The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 22, 2002, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 8, 2002 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 12) License Agreement for Use of County Forestlands by Hiawatha Trails and 550 Snowmobile Club, Item 13) Resolution for Tax Reverted Lands at KI Sawyer, and Item 14) Janitorial Services Contract for DEQ Building at Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 11, 2002 through October 17, 2002 in the amount of $512,356.89 and Payroll Ending October 12, 2002 in the amount of $563,912.73 be approved.

The Committee considered a letter from Katherine Koryba, Community Development Specialist, MSHDA, commending Marquette County on its successful CDBG Housing Program. Ms. Koryba noted in her monitor report the Marquette County CDBG Grant has a term of 9/1/00 to 12/31/02 in the amount of $375,000. Mr. Steve Enright and Ms. Koryba visited and inspected three homes purchased and rehabilitated with MSHDA funds. The property owners were completely satisfied with the work and the assistance Marquette County has offered in the down payment assistance and revitalization of their homes. The files Ms. Koryba inspected were in order and the overall management of this grant program is very good. Ms. Koryba applauded the staff of Marquette County for being innovative with their allocation of funds and being the first County in the State to undertake MSHDA’s Homebuyer Purchase Rehabilitation Program with CDBG funds.

Steve Enright, Marquette County Housing Coordinator, was present and was surprised to learn from Ms. Koryba that Marquette County is the first County in Michigan to undertake MSHDA’s Homebuyer’s Purchase Rehabilitation Program. Marquette County assisted five homebuyers with closing costs and down payment and then after the home is purchased the house is then rehabilitated.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, commended Steve Enright for a successful Homeowner Rehabilitation and Home Buying Program in Marquette County.

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

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The Committee considered the Sawyer Welding past-due account. Anne Giroux, Finance Manager, SIABC, noted on February 21, 2001 the County Board authorized Staff to list the past-due accounts owed by Sawyer Welding with Credit Services, Inc. Credit Services, Inc. has been attempting to collect the account since that time with no success. The County authorized Credit Services to file suit in July of 2001, however they have been unable to track down the tenant in order to serve the papers. Should the County Board write off the receivable, Staff would then add an expense line item in the Development Department’s 2002 budget to absorb the loss of $4,490.92. If this amount was eventually collected the revenue would be recorded. The account will continue to be listed with CSI.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board write-off Sawyer Welding receivable in the amount of $4,490.92.

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The Committee considered a Sawyer past-due account for Northern Excavating. Anne Giroux, Finance Manager, SIABC, noted this tenant owes the County $3,345.56 in rent and various cleanup expenses. The County has a security deposit of $622.00, therefore $2,684.56 is outstanding. Staff wishes to follow past practice and list this account with Credit Services, Inc. If CSI is successful in collecting the account they would earn a 10% commission if collected within 30 days 25%, if collected after 30 days, and if legal counsel is needed the commission would be 50%.
It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board list Northern Excavating with the collection agency Credit Services, Inc. for $2,684.56.

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The Committee considered the reinstatement of the lease between the County of Marquette and Sawyer Service Center for Building 824. On September 11, 2002 Staff notified Sawyer Service Center that Marquette County was terminating its lease at Building 824 for nonpayment of rent in accordance with Section 7 of the Lease Agreement between the parties and must be out of the building by November 5, 2002. Since that time the tenant has made all its rental and IRP payments and is seeking reinstatement of the lease. Whether or not to reinstate is a policy decision to be made by the County Board of Commissioners.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted since this recommendation was made the Michigan State Police now desire to lease Building 824. The Michigan State Police would like to occupy the building by January 1, 2003 which would result in enough space to store the County’s Safety Rescue Vehicle at the Negaunee Township MSP Post and a savings to Marquette County of $18,000.

Vikki Kuluja, SIABC Marketing Director, noted that while Sawyer Service Center has had a poor financial history much of this is attributed to personal challenges the owner has experienced. For the most part the challenges are resolved and the Sawyer Service Center has had cooperative discussions with Staff concerning relocating back to its original facility in order to accommodate the Michigan State Police. Staff is recommending the County Board:

1) Not reinstate the lease with Brian Hutchens individually and d/b/a Sawyer Service Center for nonpayment of rent for Sawyer Building 824,

2) Sell Building 826 and the personal property currently utilized to the Sawyer Service Center for an equal amount as what the Sawyer Service Center has paid in rent to date which is estimated to be $22,484, and

3) Assist with moving costs not to exceed $5,000.

Several Commissioners expressed concern about assisting with moving costs in that the Sawyer Service Center must be completely out of Building 824 by November 5, 2002. Also, there may be other parties interested in Building 826.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to 2 Nays (Comm. Girard and Moore), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board not reinstate the lease with Brian Hutchens individually and d/b/a Sawyer Service Center for either Sawyer Building 824 and not to provide funding assistance to move Building 826.

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It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file the Sawyer Financial Report and the Sawyer International Airport Passenger Report.

