The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 12, 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. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on July 22, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Mr. Lou Lampi, Rt. 1, Box 29, Republic, MI, was present and addressed the Committee of the Whole regarding a land issue. He is asking the County Board for help in contacting the Attorney General’s Office. He reviewed materials and left the file with the County Clerk. He is experiencing problems with an Attorney and the Attorney’s unauthorized practice of law.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 13) Change Order Regarding EDA Funded Instrumentation and Controls Project – Water System/Wastewater Plant.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 1, 2003 through August 7, 2003 in the amount of $468,016.11 and the bi-weekly payroll for the period ending August 2, 2003 in the amount of $591,898.56 be approved.

The Committee considered a memorandum from Art Lauren, Community Corrections Coordinator, regarding approval of the Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan and Application – Fiscal Year 2004. The Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan and Application for Fiscal Year 2004 was submitted to the Department of Corrections/Office of Community Corrections on May 15, 2003. The Plan and Application was approved by the Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board on May 14th, and should have been brought before the Board of Commissioners for approval prior to being sent to the Office of Community Corrections. Mr. Lauren is now submitting it to the County Board for approval.

Marquette County has had a change in the Community Corrections Advisory Board Manager and Circuit Court Probation Supervisor which has enabled the County to review current programs and decide which are the most valuable and meet both the local and State objectives. The County has chosen to concentrate on a few key services which provide the greatest benefit in terms of jail utilization and options for rehabilitation programming for chronic offenders. In light of the changes many of the proposals in the FY 2004 Application are not likely to be pursued until the new manager is familiar with the programs and has a clear understanding of the needs of the County. It is recommended the County continue in the direction to select a few core services and develop/implement the programs prior to exploring additional services. Marquette County has chosen to concentrate on three core programs: Work crew, electronic monitoring, and cognitive change. It is anticipated these programs will provide an impact on all state board priorities.

It is of utmost importance that the County Board review the Plan Application and decide on its approval before it goes again before the Office of Community Corrections on August 21st.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan and Application – Fiscal Year 2004.

The Committee they considered requested removal of County Road Commissioner Robert Menard. At the August 5, 2003 meeting the County Board gave final approval to a Committee of the Whole Recommendation regarding the twelve concerns expressed in a written document presented to the Board on behalf of AFSCME Local 2724. The action was to “not accept as charges all of the allegations presented in their present form, and direct that any issues be formalized into actual complaints and be given to the County Clerk by Thursday, August 7, 2003, to be presented and brought back to the Committee of the Whole on August 12, 2003 for review and to determine which, if any, of them deem to be appropriate for a hearing.”

On August 12, 2003 the County Clerk received a document entitled “Marquette County Road Commission.” Steven L. Pence, Attorney representing AFSCME Local 2724 addressed the Committee
regarding citizen petitions/concerns of union employees at the Marquette County Road Commission. Also present and made comment was Bill LaBelle, 199 McClure Dam Road, President, AFSCME Local 2724.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Girard and carried on a roll call vote 5 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Girard, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Tuominen, and Comm. Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, and Comm. Nordeen) that the County Board not schedule a formal hearing because the charges that were submitted on or before August 7th as stated in the original motion are subjective and do not form a factual basis to have a formal hearing.

Due to the length of discussion and significant nature of comments on the numerous issues regarding the Marquette County Road Commission from Commissioners and other present, a complete tape of the discussion is available in the County Clerk’s Office.

It was then moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and carried on a roll call vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Nordeen) that the Committee of the Whole Recommend the County Board:

1) Establish an independent task force to study the management and operational effectiveness of the Road Commission and to encourage the Road Commission to fully cooperate with the task force;
2) The task force charge will be to analyze all Road Commission policies, practices, and procedures for efficiency and effectiveness; formulate necessary corrective action plan(s); and to formulate implementation recommendations;
3) Task force will:
   • Consist of up to seven members
   • Exist for not more than 90 days in duration
   • Be comprised of members with expertise in road construction, road maintenance, State Department of Transportsations Regulations and Funding, project planning, finance, business management, or other similar applicable specialties

The Committee considered Change Order No. 4 for EDA III Heat Conversion Contract with Pro-Therm Mechanical, Inc. from Steven J. Schenden, Project Manager. The change is to replace three pumps used to circulate heating water, unpinckle the heat system and to recover electrical costs paid by the County. The only power used in these buildings during the time period covered, was for EDA projects. According to the contract documents the contractor is to pay utility costs. Bidders on this project were told we would issue a change order for the utilities after the costs were determined. Doing this allows us to have EDA pay for these costs.

