BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MARQUETTE MARCH 24, 1998

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, March 24, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 10, 1998 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Doreen Takalo and Lois Paquette, Commission on Aging Members, requested to speak to item 15) Commission on Aging Reorganization. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of item 19) Airport Lease - Soil Survey.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 6, 1998 through March 19, 1998 in the amount of $879,466.04 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Adult Dental Services Plan with Budget Amendment be tabled and brought back to the Committee of the Whole in one month.

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The Committee considered the Transfer of Responsibility for the Service Center Fund. Prior to 1966, the Health Department paid annual "rent" (approx. $150,000/year) to the County for the space it occupied at the County Service Center. These funds were deposited in the "Service Center Fund" which was established to cover operating expenses, major capital improvements and depreciation of the facility. Over the years the fund balance has gradually increased to the current level of approximately $300,000.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that in August of 1997 the County Board made a significant decision to try to give the Board of Health and the Health Department more autonomy to manage and oversee the operations of the Health Department. Since January of 1996, the Department has also assumed responsibility for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of the Service Center. Over the last couple of months Dr. Johnson and Mr. Powers have been discussing ongoing Health Department building and equipment related issues.

Mr. Powers further explained in order to resolve the current issues and to establish a financing mechanism to address future facility and equipment needs at the Health Department, he recommends the following: 1) that the responsibility for the Service Center Fund (approx. $300,000) be transferred to the Board of Health; and 2) that the Service Center Fund be divided into two sub-funds: a) a Service Center Fund ($200,000) intended to finance needed facility/grounds improvements, major facility repairs, and ultimately, facility replacement; and b) an Equipment/Computer Fund ($100,000) intended to finance needed Health Department equipment/computer acquisition or replacement.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Roberts and Comm. Corkin) to 4 Nays (Comm. Angeli, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Joseph and Comm. Tuominen) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the transfer of responsibility for the Service Center Fund by adopting the Marquette County Health Department Capital Fund Policy as recommended by the County Administrator.
The Committee considered the Telephone System Update. Steven Powers, County Administrator, updated Commissioners regarding the new Telephone System. The date for the new telephone system to be operational is April 13, 1998. There will be training for County departments and County tenants on April 6, 1998.

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The Committee considered PA 51 Analysis Incorporating HB 5357 Options - Marquette County Road Commission. Bob Menard, Superintendent/Manager of the Marquette County Road Commission, was present and explained that several things have happened since the last meeting. He distributed a resolution which was adopted by the Marquette County Road Commission last night dealing with HB5357 and SB893, and also a revised set of two data sheets that indicate the ramifications of the bills supported by the MTA and CRAM. He asked Commissioners to review the materials and see what the significance of both sets of bills are. Mr. Menard explained that the CRAM Committee has met with the MTA and there was significant movement on the part of the MTA, and CRAM is cautiously optimistic that there can be some kind of settlement that will be workable. It will probably be a while before we know because there is a great deal of movement to be made before anything will be acceptable to CRAM.

Mr. Menard also explained that at the last meeting it was suggested that the smaller townships would suffer under HB 5611. He was not prepared at that time to address the issue. Since then he has gone back fourteen years and found that not once did the revenue generated by the roads match or exceed the expenses that the Marquette County Road Commission had for summer and winter maintenance. On top of that the Marquette County Road Commission spent $235,500 in those fourteen years, of which the Road Commission funded $218,000 and the Township spent only $82,500. At the last meeting Mr. Menard requested that the Board pass a resolution to not support the two MTA sponsored bills, and perhaps pass a resolution in support of HB5611.

Mr. Menard stated that the Michigan Association of Counties did support HB5611 and asked the County Board to consider passing a resolution to keep the control at the local level.

Commissioners asked if it would be better to support HB5611 or oppose the MTA.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution in support of HB5611 and send copies to our Legislators.

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The Committee considered the County’s share of CDBG for PICO Engineering Project. The $550,000 Community Development Block Grant for the PICO engineering project, approved by the County Board on January 20, 1998 requires County funding of $61,000. PICO is providing equipment valued at $800,000 for its funding share. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that his recommendation is that the County’s share of the CDBG project be a grant not a loan, and that the funding that the County approved for the hangars which is coming from the land acquisition fund be used as a portion of the $61,000.

