The Committee considered the Superior Environmental Health Code. The Superior Environmental Health Code is designed to replace the outdated and inconsistent Environmental Health Codes currently in place throughout the Upper Peninsula with a single, up to date Environmental Health Code and provide uniform standards and applications throughout the region.

The Superior Environmental Health Code is a product of four years of work by a committee of staff from local Health Departments across the Upper Peninsula chaired by Marquette County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Terry Dean. Dr. Randall Johnson, Health Department Director, Fred Benzie, Director of Environmental Health, and Terry Dean were present to answer questions.

The Superior Environmental Health Code will make it easier for homeowners, septic contractors, tank manufacturers and well drillers to understand and comply with necessary environmental health regulations. A public hearing required by the Michigan Public Health Code prior to adoption of regulations was held on July 29, 1997. Seven Counties have already adopted the new Code, it was adopted by the Marquette County Board of Health on October 29, 1997.

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 adopt the Superior Environmental Health Code to replace the Marquette County Environmental Health Code currently in place.

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The Committee considered a Service Agreement with Johnson Controls for the Courthouse Complex Energy Management System in the amount of $6,292.

Johnson Controls installed the energy management system to regulate the building environments and optimize the HVAC system operation to conserve energy and reduce cost. The system is comprised of master and remote digital system controls and connected hardware all manufactured by Johnson Controls a number of years ago. This is a 1-year renewal of the Service Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Service Agreement with Johnson Controls for maintenance of the Courthouse Complex energy management system in the amount of $6,292.

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The Committee considered a request from Michael J. Anderegg, Presiding Judge Family Division of Circuit Court, regarding collection of reimbursements for Court ordered payments. Judge Anderegg has requested the Administrative share of support collected as a result of Juvenile Division Orders be allocated to the Family Support Unit to pay for additional attorney time for Show Cause Hearings.

The Probate Court currently has $217,757 in outstanding Orders for payment where no payments have been made for at least three months. Any increase in collections will be split between the Child Care Fund and the 25% Administrative share, which will ultimately hold down the amount of the General Fund used for the Child Care Fund.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends a Motion for budget amendment but the amount would not be available until early next week. Mr. Powers recommends that the Board allow for the work that Judge Anderegg is suggesting but not work that the Family Support Attorney feels may be unnecessary.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize a budget amendment for a dollar amount of the Administrative Support collected as a result of Juvenile Division Orders be allocated to the Family Support Unit to pay for additional collection efforts.

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The Committee considered an invitation from the City of Marquette for Steve Powers, County Administrator, to serve on the newly formed Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authority.

The Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authority is being formed in order to aid the City of Marquette in the remediation of contaminated properties. The initiatives reduce the costs associated with the clean-up of City property and put contaminated and abandoned sites back into productive use. Redevelopment along the City’s lakeshore will enhance the tax base and protect the public from unreasonable health hazards.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, was present and indicated he would be happy to serve on the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authority but also equally happy if there was a Marquette City resident on the County Board who would like to participate. There is only one opening on the Authority.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of County Administrator Steve Powers serving on the City of Marquette’s Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authority.

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The Committee considered financial assurance for the Marquette County Landfill Authority in the amount of $786,230. The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority is requesting that the County enter into a contract to provide supplemental financial assurance for closing the landfill. The financial assurance is needed for the landfill’s permit with the DEQ. The DEQ is interpreting a federal Environmental Protection Agency rule under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to require landfill owners to assure funding for all closure and post-closure costs during the permit period.

Rick Aho, Director, Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, was present to answer questions.

The Authority is facing a March 1 expiration date on its permit. The timing prevents the Authority from requesting the assurance from its member municipalities that qualify. Without the assurance, the Authority must provide $786,000 to the DEQ, equivalent to a 23% increase in the tipping fee. Financial assurance is already guaranteed by all assets of the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority. In addition to the Authority assets, the full faith and credit of the 22 municipalities of Marquette County stands behind the Authority and ahead of the County.

Mr. Aho reported that for each ton of waste collected, $0.25 is deposited in a trust fund to cover the costs of any future environmental problems. For each ton of waste disposed of at the facility, $0.75 is deposited for closure, post-closure, and monitoring.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board contract with the Landfill Authority to provide financial assistance for $786,230 in order for the Landfill Authority to be licensed by March 1, 1998 and further, the Authority shall proceed, with the assistance of the DEQ, to have its constituent municipalities provide the financial assurance by March 1, 1999.

