The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, February 17, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Angeli, Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Roberts, Comm. Seppanen, Comm. Tuominen, and Comm. Corkin. Absent: None

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the February 3, 1998 Regular Board Meeting be approved.

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS

Chairperson Corkin read the following proclamation honoring Ernie Grasso, Captain/Jail Administrator, on his retirement:

RESOLUTION HONORING
ERNIE GRASSO, CAPTAIN/JAIL ADMINISTRATOR
ON HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Ernie Grasso started as a Deputy in the Marquette County Sheriff's Department on May 13, 1973 and has been promoted over the years to Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Jail Administrator, and

WHEREAS, Ernie Grasso, presently serving as Captain/Jail Administrator, has dedicated nearly 25 years of his life to the citizens of Marquette County, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges and extends its appreciation to Ernie Grasso for his service, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wish Ernie Grasso and his wife Kathy a long and happy retirement.

Proclaimed this 17th day February, 1998
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Captain Grasso thanked Chairperson Corkin and the County Board for the Plaque. He also acknowledged and thanked his wife Kathy, son Dean, and daughter Dana for their support for the past 25 years. Cpt. Grasso thanked the men and women of the Marquette County Jail, especially former Sheriff Joe Maino, Undersheriff Mike Quayle and the present Sheriff Mike Lovelace. He thanked Administration, past and present, and the County Board for support of the Marquette County Jail operations. Marquette County Government has done well with its jail operations and has one of the finest jails in the State of Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution supporting the "Money 2000" Program in Marquette County:

A MONEY 2000 DECLARATION

WHEREAS, between 1980 and 1995 the percentage of American's disposable household income used for consumer installment debt increased from 15.5% to 19.8%, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. individual savings rate fell from 8.2% to 4.9% of disposable personal income between 1980 and 1996, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 70% of Americans live "paycheck to paycheck," courting disaster if their incomes were suddenly reduced or stopped, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that personal bankruptcies will reach 1.2 million this year, twice as many as a decade ago, and

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WHEREAS, financial managers recommend that a family keep three to six months income saved in an emergency fund, and

WHEREAS, reducing a family's debt load increases its financial stability and increases the resources it can obtain from disposable income and,

WHEREAS, Michigan State University Extension in Marquette County is launching a new financial fitness program to encourage families to be $2,000 richer by the year 2000 by increasing their saving and/or decreasing their consumer debt,

*WE THEREFORE, declare Marquette County a "**MONEY 2000 COUNTY**" and urge all citizens to take advantage of various educational opportunities associated with the **MONEY 2000** program in Marquette County.*

Adopted this 17th day of February, 1998
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Frank Honkala, Co. Rd. 581, South of Ishpeming, reviewed a letter written by Hal Pawley on behalf of the County Board to the FAA regarding navigational aids at Sawyer Airport. Mr. Honkala reviewed the technical aspects of various approaches to Airports and runways and explained the four categories of circling minimums for Sawyer. Mr. Honkala noted that for planes traveling at 120 knots or faster it would be impossible for them to land without an ILS system. He questioned the background information provided in Mr. Pawley's letter however the County Board is not at fault for their lack of knowledge regarding navigational aids. As a pilot it has taken him many years to accumulate his knowledge. Mr. Honkala contended what the County Board should want to know from the FAA is: Will the proposed approaches at Sawyer Airport be equivalent to or better than the approaches presently serving the Marquette County Airport in Negaunee Township?

Steve Bailey, Negaunee resident, expressed his displeasure at being labeled a political opportunist, he does not want Chairperson Corkin's job but felt that a recall would provide a way for a public vote on moving the Airport.

Mr. Bailey continued with a mathematical presentation. He noted that, as per Hal Pawley, 221 commercial passengers fly out of the Marquette County Airport on a daily basis. This requires 3,300 miles of driving per day which would compare to 12,100 miles per day at the Sawyer Airport. If you use the IRS figure of $.315 cents/mile it costs to operate an automobile, this amounts to $3,800 a day or $1.397 million per year, or over a ten year period approximately $14 million compared to $4 million at the present Airport.