Commissioners expressed opposition to a grant versus a loan. Administrator Powers explained that if the recommendation to the Economic Development Corporation is to be a loan, it would be an intra-fund transfer from the K.I. Sawyer Development Fund from the lease revenues being paid by PICO to the County’s small cities fund which is administered by the Economic Development Corporation. In other words, a loan the County is making to itself from one fund to another.

Mr. Powers further explained that negotiations with PICO resulted in a package that did not have the company providing the local share. To request that would mean going back to the company and requiring or negotiating that it be a loan and that they be responsible for repaying the $61,000.

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 request the EDC to approve a long term loan with the County for the $61,000 and that the revenues from the PICO lease make the payments to the EDC revolving loan fund.

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The Committee considered an agreement with Sundberg, Carlson, Associates, Inc. to recommend modifications to Building #500 to meet barrier free access requirements. The K.I.Sawyer Economic Development Committee requested an architectural review of the building that houses the K.I.Sawyer Development Department. The County assumed the prime lease for the building from the State of Michigan. The request was prompted by committee’s consideration of holding its monthly public meeting at K.I.Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the contract for $1,900 with Sundberg, Carlson to develop preliminary drawings and cost estimates for Building #500 to meet barrier free access requirements.

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The Committee considered the 1998 Marquette County-Owned Lands Management Plan. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of its citizens, owns and manages 12,644 acres of land located throughout the County. The 1998 Marquette County-Owned Lands Management Plan adopted by the County Planning Commission on March 4, 1998, updates the previous land management plan adopted in 1985. The closure of K.I.Sawyer Air Force, and acceptance by the County Board as the Local Reuse Agency (LRA) leasing civilian redevelopment of the facility, is perhaps the most significant factor necessitating revision of the 13 year old plan.

Steve Enright, Planner, was present to discuss the Plan and answer any questions.

Comm. Corkin stated that overall the Plan is excellent but there are parts of the plan that he will vote against when issues resulting from the plan are brought to the Board. Mr. Enright explained that the Planning Commission by statute adopted this plan and then passed it on to the County Board for approval as a policy document because the Board can implement the recommendations in the plan.

Comm. Angeli expressed concern that we are making our government bigger and that is not what the philosophy of the County Board should be.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Rapport and carried 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Angeli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1998 Marquette County-Owned Lands Management Plan.

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The Committee considered the following:

- The Perkins Park Fee Schedule - During the 1998 budget preparation last year, staff anticipated revision of the fee structure at Perkins Park. Rates have not been adjusted since 1993. The proposed rate structure is based upon current local market conditions and services and facilities offered at the Park.

  Administrator Powers recommends the Board approve the increases as proposed.

- The Big Bay Harbor Seasonal Mooring Fees - The State has established a 1998 rate schedule for seasonal mooring at Harbors of Refuge. Proposed State rates have been raised 2 percent over last year.

  Administrator Powers recommends the Board request the State allow us to maintain our current fee structure with a 2 percent increase for 1998.

- The Big Bay Harbor Transient Mooring Fees - The County is obligated by our grant-in-aid agreement to adopt the 1998 fee schedule from the Waterways Commission for transient mooring at Harbors of Refuge or request permission to vary the State rates. In the past, the County has adopted the transient schedule which is the same for all harbors. Proposed 1998 State rates are 1.5 percent over last year’s rates.

  Administrator Steven Powers recommends the Board adopt the State’s 1998 transient mooring fee schedule and increase sewage pump our and boat launch fees.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Perkins Park Fee Schedule, the Big Bay Harbor Seasonal Mooring Fees, and the Big Bay Harbor Transient Mooring Fees as recommended by Administrator Powers.

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The Committee considered the Photocopier Bid Recommendation. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the County has planned for the purchase of two new photocopiers in 1998. One, a segment 4 copier, to replace an Annex 2nd floor machine, which will be relocated, and one segment 2 copier to replace the photocopier in the DeFant Building which will also be relocated. Two older photocopiers will be traded in. A request for bids was advertised, and six dealers responded. The low bidder was determined on the cost to own and operate the machines over a five-year period, which includes the purchase price, the service contract cost, and the supply costs over this time period. One bidder did not meet the specification for a segment 4 photocopier and was disqualified. The expense has been budgeted for fiscal year 1998 in the Computer/Photocopy fund budget photocopy capital outlay for $15,000. The recommended purchase is $14,578.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the purchase of two photocopiers from Northern Stationers, Inc. in the amount of $13,578.

