June 28, 1982

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee was duly called
and held on June 28, 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,

ENVIRONMENT, LANDS AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Chair
June 28, 1982

The Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee meeting was duly called and held on June 28, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex.

Present: Commissioners Farrell, Racine, Steele and Villeneuve.

Absent: Commissioner Cheatham.

In Attendance: Billie Alexander, Project Rehab; Al Budinger, Health Department; Duane Beard, Controller; Jack Rydquist, DNR; Colonel Pauley, K.I. Sawyer AFB; Linc Poley, Architect; Kip McMahon, Architectural Intern; Steve Adamini; Edward Quinnell; and Sandy Quinnell.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Steele. The first item of business was approval of the minutes of the May 24, 1982 and June 14, 1982 meetings. It was noted on Page 1 of the June 14, 1982 minutes the location the Omega, Inc. should read Grandville, MI not Grand Rapids, MI. Commissioner Villeneuve noted there was an error on Page 2, last paragraph, of the May 24, 1982 minutes. The word 'zoning' was incorrectly spelled as 'zongin'. It was moved by Commissioner Villeneuve, supported by Commissioner Racine and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 24 and June 14 meetings as corrected.

No one present wished to speak under the public comment section.

Approval of the agenda was the next item. The Committee was informed that Darryll Sundberg, Drain Commissioner, would not be able to attend the meeting to discuss the Whetstone Brook and Badger Creek drainage districts and that item was deleted from the agenda. He will be present at the Committee's next meeting. Other items on the agenda were rearranged to accommodate those present.

Billie Alexander was present to discuss the possibility of Project Rehab, a Grand Rapids based concern, leasing the Brookridge facility. She said she is the Director of Adolescent Services for Project Rehab. She supplied the Committee materials explaining their program, which is a substance abuse and mental health agency. She advised the Committee they have received a sub-contract from Marquette General Hospital through its Substance Abuse Program to begin an adolescent program in Marquette County. They are in the process of trying to find a facility for the program. She stated she looked at Brookridge and would like the Committee to consider the possibility of the program leasing the facility. They would need information on renovation needs and why it was closed in the first place. The facility would be a long term (four to six months) facility for children around the Upper Peninsula.

Duane Beard stated an emotionally impaired children's program operated in the facility. He said it was not closed because of a lack of ability to obtain a license or to meet legal requirements. It was cost prohibitive to run, costing $250,000 per year.

Billie Alexander said they would like to identify a building within the next month for their program. If it is possible for them to lease the facility the president of Project Rehab would like to meet with county officials to discuss leasing arrangements.
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In response to a question by Duane Beard, Billie Alexander stated they are looking for a market lease for a five year period but that time frame is negotiable. Duane Beard noted the proposed use would be consistent with the Planning Commission's recommendations. Billie Alexander requested a copy of the Planning Commission's report on the Brookridge facility and Duane Beard said he would supply her one.

The Committee asked Duane Beard to report to them on the economic feasibility of a five year lease. Billie Alexander then left the meeting.

Commissioner Villeneuve noted the Committee last month indicated they would pursue newspaper coverage to make the public aware of the facility. It was noted The Mining Journal has had some news articles on the facility.

Col. Pauley, K.I. Sawyer AFB; Jack Rydquist, DNR; and Al Budinger, Health Department, were present to discuss the proposed wastewater disposal system at K.I. Sawyer AFB, which would dump wastewater into the Middle Branch of the Escanaba River. The current system dumps into the Silver Lead Creek.

Commissioner Racine expressed his concern regarding pollution of the Escanaba River that runs through a community. He noted the river is a scenic one. One of his concerns is with the effects of the wastewater on swimmers in the river.

