The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, 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 January 14, 2003 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented:

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 17, 2003 through January 23, 2003 in the amount of $1,168,917.60 and payroll for the period ending January 18, 2003 in the amount of $595,063.57 be approved.

The Committee considered the proposed County Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy. For the past two years, a draft Drug and Alcohol Policy has been under review and development. One year ago the Drug and Alcohol Policy was first brought before the Board of Commissioners. Staff was instructed at that time to provide the draft policy to employees, Union Presidents, and Department Heads for their review and comment. Many recommendations were received and included in the proposed policy. The draft policy has been reviewed by Civil Counsel. Costs for testing are to come from the Human Resources Budget.

Comm. Wallace questioned Paragraph 5.1(a) with regard to transportation for testing. Comm. Wallace felt the transportation for testing should be mandatory.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the County Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy contingent on a change in Paragraph 5.1(a) making transportation to be provided by the County for drug or alcohol testing.

The Committee considered Management/Professional Group Compensation for 2003. Following discussions with the Management/Professional Group (non-union), Administrator Powers is recommending adjustments to their compensation package for 2003 as follows:

- 3% wage increase to be effective March 29, 2003.
- Change to the 15/30 tiered prescription co-pay from the current 10/20.
- $10 per pay period employee contribution for those utilizing the Family Continuation Rider.
- Opportunity to opt-out of health insurance coverage and receive an annual sum of $2,000 in lieu of insurance benefit for those having insurance coverage from another source.

John Greenberg, Management Analyst/Human Resources, was present to answer questions. It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak to postpone adopting the Management/Professional Group compensation package until after the Governor's State of the State address in order to have a better perspective on budget cutbacks to counties. Commissioners discussed the issue in length and felt the package was fair. Comm. Wallace withdrew the motion.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Agreement with the Management/Professional Group as outline above.

The Committee considered a request from Pat Gruber to purchase additional retirement service credit. The Michigan Employees Retirement System allows the purchase of additional service credit at the employee's expense. MERS requires the employee's governing body to adopt a resolution granting the additional credited service.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  JANUARY 28, 2003

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution allowing Pat Gruber to purchase additional retirement service credit through the Michigan Employees Retirement System.

The Committee considered an Agreement with Linda Howlett, d/b/a Community Development Services, for Economic Development Management and Administration Services.

Since 1999, the EDA grants received by Marquette County for the development of KI Sawyer have been administered by CUPPAD. Linda Howlett, as CUPPAD’s Chief Planner, was the primary staff person responsible for administration, however Ms. Howlett is no longer employed by CUPPAD.

Contracting with Ms. Howlett to serve as the County’s Grant Administrator will ensure continuity as the remaining grants are closed out. While with CUPPAD, Ms. Howlett’s work with the EDA grants was excellent.

The remaining grants are scheduled to be completed in 2003, with closeout reporting to be submitted in the first half of 2004. In 2003 we will see the completion of platting and surveying, construction of the business route, completion of new roofs, as well as other constructions activities. The four EDA grants total $8.5 million. Ms. Howlett’s hourly contractual rate is $50.00. The estimated cost for the next 12 months is approximately $20,000 which is an eligible reimbursement expense.

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 an Agreement with Linda Howlett d/b/a Community Development Services for Economic Development Administration Grant Management and Administration.

The Committee considered Sawyer International Airport and Business Center Financial Reports.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file the Sawyer International Airport and Business Center Financial Reports.

The Committee considered a Bid Award for a Janitorial Contract for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). TSA has entered into a two-year lease agreement at Sawyer International Airport. Pursuant to that agreement, Marquette County is responsible for providing janitorial services that are estimated to be $5,000.

Four bids were received with the low bidder being H&H Kustodial Services, Inc. for $4,875 per year for two years. Staff recommends H&H Kustodial, Inc. be awarded the contract. H&H Kustodial currently performs janitorial services for the DEQ Facility at Sawyer and has done outstanding work.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Girard and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award a contract for Janitorial Services for the Transportation Security Administration at Sawyer International Airport to H&H Kustodial Services, Inc. in the amount of $4,875 per year for two years.

The Committee considered a Contract with Great Lakes Recovery Centers for the Cognitive Behavior Restructuring Program “Keeping Clean”.

The program is included in the Community Corrections Grant received by the County. Great Lakes Recovery Centers is the service provider. The program is intended to maintain sobriety by assessments, testing, monitoring, and case management.

The program has been approved by the State, the Marquette County Community Corrections Board, and Judges. The contract is fully funded by the State Community Corrections Grant for up to $15,000.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a Contract with Great Lakes Recovery Centers for the Cognitive Behavioral Restructuring Program “Keeping Clean” for an amount up to $15,000 which is fully funded by the State Community Corrections Grant.

The Committee considered a letter of support for the City of Marquette’s opposition to the State’s reduction in fire protection money for State funded facilities.
The budgeted Fire Protection Money to the City of Marquette for the current fiscal year was $569,000 which was reduced to $331,151 for a net loss of $237,849 which is three times the predicted "across the board" cut in State Revenue Sharing. The City cannot afford to reduce fire protection services to make up the funding shortfall. This cut would jeopardize the fire system rating and insurance premiums for everyone in the City of Marquette.

Comm. Wallace noted this reduction would affect Northern Michigan University and the Prison.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to Governor Granholm, Matt Johnson, Governor Granholm's Northern Michigan Representative, and our Legislators opposing the State's reduction in fire protection money for State funded facilities.

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The Committee considered space for the Ishpeming District Court. The current lease for Ishpeming District Court expires on December 31, 2003.

Roger Kangas, District Court Judge, was present and indicated he and Judge Dennis Girard would like to see services remain the same. Ishpeming District Court has high volume which exceeds that of nine Counties in the Upper Peninsula. By statute, the County must maintain a Small Claims Court in the West End.

Chairperson Corkin believed it is important to provide services in the west end of the County as well as Marquette.

Comm. Cihak noted he does not support the Ishpeming District Court as it is now. He would like to see better use of the Circuit and Probate Courtrooms with improved scheduling of these facilities. He hopes the Courtrooms could be used more efficiently.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Girard, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Cihak), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board requests proposals for space for Ishpeming District Court for small claims, probation, traffic, magistrate services, courtroom, chambers and a court recorder offices as currently provided.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin reported he and Comm. Tuominen attended a CUPPAD meeting. One of the major issues discussed was snowmobiling in the U.P. and the conflict between economic development and residential problems. It seems to be a problem that can be worked out with compromise.

Comm. Cihak indicated he will be attending a Judicial Council meeting on Friday and will bring his concerns about courtroom space to this meeting. He will report back to the Board at a later time.

Comm. Tuominen, County Board Liaison to the Commission on Aging, reported on how impressed he is with the volunteerism in Marquette County. There was approximately $325,000 in volunteerism in 2002 and $8,000 to $10,000 worth of transportation costs donated through volunteers.

Chairperson Corkin again wanted to stress the importance of looking to the West End for space needs. There is good space available in Ishpeming and Negaunee, not just Marquette.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Jaice Mason
Administrative Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Drug and Alcohol Policy.
8. Purchase of Additional MERS Service Credit.
9. EDA Grant Administration.
10. SIABC Financial Reports.
11. Bid Award – Janitorial Contract for the Transportation Security Administration at SIA.
12. FY' 2003 Agreement for Purchase of Community Corrections Services, Cognitive Behavior Restructuring Program.
14. RFP for Space for Ishpeming District Court.
15. 
16. 
17. 
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.