The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 12, 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 22, 2002 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 11) Sale of Building 406 to Mike Wills Excavating, Item 12) Lease of 2,000 Sq. Ft. Sawyer Building 731 and 97.5 Sq. Ft. of the SIA Terminal to the General Services Administration, and Item 13) Report from DMG Maximus on Friend of the Court Title IV-D Funds.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 1, 2002 through November 7, 2002 in the amount of $472,264.33 be approved.

The Committee considered a memo from Dwight Sunday, Equalization Director, regarding a NICE School District revised L-4029 tax rate request.

NICE School District is in two counties and they must use the millage reduction fraction for both counties rather than just the Marquette County rate. In addition, they should round numbers to four places beyond the decimal point. The 2002 current year millage reduction fraction should be corrected to .9929.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the revised NICE School District L-4029 tax rate request of the 2002 current year millage reduction fraction of .9929.

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The Committee considered a memo from Dwight Sunday, Equalization Director, regarding Humboldt Township’s revised L-4029 tax rate request. At the November 5, 2002 Election Humboldt Township voters approved a one mill sanitation millage which was not included on their L-4029 tax rate request presented at the October Annual Meeting. Humboldt Township millage language allows them to levy the one mill in December, 2002.

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 approve of the revised Humboldt Township L-4029 millage rate request to allow them to levy the one mill for sanitation which was approved by the voters at the November 5, 2002 General Election.

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The Committee considered a 2002 State Domestic Preparedness Program Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division, in the amount of $60,600 to Marquette County.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained the purpose of the grant is to provide federal pass-through funds to local units of government to purchase specialized emergency response equipment and conduct training exercise that will enhance responses to incidences of domestic terrorism and incidences involving weapons of mass destruction. After consultation with the Medical Control Authority, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, County Departments, Police, and fire agencies, Joe Van Oosterhout, Central Dispatch/Emergency Program Manager, recommends use of the funds to purchase 800 MHz radios. County Departments, Cities, and Townships committed to using 800 MHz would be awarded funds to help with a portion of their purchase costs. The exact amounts will depend on the cost of the radios and the number of agencies and departments interested.
It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Grant Agreement for $60,600 with the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division, and endorse the use of the grant funds to assist County Departments, Cities, and Townships with purchase of 800 MHz radios.

The Committee considered ownership of Sawyer water meters. Scott Erbisch, Human Resources and Risk Manager, was present to discuss the ownership of water meters and answer questions.

County Staff was recently approached by four of the housing developers to see if the County would take ownership of approximately 686 water meters. In a typical municipally operated water system the ownership and maintenance responsibilities for water meters resides with the utility. The Air Force required the developers to install water meters at their expense and currently the ownership and maintenance of the meters is the responsibility of the developer.

By October 1, 2004, the water and wastewater systems will become the property of Marquette County. It is anticipated the water and wastewater systems will be municipalized. Properly operating water meters is vital for the billing and collection of revenues. It is in the best interest that the owner of the water and wastewater utility have functioning water meters. Staff feels this proposal is beneficial to the future owner of the water and wastewater systems and is recommending that authorization be granted so the County can take ownership of the meters. The developers will still install the meters at their costs but once installed the meters will become the property of Marquette County.

Mr. Erbisch further explained that County Staff requested the Air Force purchase a water meter test kit and allow for the use of caretaker staff to maintain the meters. The Air Force has agreed to purchase a water meter tester and related materials and has also approve up to $1,500 annually for caretaker staff to repair meters. Since most water meters are relatively new this amount should cover the needed costs.

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 provide the authorization for Marquette County to take ownership of the Sawyer residential water meters.

The Committee considered the conveyance of four Sawyer educational classrooms (Buildings No. 535, 537, 539, and 540); one classroom to George DeVries and three classrooms to Mike Wills. These individuals will bear the expenses of unhooking the utilities, removal of the buildings from the premises, and cleanup/restoration of the existing site.

Staff has been marketing these relocatable, double-wide buildings since Base closure. None of the units have wheels underneath them. The Air Force placed them on block foundations and they need to be physically unbolted, hoisted by crane, and hauled in two sections to their new destinations.

Two of the buildings have excessive leaking and water damage and mold is beginning to form. The other two are in better shape but are beginning to show signs of leakage in the insulation and ceiling tiles. These properties are not covered by the Caretaker Agreement. Staff has accepted security deposits in the amount of $1,000 for each building from Mr. Wills and Mr. DeVries. Following the cleanup/restoration of the sites the deposits will be returned. If the buildings are not removed by June 1, 2003 the deposits will be forfeited.

Chief Civil Counsel Harley Andrews noted Marquette County will have no liability for the mold in these buildings because such language will be included in the Bill of Sale.

Comm. Nordeen noted two years ago Ewing Township purchased a similar former educational classroom for $4,582 and paid $7,000 to have the building moved to Ewing Township for use as a new Township Hall. Now that the County is giving these four classrooms away for the cost of moving Ewing Township requests their money back.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board convey four Sawyer Buildings (No. 535, 537, 539, and 540) former educational classrooms; one to George DeVries and three classrooms to Mike Wills. These individuals will bear the expense of unhooking the utilities, removal of the buildings from the premises, and cleanup/restoration of the existing site.

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The Committee considered the 2003 Sawyer International Business Center Capital Improvement Projects. Hal Pawley, SIABC Director, was present to discuss the AIP/MAP Projects and answer questions.

