March 9, 1982

Honorable Chair and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Executive Committee was duly called and held on
March 9, 1982 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished
to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is
attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Chair

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March 9, 1982

Honorable Chair and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Attached is a resolution recognizing the Honorable Dominic J. Jacobetti's contributions to Marquette County as representative for the 108th District in the Michigan House of Representatives. The Executive Committee recommends that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners adopt the resolution and present it to Mr. Jacobetti at the Democratic Party's fete in his honor.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

__________________________  Chair
March 9, 1982

Honorable Chair and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

You will remember, on February 17, 1982 the County Board directed the Executive Committee to consider the issue of conducting hearings on rezoning petitions prior to scheduled Committee of the Whole meetings by recessing the County Board's second regular meeting of the month to the time of the Committee of the Whole meeting for that purpose. In discussing the matter a general consensus of the Committee was reached that by delaying the hearing by one week would not cause undue hardship to petitioners, and would reduce the workload at the regular Board meeting.

Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the second regular Board meeting of each month be recessed to the day and time scheduled for the monthly Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of conducting public hearings on petitions to rezone property, and other matters that may come before the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

__________________________________________________________________________ Chair

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March 9, 1982

The Executive Committee meeting was duly called and held on March 9, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

Present: Commissioners May, LaPin, Racine and Villeneuve.

Absent: Commissioner Cheatham.

In Attendance: Henry Schneider, Equalization Director; Peter Embley; Paul Nykanen, Register of Deeds; James Sodergren, County Treasurer; and Duane Beard, Controller.

The meeting was called to order by Chair LaPin.

The public comment section was opened. No one present wished to speak during public comment.

Approval of the agenda was the next item of business. The placement of a resolution from Iron County on forest suppliers and buyers was moved to follow the discussion on equalization.

Approval of the minutes of February 9, 1982 meeting was the next order of business. It was moved by Commissioner Villeneuve, supported by Commissioner May and carried unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

James Sodergren, Treasurer, Henry Schneider, Equalization Director, and Paul Nykanen, Register of Deeds, were present as representatives of the Public Records functional group to discuss 1983 Board goals and objectives.

James Sodergren said they did not meet as a group to discuss goals and objectives and his comments reflect only his own views. He noted the updating of the County Comprehensive Plan is near completion. He believes the Board should prioritize goals and objectives that are mentioned in the new Comprehensive Plan. He said the Board should look into cutting costs and reducing duplication of services. He suggested that the County Board continue to support fixed millage and that a study should be conducted on major medical and drug rider benefits as he believes there is a duplication of costs occurring.

Sodergren felt the Mineral Resources Commission's role should be strengthened.

Sodergren noted legislation is pending which will allow taxpayers to make partial payments on property taxes. This will increase workload of the department. He believes a county tax system should be established that is efficient and cost effective and that all units should be encouraged, perhaps by financial incentive, to join the county system. Duane Beard said the county's computer has the capacity to operate a tax system and it would take six to eight weeks to set up. Currently units participate in three different systems; Manatron is the predominant one used. Schneider felt the single county tax system should be a priority also. He said new legislation will require a more coordinated tax system in the future. Sodergren noted there is new legislation pending which will place more responsibility on County Treasurers for tax collection.
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It was observed that the state mandated truth in taxation and truth in assessing legislation is contrary to the Headlee Amendment. The only way to fight this is through the courts.

The Mineral Resources Commission was again discussed. It was noted that under the Board’s charges to them the Board may request the Commission to study specific topics and that they are responsible for arranging their own agendas. Sodergren felt the responsibility of that Commission should be expanded to include water and forestry activities. Commissioner Villeneuve felt the public sector should be represented on the Commission. Commissioner May suggested each person on the Mineral Resources Commission could be responsible for a portion of the agenda that pertains to their expertise since it is comprised of representatives of mining, economics, ecology, etc. They could also establish goals for themselves.

Paul Nykanen said he still does not have a electronic cash register for his department. He said the auditor had suggested that an electronic cash register be used by his Department. He said he would like to see records microfilmed. He noted there is a MICLE 1200 camera which is a self-contained unit for microfilming and he believes it should be investigated.

Beard said funds are budgeted for the cash register. He noted the Records Management Report recommended that certain steps be taken by departments before records are microfilmed, such as development of a records retention schedule; indexing of records; repair of records; and purging or unnecessary records.

Schneider said the elimination of duplication of services should be a Board goal. He said use of the County government slide presentation should be increased. More public input should be encouraged by the Board. He suggested conducting a random survey of county residents to learn of their concerns. He said too often special interest groups set policy. He said a simple list which indicates mandated services provided by the county and those services provided which are optional should be developed.