Mr. Bailey also contended that for each one-half million extra miles of driving as per Michigan State Police records, 112 accidents will occur, 74 of these accidents would be minor, 26 would be serious but nonincapacitating, however 12 injuries would be incapacitating with 1 or 2 resulting in death.

Mr. Bailey's contention is that moving the County Airport to Sawyer would be more expensive and more dangerous for Marquette County citizens.

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 following late addition: 11a) EDC Board of Director's Terms.

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INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board accept and place on file the following informational items:

a. Invitation from the U.S. Department of Commerce to Submit an Application for Title IX Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation (SSED) Defense Conversion Assistance in the Amount of $3,093,000.
b. Memo from State Court Administrator Regarding Marquette County First Quarter Disbursement for Trial Court Funding in the Amount of $89,143.
c. Notice of Grant Award from HUD Support of Housing Program to Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.
d. Request by County Treasurer to Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. for their 1997 Specific Iron Ore Tax Computation.

Chairperson Corkin requested that Administrator Powers comment on informational item 9a, an Invitation to Apply for $3.1 million in EDA funds.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that Marquette County has received an invitation from the U.S. Department of Commerce to submit an application for $3.1 million in EDA Funds to assist in the relocation of the County Airport. This is good news and a major piece of the funding required to move the County Airport. Approximately $2.1 million will go towards aviation projects ($1.7 million for the terminal construction) with the remaining funds used for planning, surveying, and marketing. Administrator Powers will bring the application to the County Board hopefully within its meeting timeframe, however, a special meeting may be required because the application deadline is March 13, 1998.

ACTION ITEMS

10a) The County Board considered the bid awards for the Sawyer Bowling Alley reconstruction project. Ed Bailey, Sawyer Operations Manager, was present and explained that eight bids were received for the renovation of Building 642 for PICO. All the bids were reviewed and are in order. The low bidder is Associated Constructors of Marquette, Michigan for $503,657. The base bid includes a $10,000 allowance for anticipated miscellaneous roof repairs. The CDBG Block Grant provides $551,000 for the renovation so the bid award is under budget. Staff recommends that the bid be awarded to Associated Constructors and that the County Board authorize the notice to proceed.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the bid for the reconstruction of Building 642 (PICO Project) at Sawyer be awarded to Associated Constructors of Marquette in the amount of $503,657.

10b) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a new draft letter written by Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, to the Federal Aviation Administration, regarding approaches to the Sawyer Airport. The letter is a result of a Board of Commissioners action on February 3rd, that the FAA be contacted in writing and documentation be requested on how, if possible, to construct the Sawyer Airport so that it will have a complete state of the art navigational system that will meet all navigational needs for the next 20+ years. At the February 10th Committee of the Whole meeting Commissioners reviewed the first draft of the letter and recommended that the draft be approved with two amendments: First, remove the word "unsafe" in line three and then add a sentence requesting that the FAA respond on a need for an ILS system at both ends of the Sawyer runway.

Frank Honkala, County Road 581, was present to comment on the letter and pointed out what the County Board needs to know is if the proposed approaches to the Sawyer Airport and the County Airport are equal to each other.

Comm. Tuominen distributed a letter to Commissioners and suggested it be sent in place of the draft written by Hal Pawley.

Comm. Rapport read amendments that she proposed as a compromised letter.

Comm. Angeli contended that a letter is unnecessary because the FAA won't allow us to open an Airport if the navigational systems aren't appropriate.

Comm. Cihak disagreed and thought that Comm. Rapport suggested a good compromise.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl that the County Board send the draft letter written by Harold Pawley, Airport Manager, to the FAA. Motion failed 5 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Angeli, Bergdahl, Cihak, Corkin) to 5 Nays (Comm. Joseph, Roberts, Rapport, Seppanen, Tuominen).

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault that the County Board send a letter to the FAA with amended language suggested by Comm. Rapport. Motion failed 4 Ayes (Comm. Rapport, Arsenault, Cihak and Corkin) to 6 Nays (Comm. Angeli, Bergdahl, Joseph, Roberts, Seppanen and Tuominen).

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph that the County Board forward the draft letter to the FAA distributed by Comm. Tuominen. Motion failed 4 Ayes (Comm. Tuominen, Cihak, Joseph, and Rapport) to 6 Nays (Comm. Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Roberts, Seppanen, and Corkin).