The total amount of the change order is $22,220. The County’s share will be about $1,555.40 with the balance coming from EDA. The total amount available for this project is $600,000. The current status of funding is approximately $12,000 for engineering and $282,650 for construction, leaving $305,320 available in the project budget.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Change Order No. 4 for EDA III Heat Conversion with Pro-Therm Mechanical, Inc.

The Committee considered acceptance of Change Order No. 1 for Public Safety Building Project from Steven J. Schenden, Project Manager. Change Order No. 1 is to Associated Constructors for work on the Public Safety Building and Lead Paint Abatement Project. The change is for adding automatic openers to the overhead doors in Buildings 609, additional lead paint sample analysis, and removal on Building 608, adding telephone service, plumbing changes and additional sand removal requested by the County for work on the Public Safety Building.

The additional work is to remove four additional overhead doors from Building 609 and infill the openings ($17,260). Since the project was designed the additional doors had pealing lead paint and needed to be removed. Electric openers were added to the four doors that had already been removed ($5,011). Telephone services was added ($5,312) to the project, and plumbing changes ($2,001.30) were required when the sanitary sewer laterals location was changed. Additional sand was removed ($1,912.50) from the site to make a level area south of the building. The additional costs are $31,496.80, of which the County is responsible for approximately $2,204.78. Money is available in the EDA III Grant to cover the cost. Hitch, Inc. is preparing the Change Orders.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept Change Order No. 1 for Public Safety Building Project to Associated Constructors.
The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, August 12, 2003, they considered the USDA Rural Enterprise Grant. September 24, 2002 the Marquette County Board of Commissioners approved the application for a USDA Rural Enterprise Grant in the amount of $30,000. The grant will be used to conduct a feasibility study for a mixed-use incubator in Marquette County. The amount awarded was reduced to $20,000 by the USDA. Marquette County will be providing and in-kind match of $6,500, which is essentially a portion of staff time to manage the project.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the USDA Rural Enterprise Grant in the amount of $20,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a mixed-use incubator in Marquette County.

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The Committee considered an EDA II Tax Card Project. The EDA II Tax Card Project is an addendum to the agreement for collection and preparation of tax information for new parcels, Sawyer International Airport and vicinity, Marquette, Michigan, between Marquette County and Associated Appraisals Consultants, Inc. This is an addendum to an Agreement made the 17th day of December, 2002. The County and the Consultant have negotiated a change in work which includes:

1) 61 additional parcels assessed and tax cards prepared. The cards will benefit local assessors as they catch up with the placement of the Sawyer property on their respective roles. The $20,000 addendum is within the original amount budgeted for work. The work is EDA II grant funded.

2) Assessment of mold – infected buildings requiring protective clothing and gear for interior assessment;

3) Assessment of Wastewater Treatment Plant.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Addendum to Agreement for Collection and Preparation of Tax Information for New Parcels (Sawyer International Airport and vicinity).

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The Committee considered mid-year budget amendments presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager. All departments were requested to review their revenues and expenditures through June. Ms. Vercoe submitted recommendations which were prepared based on requests and information from the Departments and her own review.

No. 14 – General Fund: This amendment covers a number of adjustments to both revenue and expense line items. On the revenue side, State shared revenue is being reduced by $118,104 based on current State projections and District Court revenues are reduced by a total of $76,750. These revenue reductions are offset by revenue increases in other line items, most significantly Register of Deeds Services in increased by $143,000 as a result of mortgage refinancing. Revenue adjustments in total result in a $35,861 increase.

