The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 27, 2003, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skees 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 May 13, 2003 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 11) MDOT Contract No. 02-5563, and Item 12) Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 16, 2003 through May 22, 2003 in the amount of $533,957.63 be approved.

The Committee considered the Register of Deeds software purchase. The Register of Deeds is currently using an in-house developed program to record and index their documents. The software resides on the County’s Data General mini computer system. Data General, Inc. went out of business in 2000 and sold the maintenance portion of their operation to EMC, Inc. In 2001 EMC, Inc. informed the County that maintenance on the mini computer system would be terminated in 2005. Knowing the Data General System had a limited life, the Register of Deeds actively began pursuing alternative software in 2001. Pat Manley, Register of Deeds, began gathering information from conferences, trade shows, and other County Register of Deeds. Register Manley also distributed surveys to various counties that had automated systems. From this information, Register Manley narrowed the vendor search to three vendors: Fidlar Doubleday, Eagle, and ACS. The vendors were requested to extensively demo their software on-site for the Register of Deeds’ office staff and the I.S. Staff. All three vendor’s software met the State of Michigan requirements. All had document imaging and retrieval systems, land record management, a tract index, the ability to scan and index back documents, and internet access to records. In addition, the Register and Staff visited Isabella, Clinton, Clare, and Cheboygan Counties to observe the software packages in operation. It was clear to all involved that the Fidlar Doubleday system had the ability to eliminate redundancy, maintain a quality tract index, generate superior reports, and provide the unique user interface that is easy for the Staff and public to navigate.

It is estimated the total cost of the project is $149,700 for the first year. This includes an estimated $70,000 for the hardware (bid separately), $51,000 for implementation, conversion, and training, and the first year maintenance fee of $28,700. The copy/computer fund will purchase the system with $50,000 budgeted for this expenditure in 2003. The $28,700 in annual maintenance will be charged to the new Register of Deeds Automation Fund. The remaining $71,000 will be recaptured by the County Computer Fund from the Automation Fund on an annual depreciation basis.

Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, and Pat Manley, Register of Deeds, recommend the County of Marquette purchase the Land Information Management System Software known as iDocument XF, Iscan, Tapestry and Laredo from Fidlar Doubleday for the stated implementation price of $51,000 and enter into a Life Cycle Maintenance Agreement (5 years) in the amount of $28,700 annually.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Fidlar Doubleday as the software provider for the Register of Deeds Document Indexing System.

Mike Prokopowicz, Sandy Spoelstra, Karen Anderson, and John Jilbert, all members of the South County YMCA/Fitness Center Task Force, were present to give the County Board an update and progress report of the South County YMCA/Fitness Center. Members of the Task Force who were present explained the following:

- Who the South County Task Force is
- Where the Task Force began
- What the Task Force did
- What the Task Force considered
The Committee considered MDOT Contract No. 02-5563. A portion of the M-94 realignment and reconstruction project from Delphi Drive to Fifth Street was included in Sawyer’s CDBG extrusion grant. That project has been completed and the County has received $446,895 from CDBG for the work completed by MDOT. A resolution is needed to approve MDOT Contract No. 02-5563 and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign both the original document and copies. Civil Counsel has reviewed the Contract. The documents are to be returned to MDOT. MDOT will date the contract when executed. A check will then be issued to MDOT for $446,895.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the MDOT Contract No. 02-5563 in the amount of $446,895 and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the appropriate documents.

********

The Committee considered the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. On May 16, 2003 the Natural Resources Conservation Services approached the County and City of Marquette. Steve Powers, County Administrator, sent a letter to Ronald C. Williams, State Conservationist with the Natural Resources Commission, to hold our community’s place in the Federal Emergency Watershed Program. The NRCS evaluated sites along the Dead River and found eight sites that qualify for the program, from Mulligan Creek in Champion Township to the Tourist Park in Marquette. The program is limited to temporary mediation and repair to prevent additional soil erosion and debris that could cause significant damage.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is requesting the County serve as the local sponsor. The sponsor is responsible for the non-federal share, contractor selection and payment, landowner approval, and record keeping. Administrative expenses are reimbursable or can be used as the local match.

The NRCS has been discussing possible projects with the landowners. Since the Emergency Watershed Program is a national program, the State NRCS is concerned the funding may be spent by other regions before we can commit. Adding urgency is the need to stabilize areas before another heavy rainstorm hits the Dead River Watershed. The recommended action will allow the County Board Chair to sign the project agreements if the other components fall into place.

