The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 30, 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 December 10, 2002 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Sue Martens, 548 Bluff St., Neguane, and Virginia Killough, 1710 Harbor View Drive, Marquette, made presentations to the Committee of the Whole expressing concern for Pathways discontinuation of the Fiscal Intermediary and Self Determination Program.

Doug Morton, CEO, Pathways, also made a presentation explaining the reasons leading to Pathways decision to seek a third party employer. A public hearing will be held on January 9, 2003 regarding this matter with a representative from Michigan Department of Community Health present.

Commissioners asked questions and held a lengthy discussion regarding the Self Determination Program. The presentations were provided in writing. They are part of the permanent packet of the Committee of the Whole and are available for public inspection.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 17) FY 2003 Contract Amendment with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Probation Residential Services, and Item 18) Bid Award for Two Pickup Trucks for the Resource Management/Building Codes Department.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period December 13, 2002 through December 26, 2002 in the amount of $826,708.50 and payroll for the period ending 12/21/02 in the amount of $558,738.51 be approved.

The Committee considered the year end budget amendments.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted the good news is that reserve funds are not necessary to balance the General Fund Budget for 2002. Through the good work of Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, and the cooperation with County departments the County has maintained a balanced budget.

Ms. Vercoe further noted the General Fund Budget Amendment reduces General Fund revenues and expenses by $148,727. The major impact on County revenues has been an 8% decrease in construction for 2002 which reduced Building Code revenues by $43,820. District Court revenues are down $36,429. State shared revenue reduction will impact Marquette County’s 2002 budget by $12,667.

Ms. Vercoe further noted at mid-year all departments were asked to reduce spending and forego discretionary items and as a result the expenditure reductions has offset the revenue reductions.

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 adopt the Year-End Budget Amendments No. 33 – General Fund, No. 34 – Airport Fund, No. 35 – KI Sawyer Fund, No. 36 – Caretaker Fund, No. 37 – Probate Child Care Fund, No. 38 – Friend of the Court, and No. 39 – Central Dispatch.

The Committee considered bids for two new all terrain vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department. Nine total bids requests were sent out for the all terrain vehicles resulting in three vendor responses. The low bidder BSA of Marquette met all bid specifications at a price of $14,528.16 for two new ORV’s. This project is budgeted in the Capital Improvements Fund from millage in the amount of $15,000. The Sheriff recommends and Staff concurs that BSA of Marquette be awarded the bid for the ORV’s.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the purchase from BSA of Marquette, the low bidder, for two new ORV’s for the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department at a price of $14,528.16.

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The Committee considered a memo from the Marquette County Planning Commission regarding Target Area Strategy Housing Program for the City of Ishpeming. On December 4, 2002 the Marquette County Planning Commission held a public hearing to gather comment on a proposed application to secure funding for homebuyer and homeowner rehabilitation programs for the City of Ishpeming. The proposed project would provide additional funding for low-income households that include $84,000 for homeowner rehabilitation and $80,000 for homebuyer assistance. The target area was selected based on need and the synergy generated from the recent Neighborhood Preservation Program in the Pioneer Bluff neighborhood.

No public was present to comment on the proposal. The Planning Commission voted unanimously in support and recommends the Marquette County Board adopt a Resolution to pursue funding for the project and authorize the Board Chair to sign.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board adopt a Resolution authorizing the submission of an Application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for additional housing resource funds to cover the costs of the proposed homeowner and homebuyer assistance activities within the City of Ishpeming.

The Committee considered the appointment of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals for Marquette County. The By-laws of the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals adopted on February 10, 2000 require that the County Board appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appoint Joe Pietro as Chairperson and Dan Benstrom as Vice-Chairperson of the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file the 800 MHz Radio Purchase List.

The Committee of the Whole met on Monday, December 30, 2002, they considered 2% Gaming Funds from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. A letter from Bernard Bousehor, Tribal Chairperson, noted he is pleased to transmit an amount of $5,000 for the Marquette County Dental Clinic to assist low-income families in Marquette County and also to provide funds in the amount of $1,991 for the Commission on Aging RSVP Volunteer Transportation/escort Program.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board gratefully accept the 2% Gaming Funds in the amount of $5,000 for the Marquette County Dental Clinic and $1,991 for the RSVP Volunteer Transportation/escort Program.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file the LSCP Leadership Academy, Local Government Day Schedule, for January 9, 2003.

The Committee considered a letter from Lance Beck, ACN Vice-President, Call Center Operations, noting as of December 1, 2002 ACN has created 172.5 FTE positions. This meets the State of Michigan CDBG Grant requirements for the jobs creation. ACN thanks the County of Marquette for being a partner and its commitment to ACN.

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

The Committee considered Sawyer Financial Reports and Update. Anne Giroux, SIABC Finance Manager, was present to discuss the reports and answer questions.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee accept and place on file the SIABC Financial, Employment, Housing, and Passenger Reports.
The Committee considered an update from Scott H. Erbisch regarding the Sawyer electrical distribution system disposition. Mr. Erbisch noted Staff had been advised to have an agreement before the County Board before the end of 2002, unfortunately an Agreement is not yet available. Staff will continue to seek a wholesale rate from various providers and will continue to work towards negotiating a more profitable operations and maintenance agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept the report and place it on file.

