The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on September 10, 2002, 7:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the August 27, 2002 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 16) Central Dispatch 911 Tariff Lawsuit; and Item 17) September 11, 2002 – One Year Later.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 30, 2002 through September 5, 2002 in the amount of $352,663.20 and also Payroll Ending August 31, 2002 in the amount of $560,106.89 be approved.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a bid from Pomasl Fire Equipment Company for Trench Rescue/Stabilization Equipment. Capt. David LaMere, Marquette County Sheriff’s Department, was present and explained that the Pomasl bid is for $16,913.57. The total allotted for this project is $17,500.00 with half paid by a grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health, Rural Health Initiative Funds, which were applied for by Mike Zorza in 2001. The matching funds have been received as of September 3, 2002.

The Trench Rescue/Stabilization Equipment will provide the Rescue Unit the ability assist any City or Township that has an incident involving a person that is buried or partially buried. The equipment can enhance the Rescue Unit’s service with stabilizing a collapsed building or use as vehicle stabilization in a crash situation. Pomasl will also provide on-site training to County personnel. The equipment will be housed at the Rescue Facility located at the Old County Airport.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the purchase of Trench Rescue/Stabilization Equipment from Pomasl Fire Equipment Company in the amount of $16,913.57.

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The Committee of the Whole considered Proposed Health Department Environmental Health Fee Schedule Adjustments. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Department Director, was present and explained that the County Board of Health held a public hearing on August 28, 2002 at the direction of the County Board regarding the proposed adjustments to the fee schedule for Environmental Health Services. Only two comments were made from outside entities at the public hearing and their questions were answered.

The State Public Health Code requires all fees charged by local Health Departments to be adopted by the local governing entity, in this case the County Board of Commissioners, and shall not be more than the reasonable cost of performing the service. The proposed fee adjustments reflect inflationary adjustments and a desire to more equitably distribute the costs of the Food Services Program, and cost increases associated with complying with new state minimum program requirements. Schools and non-profit agencies that require food service inspections will be charged 50% of the actual cost of providing these services for the previous year. Currently schools and non-profit agencies pay no inspection fees and in some cases the Health Department must visit them several times as required by State Law in order for the agency to meet food service inspection compliance.

Comm. Wallace, also a member of the County Board of Health, noted it is unfair for the County Health Department to be subsidizing schools and non-profit agencies, for example: Northern Michigan University operates a number of food service establishments and requires regular inspections by the County Board of Health, they should pay a reasonable fee for this service.
It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Proposed Health Department Environmental Health Fee Schedule Adjustments as presented.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a request from the Marquette County Board of Health for authorization to continue to participate in the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC) Financing Plan. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., was present and noted that in March of 2002, the Board of Health recommended that the County Board authorize a series of Intergovernmental Transfers (IGT) necessary to support implementation of a new “indigent care” program to be operated by the MCAC. The program helps uninsured residents with incomes below the federal poverty level to gain access to needed health care. When the Board of Commissioners first approved this action, $86,111 was transferred to the state for the period May 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002. These funds transferred to the state along with matching federal funds were returned to Marquette County and generated a total of $91,665 (an increase of $5,500.00 to the County Health Department) for providing these services.

Dr. Johnson noted that the local governments will continue with the current funding mechanism on a quarter by quarter basis. The Health Department Staff has identified an additional $51,666.00 in the Health Department’s 2002 budget for the period 10-1-02 through 12-31-02 that would be eligible for federal matching dollars via the IGT process.

Chairperson Corkin had the opportunity to attend the MCAC Conference and was impressed with the 130 volunteers who help uninsured people receive health care through this program.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Health Department to continue to participate in the Medical Care Access Coalition Financing Plan.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a staff recommendation for the Central Dispatch Policy Board to participate in litigation opposing rate tariff for wireless emergency service compliance costs.

Joe VanOosterhout, Central Dispatch/Emergency Services Director, was present to discuss the 911 Tariff Lawsuit. Ameritech has proposed before the Michigan Public Service Commission that they receive a surcharge for every 911 call to Central Dispatch Agencies. They initially proposed $1.38 fee per call and has since dropped the figure to $.10 per call. The lawsuit is still worthy because the tariff would open the door for Ameritech to charge per 911 call and rates could be increased in the future. The Barry County Central Dispatch Board and the Michigan Communications Directors’ Association have sued to stop SBC Ameritech from obtaining this tariff and are asking financial participation from all counties. $1,500.00 is available in the Central Dispatch budget for Marquette County to participate in this lawsuit.