The Federal Natural Resources Conservation Service provides 75% of the project’s cost. In-kind services are eligible for the non-federal match. If the recommendation is followed there will be no direct impact to the County Budget. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has identified approximately $500,000 in emergency projects.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize County sponsorship of Emergency Watershed Protection Projects subject to: 1) Approval of project by landowner(s), 2) Non-federal match is provided by sources other than the County of Marquette, and 3) Approval of project agreement by administrative, legal, and risk management staff.

********

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin thanked all those who have been working so hard on the flood disaster, particularly Steve Powers, County Administrator, Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning, and the Marquette County Road Commission. There has been a tremendous amount of responsibility and work to get through this. They have done an excellent job.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, and also the Public Information Director regarding the flood, explained that the gathering and assessment of data continues. They have provided preliminary information to FEMA. The process protocol is that FEMA makes a report to the Governor. A decision by the Governor is anticipated early next week. The request will be made by the Governor to the President. Administrator Powers stated the County Board will be kept updated as the decision making process proceeds.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, May 27, 2003, 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. Register of Deeds Software Purchase.
7. South County YMCA/Fitness Center Update.
8. Marquette County Road Commission EDA II Contract Amendment.
10. Sawyer Financial Reports.
11. DOT Contract No. 02-9563.
12. Emergency watershed Protection Program.
13. PUBLIC COMMENT.
14. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
15. ADJOURNMENT.
• Outcomes of the Task Force efforts
• Task Force Recommendations
• Recommendation Rational
• South Marquette County YMCA long-term status.

The Task Force requested that the YMCA Board take the leap of faith by continuing the cooperative dedication to their success, continuing to build partnerships, and continue to demonstrate their commitment to the communities we serve.

The YMCA Board took action on May 1, 2003 stating that if the roof is replaced and the condensation problem is alleviated, if operating costs can be reduced, if the County extends the Cooperative Maintenance Agreement through 2004, and if the YMCA continues its momentum in creative programming, then the South County YMCA shall remain open. The South County YMCA has the capability of serving many additional members. South Marquette County continues to grow with several potential employer prospects waiting in the wings. Closing the south facility will adversely impact all of Marquette County. The Task Force requests the Marquette County Board of Commissioners also to take the leap of faith and work with them and continue to maintain the South County Facility through cooperative management.

* * * * *

The Committee considered the Marquette County Road Commission EDA II Contract Amendment. The Marquette County Road Commission Director of Surveying, Neil Lynch, Civil Counsel Harley Andrews, and Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning, are recommending amending the EDA II Contract for Surveying Services being provided through the Marquette County Road Commission at Sawyer. The amendments will accomplish the following: 1) Acknowledgement of the 1-year extension granted last year; 2) Adjustments of the payment formula for work being provided by Road Commission personnel and that being provided by private contractors. There is no change in the total grant amount specified in the original contract. The amendments were reviewed by the Marquette County Road Commission and passed May 12, 2003. Staff recommends the Contract Amendment be approved as proposed and authorize the Chair’s signature as appropriate.

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 Marquette County Road Commission EDA II Contract Amendment as proposed and authorize the Chair’s signature as appropriate.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a Lease Agreement for Building 822, the Sawyer Laundromat. Approximately one year ago, the Board approved the terms of the lease for Building 822, the Laundromat, with Tim LeMoine and Marie Harris. The prospect was unable to obtain financing and did not proceed with the project. Recently the prospects have approached Staff and wish to proceed with a revised concept. The new concept would include a sit-down restaurant facility and reduce the number of washers and dryers to one or two machines. Staff has concerns over sufficient startup capital, ability to pay rent, and ability to perform mold/asbestos remediation and other building repairs. To protect the County, the parties have agreed to a $5,000 security deposit. The security deposit will be reduced to $1,000 after the parties have operated the restaurant for 30 days. Additionally, the prospects shall be given two months rent-free while they make construction improvements. All other terms as originally approved by the Board of Commissioners will remain.

Marquette County currently owns the facility. It is vacant and no prospects exist. The County will occur no additional costs with the occupancy of the facility. If the company fails the County may incur costs associated with repair and eviction. While Staff is concerned about the sustainability of the business, the risk to the County has been minimalized with the increased security deposit.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board enter into a lease agreement with Tim LeMoine and Marie Harris for Building 822, the Sawyer Laundromat.

* * * * *

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

* * * * 