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

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 12) Airport Manager Contract; and Item 13) Letter of Support for the Contract Tower Program.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 14, 2003 through March 20, 2003 in the amount of $1,148,794.27 and biweekly payroll for the period ending March 15, 2003 in the amount of $591,477.54 be approved.

The Committee considered a request from Comm. Tuominen for a Cost Benefit Analysis for the Health Department. Comm. Tuominen suggested that costs might be reduced by combining the administrative duties of the County and the Health Department with other County operations to save money. Comm. Tuominen requested that the County Administrator prepare information in time for Commissioners to consider prior to the 2004 budget process.

County Administrator, Steve Powers, explained that he will consult with Dr. Randall Johnson, Health Department Director, when preparing the analysis.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff to prepare a Cost Benefit Analysis for streamlining the Health Department and the County into one unified system under the County umbrella. Such analysis to be prepared for the August Budget Process for possible formal action and implementation with the new Fiscal Year 2004.

The Committee considered a communication from Robert S. Menard, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, regarding the Jurisdiction Transfer of Charlie Lakes Road to the County Road Commission. This matter has weighed heavily on the minds of many people for many years. Mr. Menard explained that the transaction will be completed as quickly as possible.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file.

The Committee considered the 2003 Big Bay Harbor Seasonal Mooring Fees. The State has established the rate schedule for seasonal mooring at Harbors of Refuge. Proposed State rates have not changed from the 2002 boating season. Currently 120 feet of seawall is set aside for seasonal rental.

Historically speaking, long term demand at the Harbor has been erratic and given the remoteness of the site, it is unlikely that the Harbor would remain full if rates were raised to State levels.

Staff recommends we request the State to authorize current County rate structure (2002) for the 2003 boating season. Revenue impact relates to level of seasonal use.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request the State allow us to maintain our current fee structure for Big Bay Harbor Seasonal Mooring Fees.
The Committee considered Big Bay Harbor – Transient Mooring Fees. The County is obligated by the grant-in-aid agreement to adopt the Waterways Commission fee schedule for transient mooring at Harbors of Refuge or request permission to vary the State mandated rates. In the past, we have adopted the State proposed transient schedule which is the same for all State sponsored south shore Lake Superior harbors. Staff believes that boaters traveling the Great Lakes expect uniform fees and find our services (refuge mooring, restroom shower and fuel) comparable to those at other harbors. Proposed 2003 rates are unchanged from 2002 rates.

Staff recommends the County adopt the State’s 2003 Transient Mooring Fee Schedule. Budget impact is dependent on the level of use.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the State’s 2003 Big Bay Harbor Transient Mooring Fee Schedule.

The Committee considered the Acceptance of Proposal for Mold Remediation. A copy of the Proposal Opening Record for Professional Services on 12 Buildings at K.I. Sawyer was submitted by Steven Schenden, P.E., Project Manager. The work is being completed on Caretaker Buildings to make the buildings safe for occupancy before the County accepts them. The project was advertised in the Marquette Mining Journal.

The low proposal was from TriMedia Consultants of Marquette for $59,640. The project is set up to award Work Plans and Costs Estimates at this time and then to award Preparation of Specifications, Conduct Bidding and oversight of Work once costs estimates are compared to available funding. The work is broken down by building and also into remediation, restoration and property cleaning/disposal. The Caretaker has agreed to pay for the remediation; the County is still in discussions with the Air Force on who will pay for the restoration. The cost to clean and/or dispose of property is the responsibility of the County. The costs for the work to be awarded at this time are $12,500 for remediation, $3,080 for restoration and $1,440 for personal property.

Contract documents for this project are being prepared by TriMedia and will be submitted for review by Civil Counsel and Risk Management. Mr. Schenden recommends TriMedia be awarded the Work Plans and Costs Estimates for Buildings 634, 632, 428, 429, 430, 701, 710, 819, 872, 426 and 850 for a total of $17,020, contingent upon contract approval by Civil Counsel and Risk management.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award TriMedia the Work Plans and Costs Estimates for Mold Remediation for Buildings 634, 632, 428, 429, 430, 701, 710, 819, 872, 426 and 850 for a total of $17,020, contingent upon contract approval by Civil Counsel and Risk Management.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file the SIABC Financial and Passenger Reports.

The Committee considered the County’s Employment Agreement with Hal Pawley, SIABC Director. Hal’s agreement with the County expires April 30, 2003. recommended changes from his current employment agreement are the term and compensation.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the term of the agreement is extended one year, to April 30, 2004 and is recommending a $2,500.00 salary increase effective May 1, 2003 through April 30, 2004. He believes market, responsibilities, and performance justify the changes. By agreement, Hal waives participation in the County health insurance and retirement plans. Hal has waived participation since 1992. Hal agrees with the changes.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the County’s Employment Agreement with Hal Pawley, SIABC Director, as recommended by County Administrator, Steve Powers, extending the term of the agreement one year, to April 30, 2004, and a $2,500.00 salary increase effective May 1, 2003 through April 30, 2004.
The Committee considered Support for the FAA’s Contract Tower Program. The opening of a contract tower at Sawyer International Airport in October 2002 has greatly improved the safety of flying at this previously uncontrolled airport. Before the tower, there were incidents of two aircraft simultaneously taking off or landing from opposite ends of the runway, creating a highly dangerous potential for an accident. The track record of the contract tower program has clearly enhanced air traffic safety, as validated by two comprehensive audits by the DOT Inspector General.

Currently, there are 219 airports participating in this public/private sector partnership. The contract tower program has benefited from strong Appropriations Committee support and consistent bipartisan backing in Congress. Participating airports and aviation users universally support the contract tower program, which receives strong oversight by FAA.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a Letter of Support to our State and Federal Legislators and the State Aeronautics Commission, urging them to support adequate funding for the Contract Tower Program, specifically requesting support of a $82.5 million of funding for the regular FAA Contract Tower Program, as well as an additional $6.5 million for continuation of the contract tower cost-sharing program.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Chairperson Corkin congratulated both the Marquette Senior High School and Westwood High School Basketball Teams for their 2003 Season. The Upper Peninsula was well represented in the State Championships.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Brannam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, March 25, 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. Discussion regarding request for Cost Benefit Analysis for Health Dept.
7. Transfer of Charlie Lakes Road to County Road Commission.
8. Big Bay Harbor of Refuge 2003 Seasonal Mooring Fees.
10. Acceptance of Proposal for Mold Remediation.
11. SIABC Financial and Passenger Reports.
12. Airport Manager Contract.

14.

15.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.