July 19, 1982

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole, to hear budget requests and recommendations, on July 19, 1982 at 6:15 P.M., in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Racine, roll call was held by County Clerk, Henry A. Skewis, and the following roll recorded:

Present: Comm. Carlson, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Lowe, May, Steele, Villeneuve, and Racine.

Absent or Excused: Comm. Cheatham, Farrell and Juidici.

Also present were the following support persons, Duane Beard, Patricia Micklow, Henry A. Skewis, Gary Yoder, Bruce Rukkila, and Karen Chubb.

Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the agenda was by the general consensus of the County Board.

Chairperson Racine opened the Hearings on the 1982 Recommended Budgets. He explained that the budgets had been submitted by the various departments, they were then taken under consideration by the County Controller, for recommendation, to the County Finance Committee, in the form of a balanced budget. He then explained that the Finance Committee had asked the Controller to decrease the budget by another $200,000.00. The Controller had sent a copy of his recommendation to each department head regarding his/her departmental budget, and that at this time the County Board was in the process of holding budget hearings with each department head. After the budget hearings and the final cuts in the budget, the department heads will be given a chance to rebut the changes if any.

Duane Beard, Controller, explained the needs for a balanced workable budget. The difficulty in reducing any budget at a time when so many variables are unknown and when there is no clear picture of the future economy of the county.

Circuit Court

No one was present to speak in regard to the Circuit Court budgets and it was assumed that these budgets were accepted as recommended. Some question was raised as to whether or not the Circuit Court Judges were aware of their appointed time for budget hearings. If this was the case then they could be rescheduled.

District Court

It was noted that Judge Easton had notified the Controller that it was not possible for him to be present at this time because he had just received the controller's budget recommendations and had not had enough time to evaluate the recommendations.

Judge Stephen Catel was present and advised the County Board that it was his prerogative as Senior District Court Judge to designate the place where the Ishpening 96th District Court sat and if it was his desire to rent extra space or move the court to a different location, he could do that. He stated that the court makes the decisions and not the County Board that he had statutorial duties to perform and they would be done at his own discretion. He gave the County Board information on the action of the court and its effectiveness. He felt that any cuts in the courts budget would result in increased inefficiency. He stated the District Courts return 90% of its operation costs. He felt that the recommendations of the Controller regarding the District Court budget could be likened to throwing darts or flipping coins to see what is best for the public. Judge Catel then left the meeting.

A discussion followed in regard to who can determine if the Ishpening District Court can be relocated at another sight; whether a District Court Judge can legally sign a contract to rent space or if the County Board has this right; and who holds the purse strings for any statutorial budget. The County Board asked Chief Civil Counsel to research these questions along with some information as to what level of service must be maintained for any department by statute.

Probate Court

Judge Andercgg was present to discuss the Probate Court budget and the recommended cuts to it, made by the Controller. Judge Andercgg stated that the Probate Court could live with the cuts recommended by the Controller.
860 - Travel could be worked out.
865 - Inservice training could be put off until next year.
930 - Equipment repair - this was an increase of $250.00 needed for repair
       of equipment not covered under service contract.

In regard to the goals and objectives of the Probate Court, he stated they
were still gathering data on the one year program and had nothing to report at this
time.

Probate Court Child Care Fund

Judge Anderegge stated that the $22,500.00 needed should either be in the Probate
Court Child Care Fund Budget or in the Social Services Budget but it is necessary
for the program.

Probate Court Juvenile

Sheri Myers and Judge Anderegge spoke on the Controller recommended cuts in this
budget.

705 - Overtime - the recommended cuts in this line item can be lived with.
727 - Office supplies - It was suggested that this item be cut only $120.00
       and not the amount recommended by the Controller.
865 - Inservice training - It was requested that nothing be cut from this item
       as it is important that inservice training is an on going thing.

Judge Anderegge mentioned that should the Judges decide to increase legal fees
then this would be reflected in all of the Probate Court Budgets. Judge Anderegg
and Shari Myers then left the meeting.

Friend of the Court

Harold Vanoverloop, Friend of the Court, had advised Duane Beard, Controller,
that he had no argument with the Controllers recommended cuts in this budget.

Accounting

Both Gary Yoder, Accounting Supervisor, and Henry A. Skewis, County Clerk,
agreed that the Accounting Budget was adequate and no further cuts could be made
and still provide the necessary service required.

County Clerk & Elections

These budgets reflect either a great decrease in costs as does the Election
Budget, for 1983 or no additional funds over and above the 1982 budget, in the
case of the County Clerks Budget.

Tax Allocation

This is a bare bones budget and shows needs only in the amount absolutely
necessary to provide allocation. It is identical to the 1982 budget.

Jury Commission

The Jury Commission has agreed that the 1983 budget is adequate to carry out
business in 1983. It is identical to the 1982 budget.

Plat Board

This budget contains no increase over 1982 budget and is considered only
adequate to carry on the same amount of business as will be done in 1982. The Plat
Board has agreed to make every effort to live within this budget.

Bruce Rukkila, Chief Accountant advised the County Board that legal fees for
1982 will be over the budget by 60 to 70 thousand dollars, prior to any increase for
higher per hour legal fees.

There being no further business to come before this board, it was moved by
Comm. LaMere, supported by Comm. Leone and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry A. Skewis
County Clerk
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Monday, July 19, 1982, 6:15 p.m.
Courthouse Annex, Marquette, Michigan

1. Meeting Called to Order.
2. Roll Call by the Clerk.
3. Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Public Comment.
5. Approval of the Agenda.
6. Hearings on 1983 Recommended Budget:
   a. 6:15 p.m. Circuit Court.
   b. 6:45 p.m. District Court.
   c. 7:30 p.m. Probate Court.
   d. 8:00 p.m. Friend of the Court.
   e. 8:15 p.m. County Clerk; Accounting; Plat Board; and Jury Commission.
7. Additional Business.
8. Announcements.
10. Adjournment.