The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 11, 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. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 25, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Karyl Rapport, Marquette, spoke regarding the “Cover the Uninsured Week Proclamation.” She noted because of a slow economy and rising health care costs being uninsured is now affecting the middle class, not just the unemployed. Many employers cannot afford to provide health insurance coverage for their employees. Those citizens who do have health insurance coverage end up covering the cost of the uninsured. The Medical Care Access Coalition has assisted approximately 1,400 citizens in Marquette County with health coverage. The resolution hopes to bring public awareness declaring March 10th through the 16th, 2003 as “Cover the Uninsured Week.” There are over 7,400 residents in Marquette County who do not have health insurance and she urged citizens to work to seek solutions to this problem by participating in the Faith Community Breakfast, March 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

A large contingent if citizens was present to support agenda item 14) Proposed Peace Resolution. Six individuals made presentations and spoke eloquently against the war on Iraq and in favor of the Peace Resolution. Those citizens that spoke include Don Potvin – Marquette, Steve Hurst – Marquette, Mike Adams – NMU Student, Sandy Dreisbach – Marquette, Gordon Peterson – Marquette, and David Mayer – Marquette.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following change: Item 14) Proposed Peace Resolution be moved forward in the agenda to Item 7a.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 28, 2003 through March 6, 2003 in the amount of $877,176.44 and payroll for the period ending March 1, 2003 in the amount of $603,125.26 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution honoring Patricia S. Gruber on her retirement:

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING PATRICIA S. GRUBER ON HER RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens the best services possible by hiring employees of the finest quality; and

WHEREAS, Patricia S. Gruber was hired on May 4, 1987 and served as a planner in the Resource Management/Development Department until December 3, 1993; and was rehired on September 2, 1997 into the KI Sawyer Development Department as a Development Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Patricia S. Gruber will retire on March 14, 2003 after 12 years and 1 month service to Marquette County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully expresses its appreciation for the dedicated service of Patricia S. Gruber; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all County Citizens, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wishes Pat and her husband Norm a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Proclaimed this 11th day of March, 2003
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
The Committee considered the Proclamation from the Medical Care Access Coalition entitled “Cover the Uninsured Week”. Chairperson Corkin thanked Karlyn Rapport for her work with the Medical Care Access Coalition in helping 1,400 County citizens receive health benefits. Resolution as follows:

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 41, million Americans do not have health insurance coverage;

WHEREAS, 7,465 residents Marquette County are without health care coverage;

WHEREAS, eight of 10 of the uninsured are in working families that cannot afford health insurance and are not eligible for public programs;

WHEREAS, uninsured Americans live sicker and die younger because they are forced to go without health care they need;

WHEREAS, a slow economy, higher unemployment, budget deficits on a national, state and local level and rising health care costs mean that more Americans are becoming uninsured in our community;

THEREFORE, we recognize the urgency of seeking solutions to one of America’s greatest problems, and hereby declare March 10-16, 2003 COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK. Further we urge Marquette County residents to work to seek solutions to the problems our uninsured neighbors face by attending the Faith Community Breakfast March 14 from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM.

Proclaimed this 11th day of March, 2003

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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The Committee considered the proposed Peace Resolution. It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Girard, for discussion purposes that the resolution be adopted.

Comm. Wallace spoke in favor of adopting the Peace Resolution. He appreciated the comments from the citizens supporting the resolution and believes Saddam Hussein should be removed, however, he believes the war will be short but is concerned about what will happen after the war. He noted the U.S. is seeking support from other nations with financial bribes.

The remaining eight Commissioners all spoke regarding the Peace Resolution in the following order: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Corkin, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Girard, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Tuominen, Comm. Bergdahl, and Comm. Joseph. The general consensus of these Commissioners is: They appreciate and respect the opinions and comments made by the citizens during public comment. Commissioners would like to see the matter settled without having to go to war, however, once our President, the Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces, decides to go to war it is necessary for our military people to follow. The Commissioners cannot support a resolution which would undermine the 250,000 troops who will be in harms way and give the impression they are not being supported.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board thanked everyone who spoke under Public Comment regarding the Peace Resolution.

The Committee voted on the motion to support the proposed Peace Resolution:

AYES: Comm. Wallace

Motion Defeated.

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The Committee considered a proposal for renovations to Sawyer Building 731. Steven J. Schenden, SIABC Project Manager, was present to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

Sawyer Building 731 renovations are being done to comply with the Lease Agreement with the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). The building will be occupied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The project was advertised in the newspaper and sent to the Marquette Builder’s Exchange.
The low proposal was from Premaeu Construction of Marquette for $98,779 or $23.54 psf for two years. The rental rate is $31.29 psf. The work will be paid by Marquette County and amortised in accordance with the lease in the form of rent and tenant improvement allowance. This amount will be fully repaid to the County within two years plus interest at 6% and the General Contractor Fee of 10%.