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The Committee considered Commission on Aging Reorganization. The Commission on Aging Board has adopted a recommendation from the Commission on Aging Ad Hoc Committee to explore the possibilities of the County Commission on Aging obtaining a self-autonomous/authority status.

Doreen Takalo, Vice-Chair COA, was present and explained that the Ad Hoc Committee has looked at several issues regarding the Commission on Aging. She stated there are several good reasons why the Commission on Aging should be self-autonomous.

Lois Paquet, Chair, COA Ad Hoc Committee, was also present. She stated that the Commission on Aging would like answers to the five questions presented to Mr. Powers from John D. Korhonen before they proceed any further.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff and Legal Counsel to explore the possibility of the Commission on Aging obtaining a self-autonomous status and report back to the Committee and the Commission on Aging in 60 days.

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The Committee considered a memo from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding the Saginaw County Resolution #1 - Delinquent Tax Legislation to change the law governing the Tax Foreclosure process (HB 5353, HB 5354, and SB791). The MACT legislation shortens the current six (6) year redemption process period by a year, and provides for a forfeiture instead of a tax sale, increases notification to the taxpayer to assure the taxpayer is adequately notified that their property is tax delinquent, and requires the Dept. of Natural Resources to conduct title searches on tax reverted properties, so that clear title can be obtained to make properties salable. Mr. Sodergren concurs with the Saginaw County Resolution #1 and recommends adoption.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the resolution and send copies to the Governor, Senator Koivisto, Rep. Prusi, MAC, and the Michigan Association of County Treasurers.
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The Committee considered a memo from the U.P. Soil Conservation District regarding the Dues Notice for 1998 and 1997 Report. The Upper Peninsula RC&D Council agreed at the September meeting to request $250.00 from each county to support the operation of the U.P. RC&D area in 1998. Numerous projects are underway. Many of them received RC&D special project funds or grant monies from various sources such as a private foundation, DNR, Forest Service and EPA. These funds are for specific projects and are not for general council operations. Funds provided by the sponsoring County Board of Commissioners, and Soil Conservation Districts are used for meeting expenses, printing, postage, stationary and towards administrative assistance.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve $250.00 from the Contingency Fund to support the U.P. RC&D, and further that the County send their $25.00 regional dues for the 1998 U.P. RC&D Council.

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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 defer action on the KBIC Casino Resolution until after the Township has their public hearing.

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The Committee considered the Airport Lease - Soil Survey. Steve Powers, County Administrator, indicated that on March 18, 1998 the Airport Board approved an extension in the lease with the Soil Survey Service for an additional 30 days, and the Airport Board requests County Board concurrence with the extension. Mr. Powers sees no reason why the board should not grant that concurrence. The Health Department pays the rent for the soil service. Mr. Powers has met with Dr. Johnson and the Health Department will continue to pay the rent for the additional 30 day period.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board concur with the Airport Board and grant the 30 day lease extension for the Soil Survey.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

Comm. Rapport announced that the Sesquicentennial Committee had its first meeting and wanted to thank those who participated, among them Mary Wright, Rita Hodgins, Comm. Angeli, Comm. Roberts, and Carol Moore. The League of Women Voters is producing a document that will indicate County Services and a bit of history. They are also contributing to the funding of that document. She will keep Commissioners updated to the progress of the Sesquicentennial Committee.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 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. Adult Dental Services Plan with Budget Amendment.
8. Telephone System Update (No Packet Materials).
9. PA 51 Analysis Incorporating HB 5357 Options - Marquette County Road Commission.
10. County’s Share of CDBG for PICO Engineering Project.
   a. Fee Schedule - Perkins Park.
   b. Seasonal Mooring Fees - Big Bay Harbor.
   c. Transient Mooring Fees - Big Bay Harbor.
13. Photocopier Bid Recommendation.
15. Legislation (HB 5353, HB 5354, and SB 791) to Streamline the Delinquent Tax Process - Saginaw County Resolution.
17. KBIC Casino Resolution (forthcoming at meeting).
18. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
19. ADJOURNMENT.