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The Committee considered the Third Quarter Budget Amendments from Susan Vercoe, Finance Manager. All Departments were requested to review their revenues and expenditures and the budget amendment recommendations were prepared based upon requests and information from departments.

On the expense side, total General Fund expenditures will be increased by $64,675. The largest adjustment is an additional $50,000 appropriation to the Probate Child Care Fund, this increase is directly related to State charges for the County portions of expenses for wards of the State. Other significant adjustments include a $25,000 increase in health services for jail inmates, a retroactive adjustment from MERS for the Courthouse Union in the amount of $18,400, the law library appropriation is increased by $12,000 and statutory programs by $11,250.

On the revenue side the budget has been most significantly impacted by a $60,000 reduction in anticipated revenue from the COPS Grant. As a result of these budget changes and the likelihood of State revenue reductions this year, Department Heads and Managers have been advised to review all purchases and forgo discretionary spending. The contingency line item will now have a balance of $4,255 for the remainder of 2002.

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It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Berghdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Third Quarter Budget Amendments.

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It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee accept and place on file a Notice that Jane Bryant Quinn, ABC Commentator on Personal Finance, will speak at a Marquette Economic Club meeting.

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The Committee considered a License Agreement for the use of County lands by Hiawatha Trails and the 550 Snowmobile Club. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted the trail lies between the Escanaba River and County Road 553. It will be the same agreement that has been prepared in the past.

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 of the License Agreement for use of County lands by the Hiawatha Trails and the 550 Snowmobile Club.

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The Committee considered a resolution to acquire tax reverted lands from the State of Michigan to facilitate the housing rehabilitation at KI Sawyer.

Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, was present and noted during the process of surveying the parcels in the Sawyer Housing area a longstanding surveying error was discovered. The Air Force constructed certain housing units outside the boundaries of the property owned by the Air Force on County-owned forestland. In order to remedy the problem the County has requested a reconveyance of a 100 foot wide strip of property from the State of Michigan to the County, free of the forestry use restrictions. As a part of that process the State of Michigan requires a resolution to be adopted by the County Board authorizing this transaction.

Mr. Andrews noted the process should be completed by mid November. The Michigan DNR Staff working with Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning, have been very helpful and cooperative.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the resolution providing for the conveyance of State-owned tax reverted lands for the purpose of facilitating housing rehabilitation and renewal at KI Sawyer.

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The Committee considered a contract award for janitorial services and snow removal for the Michigan DEQ Building at KI Sawyer.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted on October 1, 2002 the County Board awarded the contract to Spifty Clean. Sawyer Staff has been unable to contact Spifty Clean in order to finalize the agreement and has learned Spifty Clean has left Marquette County and moved to Texas.

Staff now recommends the Janitorial Service Contract be awarded to the next highest bidder which is H&H Kustodial, Inc. for $25,052. H&H Kustodial Inc. is a Marquette County firm and has contracts with the Board of Light and Power and Marquette General and has previously done work for Marquette County. Hal Pawley, SIABC Director, noted he would have to hire more Airport Staff in order to provide these janitorial services and snow removal, especially in the winter.

Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, noted the DEQ Building has approximately 18,000 sq. ft and they will pay $114,984 in gross rent for the first year of a short-term lease minus cleaning, snowplowing, and utility costs. A long-term lease is still being negotiated which may result in changes for responsibility of utilities, janitorial services, and snowplowing.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Janitorial Services and Snow Removal Contract to H&H Kustodial, Inc. for the DEQ Building at Sawyer in the amount of $25,052.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.
Chairperson Corkin reported he attended the Control Tower Ribbon Cutting and Dedication Ceremony at the Landmark Inn. It was an impressive ceremony.

Chairperson Corkin reported he attended the Kamehameha Land discussion at the Ishpeming City Senior Center and found it to be very informative.

Comm. Tuominen provided a cash flow budget report the Marquette County Road Commission and also the Commission on Aging Program’s monthly report.

Comm. Joseph noted the Road Commission will begin its snowplowing at 5:00 a.m. rather than 6:00 a.m.

Comm. Wallace announced the Marquette County Board of Health will be holding a public hearing at 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, October 23rd in the Commission Chambers regarding a proposed County-wide Smoking Ordinance.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, October 22, 2002, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2002.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Letter from Kathryn Koryba, Community Development Specialist, MSHDA, Commending Marquette County (Steve Enright) on its Successful CDBG Housing Program.
7. Recommendation from Anne Giroux, SIABC, regarding Sawyer Past Due Accounts.
8. Lease Between Marquette County and Sawyer Service Center. (Revised)
9. Sawyer Financial and Passenger Reports.
10. Third-Quarter Budget Amendments (materials forthcoming at meeting).
12. Library Agent for use of Co. lands by Hiawatha Trails.
13. Local Resolution - Sawyer Housing
14. DEQ Bills 2nd floor boiler, Tamarack Service
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.