Schneider believes fixed millage should be sought. He said a goal should be set to actively work at informing the public about the assessment and equalization process, as well as to inform them of the services they receive from their tax dollars. He suggested the county look into the feasibility of, and pursue more vigorously, implementation of a user fee for the tract index. He felt the county should support legislation to allow partial tax payments as it would benefit the public. He said the goals he feels are most important are making the public aware of what services the county provides, and getting ideas from the public on what services they want. Commissioner May thought perhaps a series of T.V. presentations could be used to inform the public of services offered.

James Sodergren and Paul Nykanen left the meeting.
The Committee and Schneider then discussed the equalization process. Schneider said concerns brought up by specific units at the March 5, 1982 meeting of the Committee will be responded to. He will submit a copy of the department's responses to the Board.

A communication sent by Schneider to all local assessors and Executive Committee members on "General Rules" of the State Tax Commission and State Assessors Board, and a copy of those rules, were presented. Schneider said the Tax Commission rules have been adopted but the Assessor rules are still under review. He reviewed the changes contained in the new rules for the Committee's information.

A copy of a communication from Schneider to the County Board on study methods used by the Equalization Department for the equalization process was presented. It was noted the Board has concurred with Schneider's suggestions in that communication to ask the State Tax Commission to conduct an investigation of methods used by his department.

A copy of a letter from Lake Michigamme Property Owners, Inc. to the State Tax Commission on assessments of property in Michigamme Township was discussed. The Association requested that an investigation be made of assessment methods used by the Michigamme assessor in assessing lake property as they felt they have received higher assessments than other property owners in Michigamme Township. Schneider said the State Tax Commission looked into this matter and no action is going to be taken.

A memo from Schneider to local assessors on the formation of a Marquette County Assessors Association was reviewed by the Committee. According to Schneider the formation of such an Association would improve the assessment and equalization process in the county and would be beneficial in terms of:

1. Public relations
2. Data base sharing
3. Equalization studies
4. Identifying and solving common problems

Points on equalization that were brought up at the March 5, 1982 meeting of the Committee were briefly discussed.

Commissioner LaPin said he received good comments regarding the Board of Review workshop conducted by the Equalization Department and was told it was the best one held in years.

The Committee was provided a communication from Henry Schneider on new tax limitations for their information. Schneider then left the meeting.

The Committee briefly discussed a pamphlet on "Streamlining Governing Body Meetings". Peter Embley felt an immediate response should be made to individuals submitting complaints to the County Board. He felt the Board's rules of order should provide for recognizing a member of the public who wishes to address an item under discussion.
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It was moved by Commissioner Racine, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve to table until such time as the Committee wishes to consider new procedures for running meetings. Commissioner Villeneuve suggested a copy of the pamphlet be provided to each Board member and the Controller for review and comments. This will be done. Following discussion the motion carried unanimously.

The Iron County resolution calling for legislation to prevent buyers of forest products from being sued by second or third parties involved in the sale of forest products was presented. This had been tabled at the last meeting until additional information could be obtained. The Committee reviewed copies of communications from U.P. legislators to the Iron County Soil and Water Conservation District on the proposal.

Discussion was held on no parking signs placed on Baraga Avenue by the City of Marquette at the request of the Department of Corrections because of trials being held on prison cases in Circuit Court. Commissioner Racine noted the security entrance from the Jail to the Annex is not being used. Duane Beard suggested the Board send a letter asking that the Department of Corrections use the security entrance and take the no parking signs down at night.

Discussion returned to the Iron County resolution. Commissioner May noted the legislators' communications indicate there is no legal remedy to the current situation. Senator Mack indicates nothing can be done by the legislature to alleviate the problems. Representative Koivisto indicated he would continue to pursue the matter. It was moved by Commissioner Racine, supported by Commissioner May and carried unanimously to table until additional information is received from legislators.

The Committee discussed the County Board's policy on bi-annual appointments to boards/commissions. This was referred to the Committee by the Board. It was noted that Commissioner Leone suggested at the Board meeting that a call for applications be made only twice a year but as vacancies occur during the year applications already on hand be considered for filling the vacancy. Commissioner Racine suggested that when vacancies occur there are no applications on hand that the Board advertise for applicants.

Commissioner Villeneuve said the Chair of the Mineral Resources Commission last year was not reappointed to the Commission for this year and no provision was made to call the first meeting for 1982. He felt a policy should be established covering this. Duane Beard said that also occurred with the Harbor Commission. He suggested asking appointed boards/commissions to schedule the first meeting in the coming year at their last meeting of the current year.

