual Cost Allocation Plan for Marquette County at a cost of $9,800 per year for the next three years.

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The Committee considered a request from the UPRC&D Council for 1997 dues of $250. It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board pay the 1997 UPRC&D dues of $250 from the Contingency Account.

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The Committee considered a resolution regarding the Collocation of CUPPAD and the Six County Employment Alliance (SCEA) at the SCEA Office in Escanaba.

Comm. Arsenault explained that due to tighter budgets if CUPPAD and the SCEA share office spaces, equipment, and other resources, it would help both agencies financially. Many of the members of both boards are the same but the collocation would not be considered a formal merger of the two bodies. If every County in the Six County Employment Alliance adopted this resolution it would go a long way to support the discussion of the collocation.

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 adopt a resolution supporting the collocating of CUPPAD operations and the SCEA office in Escanaba.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Joseph, Angeli, Arsenault, Braamse, Minelli, Rapport, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss pending litigation: Melear vs. Sheriff, et al.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear Commission Chambers.

-----CLOSED SESSION-----

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session. No recommendations were forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 12, 1996, 6:00 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.

6. Proclamation: November 10 through 16 "Winter Hazards Awareness Week."

7. 1997 Borrowing Resolutions for 1996 Delinquent Taxes from James Sodergren, County Treasurer.


9. MCTV - Personal Services Contract with Northern Michigan University.


12. Grant Award from U.S. Department of Justice (COPS) of $1,125,000 for Fifteen Full-Time Officers for a Three Year Period.

13. Proposed Environment Health, Private Duty, and Dental Clinic Fee Increases from Dr. Randall Johnson, Health Department Director.

14. Proposed FY 97 and FY 98 Sawyer Capital Improvement Projects Eligible for AIP Funding.

15. Recommendation regarding the Marquette County EDC from Steve Powers, County Administrator (No Packet Materials).


17. Recommendation from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, regarding Annual Cost Allocation Plan.

18. Proposal from Mildred Menze to Donate Prominent County Memorabilia for Display.

19. State Court Funding Status.


21.

22. PUBLIC COMMENT.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS.


25. ADJOURNMENT.