It was noted by Commissioners should passing motorists see an automobile accident and call 911 SBC Ameritech would receive this surcharge from every call. There may be 20, 30, 40 individuals hoping to provide assistance for which Central Dispatch would be required to pay the fees.

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 consider the 911 Tariff Lawsuit a worthwhile endeavor and approve of the Central Dispatch Policy Board participating in litigation with the Barry County Central Dispatch Board and the Michigan Communications Directors’ Association authorizing an expenditure total up to $1,500.00.

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The Committee of the Whole considered Marquette County Planning Commission comments regarding the Road Commission 2002/2003 Winter Level of Service. Chairperson Corkin read the Planning Commission comments. The Planning Commission comments essentially reinforce the County Board’s comments to the Road Commission and request they prioritize their resources to maintain high standards of snow removal in Marquette County.

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 forward the Planning Commission comments to the Marquette County Road Commission.

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The Committee of the Whole considered an Administrator’s recommendation to authorize a Grant Application for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct a Feasibility Study for a Business Incubator. The County is requesting $30,000.00 to hire a consultant to prepare a Feasibility Study for a mixed-use incubator in Marquette County. Funds are also being requested to help with the County’s cost of managing this study.

Comm. Bergdahl noted that there has been at least one, and perhaps two previous studies regarding a business incubator in Marquette County and expressed concern about duplicating these efforts. Comm. Wallace remembered shortly after K.I.Sawyer AFB closed Northern Initiatives and CUPPAD, perhaps in conjunction with others, conducted a business incubator study. What were the results?

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee table the Grant Application for a Business Incubator Study so Staff can compile and review information regarding previous studies.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a bid for Caretaker Funded Sanitary Sewer Replacement. Steven J. Schenden, SIABC Project Manager, was present and explained that approximately 820 feet of 8 inch sewer is being replaced because of continued failures in this section. During repairs the sewer pipe was found to be in a deteriorated condition.

Bids were let out and the lowest response was from C. Oberstar Excavating of Marquette for $36,273. North Country Engineering is preparing the contract which should be completed and reviewed by Risk Management and Civil Counsel and ready for the September 17, 2002 County Board meeting. This project is caretaker funded.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the contract with C. Oberstar Excavating Inc. of Marquette for Caretaker Funded Sanitary Sewer Replacement in the amount of $36,273.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a memo from Rick Aho, Director, and the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority Board regarding House Bill 6211. House Bill 6211 calls for a $3.00 per ton surcharge that would be “collected and sent to the State of Michigan” for every ton of waste that is landfilled. These funds would then be deposited with the State Treasurer in a new waste diversion fund earmarked for recycling programs and solid waste innovation grants. The Marquette County Solid Waste Authority and Director Aho oppose the legislation which would raise the tipping fees at the Marquette County Landfill from $38.00 to $41.00 per ton without any direct benefit to Marquette County or the Facility.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board notify its Upper Peninsula State Legislators and the Michigan Association of Counties that it opposes House Bill 6211.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a recommendation to approve the purchase of Video Arraignment Equipment from Innovative Communications Inc. (ICI) in the amount of $21,400.00. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present to discuss the Video Arraignment purchase and answer questions. The Video Arraignment Equipment is part of a $25,000.00 court grant that requires a 25% match from Marquette County. The local match for the project is $5,350.00 budgeted through in-kind services and a real-time Court Reporting project that is near completion.

Brent Nault noted the quotes were solicited from two vendors, Innovative Communications, Inc. ($21,400.00) and Midstate Security ($11,475.00). Due to the disparity in the quotes County Staff enlisted the services of Eric Smith, Director of Production and Audio/Visual Services for NMU, and Gerry Kippola, a local audio expert. Both agreed that the ICI quote was far superior to Midstate Equipment. NMU has purchased over $300,000.00 of worth of equipment in the last year from ICI and highly recommends their equipment and services. ICI adheres to the MiCTA standards, a set of standards developed by the State of Michigan to insure connectivity and future expandability, and has attained MiCTA’s highest endorsement as an approved vendor. Midstate Securities does not meet MiCTA’s standards. Brent Nault also noted that NMU will provide a technician on an as needed basis to Marquette County, therefore a maintenance agreement for 20% of the contract will not be necessary.
The Honorable Patricia L. Micklow, District Court Judge Retired, further explained this equipment would be installed in the District Courtroom so jail inmates can be video arraigned from the Jail. This means that Sheriff Department Deputies would not have to transport inmates back and forth to the Courtroom, which then in turn provides for more public safety.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Nordeen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the purchase of Video Arraignment Equipment in the amount of $21,400.00 from Innovative Communications Inc.