Discussion was held on consolidating the Mineral Resources Commission with the Parks, Harbor and Forestry Commissions. It was moved by Commissioner Villeneuve, supported by Commissioner Racine and carried unanimously to ask the Intergovernmental Relations Committee to include consolidation of the Mineral Resources Commission in their discussion of consolidation of the Parks, Harbor and Forestry Commissions.

The Controller was directed to draw up a draft policy for the Committee's review which would reflect:
1. Development of standing list of applicants for boards/commissions to be used to fill vacancies as they occur during the year.
2. To advertise when no applications are on hand for vacancy.
3. To appoint individuals only from applications received.
4. Appoint from list only.
5. As applications are received copies will be provided to commissioners for their file so that repetitive duplication of applications are not necessary.

The Committee discussed development of a five year transportation plan for the County. This item was carried over from 1981. The July 14, 1981 minutes indicated the Committee tabled the matter until receipt of the county incentive plan. The item was deferred until the next meeting.

Discussion on bus service to mines was held. A schedule for services to the mines has not been set at this time. Apparently the mines have had some reservations about allowing the service. Commissioner Villeneuve said he will attempt to determine whether the mining company will allow the Transportation Advisory Council to schedule routes to the mines.

The Committee discussed formulating a resolution recognizing Jacobetti's contributions to the County that could be presented to him at the Democratic Party's fete in his honor. The Controller was asked to draft up a resolution to that effect. The cost of a plaque for Jacobetti will be checked out and the commissioners will be asked whether they would be interested in contributing to payment of the plaque. It was moved by Commissioner Racine, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board to adopt a resolution recognizing Jacobetti's contributions to the county for presentation to him at the Democratic Party's fete in his honor.

The committee discussed formulating a resolution on revision of property tax laws. Commissioner May presented materials she had collected as a member of the County's Property Taxation Committee a few years ago, including the Committee's report and recommendations on the topic. It was noted there are four petition drives for tax proposals being circulated. Commissioner May believes the Committee should not formulate a resolution on such a complicated issue. She suggested instead that the Committee keep track of what is going on with the different petition drives and recommend a county position on the petitions.

The Committee discussed conducting hearings on petitions for rezoning of property in conjunction with Committee of the Whole meetings, rather than holding them at the second Board meeting of the month. This was referred to the Committee by the Board for recommendation. Commissioner Racine believes it would not be a hardship to petitioners of rezoning requests if the Board recessed its second meeting to the date of the Committee of the Whole meeting for the purpose of considering rezonings. It was noted there was some questions by Board members as to whether the Board had to conduct the public hearings on rezonings. Following discussion it was moved by Commissioner Racine, supported by Commissioner Villeneuve and carried unanimously to recommend to the County Board that for the purpose of hearings on petitions to rezone property, and other matters before the Board, that the second Board meeting of each month be recessed to the day of the Committee of the Whole meetings.
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A public notice from the Michigan Public Services Commission (PSC) on Wisconsin Electric Power Co.'s request to increase rates for electricity to Michigan customers, and a copy of a letter from the Board Chair to the PSC opposing any increase was noted and filed.

A notice of hearing from U.P. Power Co. on its request to increase rates of April and May, 1982; a notice of hearing from PSC on this, and a copy of a letter from the Board Chair to PSC opposing any increase were noted and filed.

A communication from Benzie County stating Benzie County concurred with the Marquette County resolution on iron ore imports was noted and filed. Copies have been sent to Gravedoni and Boyum.

A resolution from Cass County requesting fair and equitable property taxes was noted and filed. A resolution from Dickinson County opposing sales studies and supporting a freeze on SEV at the 1981 level until 1985 was noted and filed. The committee placed on file a resolution from Ottawa County on creative financing of property sales since the Board acted on this matter already.

The Committee received a MAC communication on amendments to H.B. 4914. The Controller said the State Legislative Committee asked MAC, the Clerks Association, Treasurers Association and Drain Commissioners Association to try to work out compromise legislation. Compromise legislation has been drawn up but the Clerks Association is in disagreement with it. The Clerks proposed that Controllers be elected officials.

Peter Embley spoke in favor of stockpiling ore. He said this was done by White Pine with copper at one time. He believes it is reasonable to do this and has talked to Gerry Blanchard about the proposal.

He asked that consideration be given to setting up a regional telecommunications authority. He spoke on the advantages and services that could be gained from setting up a telecommunications system in the area. He thought the Board should ask the OEDP Committee to look at this from a regional point of view.

Embley suggested the Planning Commission be asked to come up with projects for county EDC to finance.

As there was no further business to come before the Committee, it was moved by Commissioner May, supported by Commissioner Racine and carried unanimously to adjourn at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Karen Chubb, Commission Aide