June 2, 1982

The Marquette Board of Commissioners met on June 2, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. in the Michigan and Ontario Rooms, University Center, Northern Michigan University.

Chairperson Racine called the meeting to order and roll call was held by the Deputy County Clerk with the following roll recorded. Present: Comm. Carlson, Farrell, Juidici, LaMere, Lapin, Leone, Lowe, May, Steele, Villeneuve and Racine.

Absent: Comm. Cheatham.

There being no corrections to the minutes of the County Board meetings held on May 19, 1982 and May 26, 1982, Chairperson ordered them approved as presented.

Chairperson Racine opened the meeting for public comment and explained that if any one wished to speak regarding Project Elf, they would have that opportunity under Item 7, the Public Forum on Project Elf. There being no persons wishing to speak the public comment section was closed.

The agenda was approved by the general concensus of the board.

Chairperson Racine then introduced Admiral William Smith, of the US Department of Navy, who was present to give the Navy's explanation of Project Elf and answer questions.

Admiral Smith gave a short presentation with the use of slides - showing submarines on patrol. He said they do not rely on one system alone, they use a (1) Fixed VLF; (2) Satellite; (3) Tacoma Aircraft and (4) ELF. Admiral Smith described several submarine receiving methods, and how each performs. He stated the ELF system has worked very well since the mid 1960's.

Admiral Smith showed a map of the Michigan site which will have the message control center built on the K.I. Sawyer AFB and built along existing right-of-way, 56 miles of antenna in the Escanaba State Forest area, and put in a new improved design of ground terminal as recommended by the National Academy of Sciences.

Chairperson Racine thanked Admiral Smith for his presentation and opened the Public Forum on Project Elf to be conducted according to the following rules.

"Persons who wish to ask a question must fill out a registration card with their name and an indication of whether they want to ask their question themselves or if they want the clerk to ask the question for them. The cards must then be turned in to the clerk who will read them in the order received once the public forum part of the meeting begins.

When a card is read, if the person wants to ask his own question, he must step to the lectern and microphone provided; if he wants the clerk to read the question, the clerk will do so from the registration card. Each person will be allowed one follow-up question after the response to the initial question is completed. If a person wants to ask any more questions, they will have to submit another card to the clerk.

The clerk will continue to receive and read from the cards until all the cards are used or until the forum is declared over."

The following persons filled out registration cards requesting that their questions be read or asked to deliver their own question to the US Navy Representative about the controversial submarine communications Project Elf:
Ben Harris  
Daniel Helton  
Sarah Cloutier  
Tim Clancy  
Gerald Ely  
Gary Blanchard  
Carol Henry  
Susan Adams  
Larry Limne  
Herbert L. Taylor  
Dennis J. LeBeouf  
Susan Blanchard  
Howard Gumbert  
Francis DelRocher  
Michael J. Menhennick  
Michael Bennett  
Steve Unger  
Rich Schultz  

Peter Embley  
James J. Bennett  
David Kallo  
Harry W. Thibedieu  
Eleanor Niemi  
Erick J. Niemi  
Glenda Robinson  
John Hillman  
Karen Schmitt  
Sue Acocks  
W. H. Treloar  
Richard Dunnebaker  
R. F. Bergstrom  
Larry Alto  
Jo Turvey  
John F. LaVoy  
Scott Sutterlind  
William Robinson  
Harold Abrahams  
Paul G. Warick  
Stuart Skauge  
Michaeleen McKee  
Michael Nutini  
Kent Bourland  
Cheryl L. Reynolds  
Gregory Seppanen  
John Jacobs  
Vic Melchiori  
Scott Emerson  
Judith Catallo  
B. O'Connor  
Sue Sutterlind  
Brad VanSluyters  
Ann Johnson  
Philip Doepke  
Roger Hack

The Assembly was made up of persons from various organizations, such as Residents concerned about ELF; UP Environmental Coalition; Disabled American Veterans; American Legion; Citizens for ELF; Operation Action; Veterans of Foreign Wars, plus individuals just wanting some questions answered.

Some of the various questions and answers were:

1. What is the actual frequency, and what is the scientific evidence that, that frequency does cause biological harm?
   Answer: Extremely low frequency is the range they think of between 300 cycles per second and 30 cycles. The system is currently being operated at 76 cycles per second, which gives the penetration into the sea water. The current in that antenna is being moved by about 3000 volts of power, which compares with the 575,000 volts normally associated with high power transmission lines that carry power to major generating centers throughout the network. They do not have any evidence that ELF at the power level their using causes any damage biologically to humans or animals.

2. As questions arise after this forum, is there an address they can write to with their concerns?
   Answer: Address is -- Admiral William Smith
               % Chief of Navy Personnel
               Washington DC 20350

3. Does the Navy plan to do further environmental testing & if so when do they plan to begin?
   Answer: Testing will take place before any type of work commences in the forest land areas.

4. How many jobs for civilians will ELF create?
   Answer: In Michigan approx. 140 - Wisconsin .43.

5. When will the Project ELF commence?
   Answer: Anticipated start construction is Fall of 1983.

6. What kind of studies are planned on humans to see if peoples health changes over a length of time?
   Answer: It has been found that this is not possible to do testing on populations of people for very low levels of contamination of any kind. Because of the variation in life style and variations in the health levels make it impossible to get either a suitable control group or a suitable test group.

Most of the questions asked called for a detailed answer and explanation, therefore the tapes of this Forum will be made a part of the material retained for record.

After approximately five hours of questions and answers the last was answered.
Chairperson Racine closed the Public Forum and on behalf of the Marquette County Board, thanked all the people who came for their interest and participation in this forum, both on a pro and con basis. He said our great appreciation is to the US Navy and Admiral Smith, and congratulated him for being able to stand there for 5 hours and answer questions to the best of his ability.

There being no further business to come before the county board, Chairperson Racine declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Schlais,
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Wednesday, June 2, 1982, 7:00 p.m.

Michigan and Ontario Rooms, University Center  
Northern Michigan University  
Marquette, Michigan

1. CALLING OF ROLL BY THE COUNTY CLERK.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 19 AND MAY 26, 1982 MEETINGS.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT (time limit of 20 minutes total).
5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
6. PUBLIC HEARINGS:
   a. 
   b. 
7. PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS, PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
   a. Public Forum on Project ELF. Representatives of the U.S. Department of Navy will be present to explain the project and answer questions.
   b. 
   c. 
   d. 
   e. 
8. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
9. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:
   b. 
   c. 
10. REPORTS OF COUNTY OFFICERS:
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
   a. 
   b. 
12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
   a. 
   b. 
13. NEW BUSINESS:
   a. 
   b. 
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.