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Comm. Roberts reported to the Committee that he attended a MAC Taxation Committee Meeting in Lansing on Friday, January 23rd. He presented the resolution which the County Board adopted on January 20, 1998 regarding the Department of Natural Resources Forest Recreation Fund.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Powers, County Administrator, distributed two pages of information prepared by County Staff and presented to the Operation Action UP Conference last Friday, regarding facts on KI Sawyer. One page is a quiz that was given to the participants in which the answers were all true. The second page is a summary of key information regarding KI Sawyer prepared by Tom Rumora.

Comm. Cihak announced that the Ad Hoc Committee opposing the relocation of the County Airport to KI Sawyer has petitions available at the Negaunee Township Hall containing a resolution opposing the relocation of the Airport. The Committee indicated that 9 out of 10 people are signing the petitions and they will be made available to all 19 Townships and the 3 cities.

Comm. Cihak commented on a memo from Hal Pawley placed in Commissioner mailboxes. The memo indicated that the ILS System at Sawyer will not allow for a back-course approach to runway 19. Comm. Cihak feels it is a significant setback because in November 1997 at an Airport Board Meeting Comm. Cihak was informed that the ILS System at Sawyer would be comparable to the one in Negaunee Township. In Negaunee Township the ILS can be used from both directions so two runways were available. The memo indicates they will only be able to land on one runway at Sawyer, in one direction. Comm. Cihak was concerned that Sawyer will only provide for approximately half the system that we now have in Negaunee Township. He feels it is a significant negative.

Chairperson Corkin requested Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, be present at the next County Board Meeting on February 3rd in order to address the issue of the ILS System.

Chairperson Corkin reported that two years ago over half of the Townships and Cities sent resolutions asking the Board to move the Airport. Are they asking to undo these? There were three Commissioners that voted against moving the Airport: Comm. Corkin, Comm. Arsenaault, and Comm. Joseph. Once the majority of the Board voted to move the Airport we made commitments instead of being obstructionists, and will do out best to make it happen.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice R. Mason
Administrative Aide to County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1998, 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. 1998 Borrowing Resolutions from James Sodergren, County Treasurer.
10. Proposal from Michael Anderegg, Presiding Judge of the Family Division, Circuit Court, regarding Collection of Reimbursement for Court Ordered Payments.
11. Invitation from John Leadbetter, Mayor, City of Marquette, for Administrator Steve Powers to Become a Member of a Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Authority.
13. WASTE MANAGEMENT EXT.
14. JOE L. MAC TAXATION COMM. MEETING
15. 
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.
The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 27, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 12, 1998 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Ivan Fende, Marquette, asked to speak on the Solid Waste issue if necessary.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 13) Informational from MAC Taxation Committee Meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Cihak and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 9, 1998, through January 22, 1998 in the amount of $1,233,020.89 be approved. 

The Committee considered the 1998 Borrowing Resolutions for 1997 Delinquent Taxes. The Borrowing Resolutions have been reviewed by Civil Counsel Harley Andrews and approved by Administrator Steve Powers.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1998 Borrowing Resolutions for 1997 Delinquent Taxes.

The Committee considered a Video Conferencing Pilot Project offered to Marquette County by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). MMRMA currently is the insurance carrier for Marquette County. The proposed project is designed to reduce the risk of injury to County staff and citizens conducting business within County buildings.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that MMRMA and County Staff believe that the pilot project will improve security between the Courts and the Sheriff’s Department. It may potentially reduce travel costs and perhaps improve productivity by allowing people to communicate through video technology rather than face to face meetings.

Cindy Beaudry, Risk Management Specialist, was present and explained that MMRMA has offered this pilot program to three member counties. The project was designed to include installation and operation of video conferencing technology capable of providing two-way, interactive conferencing to the courts, jail, and other departments. MMRMA intends to fund the project through the Risk Avoidance Program (RAP) monies ($45,803) for the six month period with the County being responsible for the operational costs. The operational costs include two T-1 phone lines for the Ishpeming District Court and Marquette County Jail and Courthouse at a cost of $700 per month or $4,200 total for the six month period. The variable charges would average approximately $7 per hour, depending on use.

Ms. Beaudry explained that if after the six month trial period the County finds that the MMRMA Video Conference Project has indeed saved the County money, the County would pay cost of the equipment ($36,902) and would be responsible for the continued operational costs.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Pilot Video Conferencing Project for six months with the 1998 funds coming from the County Insurance Fund with review and evaluation during the 1999 budget process.