10c) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve an Agreement for AIP and MAP Projects at the Sawyer Airport and adopt the appropriate resolution authorizing the Board Chairperson to sign the Agreement. These grant funds are for projects to convert the Sawyer Airport for civilian use and provided to the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics, which is the agency that administers the disbursement of funds for the FAA. The County is required to enter into an Agreement with the BOA to perform these functions, and to receive the $95,150 share of State funds. A local share of $95,150 will be paid from passenger facility charges.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, displayed a large map of the Sawyer Airport indicating the fencing boundaries for Airport security. He noted that the Sault Tribe Hangers are outside the boundaries of the security fence.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Roberts and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Angeli, Arsenault, Rapport, Roberts, Seppanen, and Corking) to 3 Nays (Comm. Cihak, Joseph and Tuominen) that the County Board approve the Agreement for AIP and MAP Projects at the Sawyer Airport by adopting the appropriate resolution and authorizing the Board Chairperson to sign the Agreement, resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE GRANT AGREEMENT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FEDERAL AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SAWYER AIRPORT, UNDER PROJECT NO. 97-1-3-26-0153-0197.

BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

Section I. That the County Board of Commissioners, of Marquette County, Michigan, shall enter into a Grant Agreement for the development of the Sawyer Airport, and that such Grant Agreement shall be as set forth hereinbelow:

Section II. That the Chairperson of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan, is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Grant Agreement on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and the County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to impress the official seal and to attest said execution;

Section III. That the Grant Agreement referred to hereinbelow shall be as attached.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

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

10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve of a personal property interim sublease for Building 817 at Sawyer for Catherine Kroll, D.O.

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10e) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a License Agreement for Building 661 at Sawyer with the Marquette County Health Department for the temporary storage of the Health Department Van.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a memo from Dave Roberts, County Clerk, regarding the terms of several members on the EDC Board of Directors. Clerk Roberts was advised by Administrator Aloia in the fall of 1995 not to advertise vacancies for the EDC Board of Directors because it was to be reorganized. The same has been true for the fall of 1996 and 1997 so no appointments have been made for several years. The EDC Board of Directors now has 10 members whereas several years ago it had 17 members.

Comm. Tuominen requested that the Clerk review the terms of those members remaining because the EDC will still have some functions to perform while economic development is being reorganized in 1998. Clerk Roberts noted that the terms of Karen Williams, Marilyn Mutch, and Ken Salo have expired and suggested the County Board reappoint them for 1998 so they can continue to function while the EDC transition takes place.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that Karen Williams, Marilyn Mutch, and Ken Salo be reappointed to the EDC Board of Directors for 1998.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Frank Honkala, County Road 581, South of Ishpeming, noted that soon there will be FAA approved flight schools offered and suggested that the County Board send some of its members to these flight schools so that they can gain some knowledge regarding navigational systems.

Les Thatcher, Skandia, noted that although he has heard many negative comments regarding moving the Airport to Sawyer, he is in support of the move. He believes from a financial perspective its the best thing to do. As for the convenience of travel, for those people living in Skandia it will be much more convenient. Mr. Thatcher commended those Commissioners who have shown courage and risked their political careers by supporting the move of the Airport. He appreciates the County Board's vision.

Dan Bengstrom, Gwinn, also supports moving the Airport to Sawyer. The highway system runs in both directions and the roads are just as long no matter which way you travel. He also noted that passenger boardings at the County Airport were down 20 months ago when American Airlines left, however, passenger boardings are now increasing rapidly, probably attributable to Skyway Airlines. The past six months shows an increase of 4,519 passengers.

Ted Weldum, City of Negaunee, questioned the County Board approving application for a Title IX Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation Grant. Moving the Airport does not appear to be sudden nor does there appear to be significant economic dislocation in Marquette County. How can the Board ask for $3 million for sudden and severe economic dislocation and keep its credibility?