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(Comm. Nordeen was excused from the meeting at 6:55 p.m. in order to march with his fellow Firemen in the parade memorializing the firemen who perished in the September 11th, 2001 Disaster.)

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The Committee considered the Marquette County Space Needs Study prepared by Somerville, Inc., Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Larry Gould, Facility Manager, was present and introduced the Marquette County Space Needs Team consisting of himself, Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning, Honorable Patricia Micklow, Retired District Court Judge, Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, and Cathy Smith, Administrative Aide.

Patricia Micklow, Retired Judge, made preliminary comments noting the 2000 Next Generation Model Trial Court Improvement Project Grant helped defray the cost of the County Space Needs Study. Hundreds of hours of planning and work have been involved. She thanked the Judges, Trial Court Staff, and County Department Heads. This is an excellent report and it will be very helpful for Marquette County’s future planning regarding its facilities. Judge Micklow introduced John Oates, Vice President and Project Architect from Somerville, Inc.

Mr. Oates provided the Committee with a power point presentation outlining the data gathered during the study with detailed diagrams of all the County buildings and facilities. Somerville presented four options; A, B, C, and D, the main variable being how much space the FIA will continue to utilize on the Annex First Floor.

(Comm. Wallace was excused from the meeting at 7:18 p.m. to attend the Memorial Services at St. Peters Cathedral in honor of those who perished on September 11, 2001.)

Commissioners then engaged in discussion and questioned Mr. Oates and County Staff regarding the Space Needs Study. Some of their concerns included: the time frame for implementation, the costs of implementation, and reduction proposed for the Ishpeming District Court.

Chairperson Corkin thanked the Space Needs Team and Somerville, Inc. for the study and presentation.

No action was forthcoming, only five Commissioners remained so a quorum was not present.

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Chairperson Corkin reminded Commissioners of the U.P.A.C.C. Fall Conference – October 11-12, 2002 – Comfort Inn, Munising, Michigan. Reservations are due by Friday, September 27, 2002, and any Commissioner interested in attending should contact Mary Yelle, Administrative Aide.

Chairperson Corkin read the following letter regarding the September 11th, 2001 Disaster and Marquette County’s response:

A YEAR LATER

There are several local, impressive ceremonies marking the anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York. It would be easy now to forget Marquette County’s immediate and intimate connection with that attack. But we should not. The first real effect of that disaster was at Sawyer International Airport. In less than four hours after the first plane struck the WTC, there were two aircraft there – Northwest flight and a Sun Country charter – grounded in the national emergency move to clear the skies. A number of passengers on the Sun Country plane were Manhattan residents who lived near the trade center. They were particularly worried, but so were all passengers, as at that time very little was known about what happened. Here they were, dropped on the ground in the middle of
forests amongst people whose spoken language was Upper Peninsula. There was one young Irish woman, frantic to talk to her Mum, in Dublin. There were a number of deaf and mute persons, needing help in communicating with family. All passengers were dazed, worried, scared. They needed to be housed and fed and calmed and put in touch with their families and other relatives.

Marquette County governmental staff, private agencies and many individuals responded admirably. It might be difficult today to remember that when these two planes landed there was no knowledge of what more might happen in the nation. The County was handling the immediate tasks, while facing the possibility that there might be more and worse.

The Sawyer Community proved that day that it is indeed a community. It proved that it can be relied upon. The County should be proud.

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There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, September 10, 2002, 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.
7. Proposed Health Department Environmental Health Fee Schedule Adjustments.
8. Authorization for Health Department to Continue to Participate in Medical Care Access Coalition Financing Plan.
10. Application for Rural Business Enterprise Grant from U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.
12. Memo from Rick Aho, Director, MCSWMA, regarding House Bill 6211 Requiring $3.00 Per Ton Surcharge to be Collected and Sent to the State of Michigan.
13. Video Arraignment Bid Award.
15. UPACC Fall Conference – October 11-12, 2002 Comfort Inn, Munising.
16. 911 Text Suit De Co
17. 911 Letter
18. 
19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.