Staff recommends the County Board approve of the 2003 Military Airport Program Projects totaling $4,085,000 with the local share of $334,400. Funding sources for the local share include Passenger Facility Charges of $192,700 and Airport sale proceeds of $141,700. MAP funds would be used for the following projects: Fuel Farm expansion, insulate aircraft hangars, control tower equipment, ILS runway 19, demolish hangar 668, terminal building expansion, and purchase of vacuum truck.

Staff also recommends approval of the Airport Improvement Program Projects totaling $7,669,000 with a local share of $419,900. The local share will be funded with Passenger Facility Charges. These projects include an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting and Snow Removal Equipment Storage and Maintenance Facility, and the purchase of snow removal equipment.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the 2003 Airport Improvement Program/Military Airport Program Projects as presented by Staff.

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The Committee considered the sale of Sawyer Building 406 to Mike Wills Excavating and Trucking, Inc. Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, was present and noted Mike Wills is the owner of Sawyer Building 438. Mr. Wills would like to purchase Building 406 in its existing condition for $25,000. The Building has been assessed at $43,000, however the facility has mold and the estimated mold remediation costs are $15,000. The building is also in need of a new roof and is not ADA accessible.

Ms. Kulju further explained the building was not part of the business plan due to its limited reuse potential, therefore any income derived from the facility will have a positive impact at Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board sell Sawyer Building 406 to Mike Wills Excavating and Trucking, Inc. in its existing condition for $25,000.

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The Committee considered leasing 2,000 sq. ft. in Sawyer Building 731 and 97.5 sq. ft. in the SIA terminal to the General Services Administration (GSA).

Hal Pawley, SIABC Director, and Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, were present and explained the GSA is leasing the facility on behalf of the Transportation Department’s Transportation Security Administration (TSA). TSA will oversee security on all modes of transportation, including Sawyer International Airport.

The former NMU Public Safety Building (731) is 4,088 sq. ft. in size and TSA will occupy approximately one-half of the building. Additionally, TSA will occupy approximately 97.5 sq. ft. inside the terminal building. This space currently serves as office space for the security screening staff.

The terms of the lease are for two years at a rate of $15 per sq. ft. full service which means utilities and maintenance to be provided by the County. Any improvements will be paid for by Marquette County and advertised by the GSA over the initial lease term. The improvements shall not exceed $35 PSF. The project shall be bid as a design-build project to expedite the process. This is over and above the $15 PSF rental rate. Any personal property shall be included as part of the lease.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the lease of 2,000 sq. ft. in Sawyer Building 731 and 97.5 sq. ft. in the SIA Airport Terminal by the General Services Administration as per the terms and conditions outlined by Staff.

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The Committee considered a Marquette County Friend of the Court and Prosecutor Title IV-D Reinvestment Presentation by Jim Olson of DMG Maximus, Inc. Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, was also present.

Mr. Olson presented colored charts to the County Board showing Marquette County’s performance along with 24 other small counties and the statewide average for five factors:
Factor 1 – Paternity Establishment  
Factor 2 – Cases with Orders  
Factor 3 – Collections on Current Support  
Factor 4 – Cases With Payments on Arrears  
Factor 5 – Cost Benefits

The graphs show that Marquette County has outperformed the statewide average and has met its obligations with the State. Marquette County received an incentive of $68,266.26 for its fiscal year 2000 performance efforts. The incentive for 2001 performance should be received by December 31, 2002. Currently the State of Michigan is in a transition phase with its administration.

Mr. Olson noted DMG Maximus provides services to 74 of 83 Michigan Counties. Title IV-D reinvestment is a very complex issue starting with requirements at the federal level which in turn passes down millions of dollars to the State of Michigan which takes approximately 47% of these funds to be reinvested for statewide Friend of the Court services before funding is distributed to each of the counties.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Olson and Ms. Hanson for the presentation which helped explain a very complicated process. It is good to know Marquette County is spending a normal amount, funding approximately one-third of the cost for Friend of the Court services, and is also performing above the statewide level.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Title IV-D Reinvestment Report be accepted and placed on file.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Seppanen noted there was a handout in the Commissioners packet regarding the snowmobile trail issue. Comm. Seppanen strongly emphasized, in spite of media reports to the contrary Chocolay Township supports a snowmobile trail, however is seeking alternative routes along the 8 mile highway corridor. Chocolay Township only opposes the trail through its residential sections.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen that Marquette County reimburse Ewing Township $4,582 for its purchase of a relocatable double-wide educational classroom two years ago. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Comm. Nordeen expressed concern about the $47,000 annual electrical cost for the SAGE Building at Sawyer. Staff will provide further information.

Comm. Joseph expressed concern about a proposal for SIABC snowplowing which would have SIABC Staff providing snowplowing services along Avenue “A” and four to five miles of industrial roads around the airport. More information on this matter is forthcoming.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts  
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 12, 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.
6. NICE School District 4029 Revised Tax Rate.  
7. State Domestic Preparedness Grant Agreement.
8. Ownership of Sawyer Water Meters.
9. Conveyance of Sawyer Educational Classrooms.
11. Sale Rids 435 6 mm x 115 Exculay
12. Lease 2000 S F 818 sq 731 497 5SF in Terrace to the Gen. Sales
13. Report from DMC Maximus For (Fin)
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.