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

Comm. Rapport noted that the County Board has been able to obtain these EDA Grants because of the sudden and severe dislocation caused by closing the KI Sawyer Air Base, 7,200 people left Marquette County. The EDA wants to help those communities to recover economically and convert military bases into public use. We have followed a democratic process, and studied the issue for two years, under criticism. Each Commissioner represented their districts, a vote was taken, and a majority voted to move the Airport. We now have to look into the future, the decision was made. We must work together and work hard.

Comm. Rapport is willing to erect a sign at the gate of Sawyer saying "Your tax dollars at work." We are developing a Sawyer Community of which we can be proud of. This will be a community wide effort with the help of labor, business, city, county, state, and federal government. MAP funds will also be available because we are converting a military base to public

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use. It is by no means an accident that we are becoming successful at Sawyer in creating jobs. At present AMR and Boreal may be the only aviation industries at Sawyer, however there will be others. Comm. Rapport expressed concern that when Commissioners such as Comm. Arsenault and Chairperson Corkin take leadership rolls and exercise their duties, that they become subject to a recall.

Comm. Seppanen noted that two years ago the decision to move the Airport provided the ability for the County to attract federal funding. We were concerned and hesitated, but had the assurances of State and Federal representatives that they would help. It has been a good decision and our Representatives have done an excellent job on our behalf. Comm. Seppanen is now surprised that the County Board is being criticized for going ahead with $3.1 million in EDA funds. It seems now that we are damned if we don't, damned if we do.

Comm. Arsenault noted that a lot of misinformation has been spread around the County regarding the move of the Airport. Much of it is pulled out of context. While there may be 221 people a day traveling to the Marquette County Airport, those people of Chocolay, Sands, Gwinn, and West Branch, are closer to the Sawyer Airport than the present Airport. We are trying to deal with facts and not misinformation. One fact for sure is that 26% of the citizens in Marquette County use the Airport, and are being subsidized by 100% of the County citizens.

Comm. Roberts noted that after he read the August 22, 1996 minutes he wrote two resolutions: one on June 3, 1997 and one on June 17, 1997, which the Board adopted. These resolutions linked Negaunee Township to the redevelopment efforts. The County Board would like to develop Negaunee Township as a commercial site. There are 700 acres of prime land in Negaunee Township from which only $9,941 in personal property taxes were collected to benefit the Township.

Chairperson Corkin explained that he is proud to be Chair of the Marquette County Board. Whether people agree or not the Board has kept its integrity in carrying out the democratic process and the will of the majority. The only reason he has been involved in public service is to contribute to the community and be of help to somebody.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 10 Ayes (Comm. Seppanen, Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Cihak, Joseph, Rapport, Roberts, Tuominen and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go into closed session to discuss pending litigation on confidential communications subject to attorney-client privilege. RE: Smith vs. David Lemire, et al, Federal Court File No. 2:97-CV-6.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 8:15 to clear Commission chambers.

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CLOSED SESSION

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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 8:44 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, February 17, 1998 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.
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 1998.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
   a. Resolution Honoring Ernie Grasso, Captain/Jail Administrator on His Retirement.
   b. Resolution Supporting the "Money 2000" Program in Marquette County.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   a. Invitation from the U.S. Department of Commerce to Submit an Application for Title IX Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation (SSED) Defense Conversion Assistance in the Amount of $3,093,000.
   b. Memo from State Court Administrator Regarding Marquette County First Quarter Disbursement for Trial Court Funding in the Amount of $89,143.
   c. Notice of Grant Award from HUD Support of Housing Program to Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan.
   d. Request by County Treasurer to Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co. for their 1997 Specific Iron Ore Tax Computation.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
   a. Bid Awards for Sawyer Bowling Alley Reconstruction (materials forthcoming at meeting).
   b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a Letter to the FAA regarding Navigational Systems at Sawyer Airport.
   c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve an Agreement with the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics for AIP and MAP Projects at Sawyer Airport.
   d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a KI Sawyer Personal Property Interim Sublease for Catherine Kroll, D.O.
   e. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a License Agreement for KI Sawyer Building 661 with the Marquette County Health Department.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
   a. EDC memberships
   b.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. CLOSED SESSION: Pending Litigation Discussion on Confidential Communication Subject to Attorney-Client Privilege. Re: Smith vs. David Lemire, et al, Federal Court File No 2:97-CV-6
15. ADJOURNMENT.

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