On the expenditure side, line item adjustments total $56,113, reducing the contingency account by $20,252. The balance in the contingency account will be $93,748 (the contingency amount at this time last year was $72,169). The most significant expense adjustments are for the jail. The salary and benefit line items are increased by $108,000, including $60,000 for part-time salaries. Jail health services is increased by $25,000. Overtime for Road Patrol and the Rescue Unit is increased by $14,500 as a result of the Dead River Flood. Medical examiner fees and autopsies are increased by $44,500 as a result of last year’s fee increase as well as increased volume. Utilities for the Courthouse Complex are increased by $20,265 because of natural gas rate increases. Expenditure increases have been offset in part by a $90,000 decrease in retiree hospitalization resulting from coverage changes. Employment vacancies in various departments have created a savings of $25,000. Other department line items have been reduced where appropriate.

No. 15-17 – Sawyer International Airport and Business Center:

Airport revenue adjustments include a $41,000 increase in hangar rentals, and a $54,220 decrease is PFC revenue as a result of the loss of the Houghton flight. PFC collection for a previous project has been approved allowing the use of PFC equity of $140,687. The cancellation of the TSA Agreement for Airport Security reduces revenues by $80,274 and expenses by $70,946. Capital outlay expenses are increased by $86,467. The transfer in the Development Fund is reduced by $32,393. Revenues for the Development Fund are increased by $231,000 primarily the result of increased property sales. The net result of changes to various expense line items is an increase of less than $1,000. Total impact of this budget amendment reduces the use of fund equity by $230,060. For Caretaker, various line item adjustments are requested, with revenues and expense increasing by $522,850.
No. 18 – Building Authority (DeFant Building): The amendment increases expenditures by $2,077, as a result of the increased rates for natural gas.

No. 19 – Health Department: This amendment reduces the annual depreciation contribution to the Service Center Fund, allows for a $50,000 transfer from the Service Center Fund to the Health Department Fund, and reflects line item changes as provided by the Board of Health.

No. 20 – MCTV Grant: This amendment reflects the loss of the Child Passenger Safety Grant. Personnel reductions will be necessary this year to keep expenditures within available resources.

The Probate Child Care Fund and FIA Child Care Fund were reviewed. Both funds are operating within their appropriation at this time.

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 approve the Mid-Year Budget Amendments as presented.

The Committee considered a Change Order for the EDA funded Instrumentation and Controls Project Water System/Wastewater Plant with Van Ert Electric presented by Steven J. Schenden, Project Manager.

The Change Order is to use the new radio-control system to; monitor and record chlorine and fluoride levels at the well houses; monitor and record influent pump operation and upgrade the software package for the system. The Engineer has reviewed the costs and found them appropriate. Funding is available in the grant to cover the $35,401 cost for the additional work. The County’s share for this Change Order is approximately $2,478.07.

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 approve Change Order No. 2 for the EDA funded Instrumentation and Controls Project Water System/Wastewater Plant Contract with Van Ert Electric.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bob Menard, Marquette County Road Commission, was present and thanked the County Board. He stated it is a difficult situation for everyone, especially for himself and his family. He suggested the County Board check not only management but also the union.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Mr. Menard for being open and honest.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENT, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Comm. Bergdahl announced there will be an Open House on August 22, 2003 for the Midwest Skill Development Center at KI Sawyer International Airport and Business Center.

Comm. Cihak announced Commissioners will be attending the MAC Legislative Summer Conference on August 17, 18, and 19, 2003.

Chairperson Corkin announced the next County Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 20, 2003 at 7:00 P.M.

Comm. Joseph thanked the Fair Board and its members for a great job with the Marquette County Fair.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board publicly thanked Comm. Bergdahl and the Fair Board for the excellent job they did at the Marquette County Fair, its an excellent family event.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced he and Sue Vercoe are still working on balancing the 2004 budget. He explained 2004 is going to be a difficult year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, August 12, 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.
7. Discussion Regarding Marquette County Road Commission.
8. Change Order No. 4 for EDA III Heat Conversion.
9. Change Order No. 1 for Public Safety Building Project.
10. USDA Rural Enterprise Grant.
11. Addendum to Agreement – Associated Appraisals Consultants EDA Grant Sawyer International Airport.
12. Mid-Year Budget Amendments.
13. EDA funded Instrumentation & Controls Project – Water System / Wastewater Plant.
14.
15.
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.