Mr. Schendel noted the building is 4,000 sq. ft. and the renovations include remodeling bathrooms to ADA standards, air conditioning, painting, ceiling tiles, etc.

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 proposal for Building 731 renovations to the low bidder, Premaeu Construction of Marquette, in the amount of $98,779.

The Committee considered the sale of personal property to the Zack Companies and the assignment of the Lease from the Zack Companies to John E. Green Company. Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, was present to discuss the proposal and answer questions.

The Zack Companies and Marquette County entered into a Lease on April 1, 2001. This lease will expire on October 31, 2004, however Zack is selling its assets and inventory to the John E. Green Company.

Last fall Zack approached County Staff regarding downsizing. The Company is down to two full-time employees and has been trying to relocate to a smaller facility.

The John E. Green Company founded a plumbing and heating business in 1909 and does approximately $350 million in business annually. By acquiring the sheet metal assets and taking over the lease at Sawyer John E. Green Company hopes to expand its business, will hire all Zack employees, and create additional jobs in Marquette County. The key to keeping the project moving is the ability for Zack Companies to transfer ownership of a couple of brake machines used at the facility currently owned by the County. These machines were included as part of the lease and purchase option. The equipment is valued at one-third Air Force value of $30,000. Similar machines sold for much less in previous auctions.

Ms. Kulju noted the Zack Company has invested over $100,000 in building and site improvements, including a new boiler, driveway, fencing, electrical upgrades, and overhead door upgrades. The equipment sale will help them recoup part of their investment.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted allowing John E. Green Company to acquire the lease and the personal property of the Zack Company will keep this building occupied, provide continuing lease income to the County and hopefully add to the County’s workforce.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole Recommend the County Board approve the sale of personal property to the Zack Companies and assignment of lease from the Zack Company to John E. Green Company with the same lease terms until October 2004.

The Committee considered an agreement with the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) for planning and development services.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted CUPPAD provides planning and development services to local governments in the Central Upper Peninsula. Transportation, geographic information system, economic development, and general planning and development are areas where CUPPAD services and expertise benefit Marquette County. CUPPAD is mostly funded by the Federal EDA. A contractual agreement should be used when the County is providing funds to agencies and in return is receiving services. Local governments though CUPPAD work together at a regional level which has helped to build an effective and strong organization.

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 the Agreement with the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission for Planning and Development Services for $9,000.

The Committee considered a request from Forsyth Township for support for its application for the 2003 grant cycle to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Comm. Nordeen, who represents Forsyth Township, noted the project includes approximately $600,000 in improvements to the Peter Nordeen Park in Gwinn. The park may not only be used by Forsyth Township but all Marquette County residents.
The project includes the following items: New riverfront pathway, canoe launch with parking, new community pavilion, a masonry screen wall will be constructed to act as a visual buffer between the playground and the street, sidewalks improved with barrier free access throughout the park, site lighting, a new playground which will also include barrier free elements, expanded restrooms and concessions, and a historic performance gazebo.

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 support Forsyth Township’s application to the Natural Resources Trust Fund for the 2003 grant cycle funds to improve the Peter Nordeen Park.

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The Committee considered a 2% funding request to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, has recommended the County Board forward a request for $20,000 for the Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum, $30,000 for the Marquette County Dental Clinic, and $121,000 for the Sheriff’s Department DARE Program.

Marilyn Mutch was present and distributed materials explaining the Liberty Arts Children’s Project (LACP) located in Neguane. Funding for art projects in Michigan will be cut drastically and Ms. Mutch is requesting LACP also be included in a request for 2% gaming revenues in the amount of $20,000.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole Recommend the County Board approve and forward 2% funding requests to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the following: Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum - $20,000, Marquette County Dental Clinic - $30,000, Sheriff’s Department DARE Program - $121,000, and the Liberty Arts Children’s Project - $20,000.

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The Committee considered a letter from Noreen Sawatzki, Regional Administrator for Field Operations, Michigan Department of Corrections, regarding the appointment of an appropriate Staff Member to the Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board. Ms. Sawatzki selected and recommends the County Board appoint Robert DeCamp, Parole/Probations Supervisor for Marquette County, to the vacancy on its Community Corrections Board.

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 appoint Robert DeCamp, Parole/Probation Supervisor, to the Community Corrections Advisory Board.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Tuominen reported the Road Commission will perform upgrades and repairs on County Road 462 this summer at a cost of $791,021.90.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Resolution Honoring Patricia S. Gruber on Her Retirement.
7. “Cover the Uninsured Week” Proclamation from the Medical Care Access Coalition.
9. Sale of Sawyer Personal Property to the Zack Companies and Assignment of Lease from the Zack Companies to John E. Green Company.
10. Agreement with CUPPADD for Planning and Development Services.
12. Request for 2% Gaming Revenue.
13. Appointment of Robert DeCamp, Marquette County Parole/Probation Supervisor, to the Community Corrections Advisory Board.
15.
16.
17.
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.