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The Committee considered an FY 2003 Contract Amendment for Community Corrections Probation Residential Services.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted Governor Engler signed Executive Order 2002-22 which provides for a Spending Reduction Plan to bring the State’s Fiscal Year 2003 General Fund Budget into balance. As part of this reduction the FY 2003 State appropriation for probation residential services has been reduced by 8.75%. This reduction has been reflected across the board throughout the State of Michigan in the 31 agreements for probation residential services. In addition to the reduction in the award and ADT amounts, the following language was added in Rider C, Page 1, Statement of Work, Item 3:

3. Probation residential services shall not exceed 150 days.

The State Department of Corrections requires the County Board adopt and assign the amendment to the agreement.

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 FY 2003 Contract Amendment with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Probation Residential Services.

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The Committee considered the purchase of Resource Management Department Fleet Vehicles.

Bids were received for the delivery of two small pickup trucks: One 4x4 and one 2-wheel drive to be used in the Construction Code Division of the Resource Management/Development Department. The bid price includes trade-in of two County vehicles. Three bids were received and the low bidder is Frei Chevrolet in the amount of $26,269.86. The purchase of these vehicles was an approved 2003 Capital Project funded at $30,875.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the purchase of two pickup trucks from the low bidder Frei Chevrolet in the amount of $26,269.86 for the Construction Code Division of the Resource Management Department.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Virginia Killough, 1710 Harbor View, Marquette, thanked the County Board for the opportunity to speak this evening. She knows this is not the right venue, however she is seeking any advice that Commissioners may have. She has found it frustrating to speak to Pathways and not be heard.

Chairperson Corkin noted that Commissioners have heard their concerns. The County Board wants Pathways to work with you.

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

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Seppanen:

A few comments and observations after 16 years on the County Board.

There have been quite a few tough issues we have confronted during this period. The two most challenging were the solid waste/landfill problem that faced the citizens of the County during my first term. If you will recall the County Board did not want to get involved with what was considered a city and township issue. Working with Gerry Corkin we were able to get the County Staff and came out with a County Solid Waste Plan and landfill. This issue occupied a good three years of struggle but was just a warm up for the next major issue, the closing of KI Sawyer AFB. This issue started over ten years ago and is still far from over.
Both issues have had a positive effect on the County. When I first took office there was a very pronounced east west split within the County and on the County Board. These two issues have shown in order to work successfully on such major economic and environmental projects, we have to work together. Now as I step off the county Board we see much better cooperation. Much of that credit has to go to the strong leadership of our County Board Chair, Gerry Corkin.

The best actions of the County Board in recent years has been the continued selection of qualified County employees. Our faith in selecting Steve Powers as our Administrator has been amply rewarded. All one has to do is to look at the projects and goals we have accomplished. We have set the direction but it was up to Steve and our Staff to accomplish these goals. Our Civil Counsel, Harley Andrews, has protected the County through his abilities as a strong negotiator and his attention to details. Of all the many departments and employees I enjoyed working with over the years our planning staff, under Ron Koshorek and Jim Kippola, has been the most fun and educational for me. They have helped guide the County through some hard decisions by their ability to look to the future. They are top shelf employees. This County is truly blessed with a high caliber work force.

In closing it has been an honor to serve the residents of Marquette County. It has been easy and enjoyable to work with the excellent County Commissioners that have been elected over the years. In particular I have to comment on the excellent work Commissioner Arsenault has done on the redevelopment of KI Sawyer; and the time, energy and sound judgment that Chairperson Corkin has shown in this long, all consuming challenge. There are also two County Commissioners I have worked with that are no longer with us I need to recognize for their outstanding dedication to the community. It was truly a pleasure working with Mike Angeli and Geraldine DeFai. Mike took the County toward a stronger and more pro environmental position and Gerri worked toward the goal of a more fair and just community. It has been a privilege to serve with all these excellent individuals with the shared goal of making Marquette County the best place to live for all her residents.

Comm. Moore also noted she has enjoyed being a member of the County Board, and was able to contribute and represent her constituents. She commended Comm. Corkin as an excellent Chairperson.

Chairperson Corkin noted he enjoyed working with Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Moore. They both are solid County Commissioners.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board and County Staff wish everyone a Happy New Year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30, 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. Year End Budget Amendments (materials forthcoming at meeting).
7. Sheriff's Department All Terrain Vehicle Bids.
8. Target Area Strategy Housing Program for the City of Ishpeming.
9. Appointment of Chair/Vice-Chair for the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals.
10. 800 MHz Radio Purchase List.
11. Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Gaming Revenue Donation of $5,000 to the Marquette County Dental Clinic.
14. Notification from ACN of fulfillment of its CDBG Grant Job Creation Requirements.
15. SIABC Financial, Employment, Housing, and Passenger Reports.
17. FY 2003 Budget to Com. Budget
18. 2003 Trunk
19. Report Best 8.05
20. PUBLIC COMMENT.
21. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
22. ADJOURNMENT.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!