Col. Pauley explained why they wish to have a permit for the disposal plant. He said the Base received notice of stricter requirements on sewage disposal. They evaluated the present system and were not able to meet the new standards with the present system. An engineering firm came up with alternative methods to meet standards. They selected a cost effective method to meet those standards. This included changing the disposal point from Silver Lead Creek to Middle Branch of the Escanaba River. The reason for the change is based on the larger size body of water of the Escanaba River and its faster flow. The Escanaba has five times the flow rate of the Silver Lead. Most important to the Base is that the proposed system does not inhibit expansion of the Base complex. Silver Lead Creek has reached its capacity for the amount of discharge it may handle because of its size. An on-land disposal system was considered. The major objection to an on-land site was the cost.

Col. Pauley said they are interested in protecting the environment, as is the DNR. At the point of discharge they are required to meet same standards as existing river water.

Commissioner Racine asked if the DNR would be willing to place in writing that swimmers would be protected from effects of pollution. Jack Rydquist said the Air Force is required to go through the same steps that any municipality has to go through for a discharge system. The DNR has not yet approval the permit for construction of the disposal system. He said one facet of the permit process is public participation. A public hearing is scheduled for June 30 and the public will be able to address their concerns at that time. A transcript of the meeting will be considered by the Water Resources Commission when considering whether the permit should be issued.
Al Budinger said the local health department has jurisdiction over bathing beaches. The swimming beach is their primary concern in this matter. Commissioner Farrell noted beaches would simply be closed by the health department if pollution limits were exceeded. Effluent standards are set to take into consideration total body contact. Commissioner Racine again expressed his concern about health hazards to children swimming in the Escanaba River below the discharge point. Jack Rydquist said effluent standards are set conservatively. He said the system should not affect the quality of surface water at all. The pollution capability of the body of water is the reason for changing the discharge point from the Silver Lead to the Escanaba. The quality of water to be discharged into the Escanaba River will be higher than presently discharged into the Silver Lead.

In response to a question by Duane Beard, Col. Pauley said funds for the project are in the federal budget currently being considered by Congress. The Base is required to meet effluent standards by January, 1984.

Jack Rydquist said they are requiring that the plant be constructed to municipal standards, with standby units. He said a public hearing on the permit application will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Gwinn. Al Budinger, Jack Rydquist and Col. Pauley left the meeting.

Linc Poley, Architect, and Kip McMahon, Architectural Intern, were present to discuss the courthouse renovation project, and Service Center space planning study.

Linc Poley reported that he has contacted four architects regarding Tezak, Inc., bidder of the courthouse renovation project. He also received brochures from both Omega, Inc. and Tezak, Co., lowest bidder and second lowest bidder on the project, respectively. Omega, Inc. provided Linc Poley a list of sub-contractors they intend to have on the project, which he reviewed with the Committee, and which includes several local contractors. He also read positive comments received from four architects on Tezak, Co.

The Committee received the following communications regarding the renovation for their information:

a. Copy of a communication from Duane Beard to Greg Main, CUPPAD, on scheduled opening of bids for courthouse renovation project.

b. Copy of a memo from the Controller to courthouse complex administrators on a July 1, 1982 meeting to explain to administrators and county employees possible inconveniences that may occur during the renovation project.

c. Copy of a communication from Duane Beard to Michael Etelamaki, Marquette City Engineer, on intent of general contractor of courthouse renovation project to apply for closure of Spring Street during length of project.

Linc Poley said he believed additional contacts should be made on Tezak, Co. The Committee felt six to eight additional inquiries should be sufficient.

It was noted there is $1.9 million budgeted for the courthouse renovation project at this time, including the EDA grant. Linc Poley believes an additional $300,000 is needed to complete the project. Duane Beard suggested that he and the architect provide the Committee a list of requirements to
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complete the project for review at their next meeting.

Duane Beard noted the Committee had requested that a meeting of department heads and employees on the renovation project be held. The meeting has been scheduled for July 1, 1982 at 5:00 p.m.

The Committee then discussed a service center planning study prepared by Linc Poley. The Committee will review the study for further discussion at its August meeting.

A copy of a communication from Duane Beard to Opal Giroux, Health Department Administrator, regarding the break area at the Service Center was provided the Committee for their information. The communication was in response to one from Opal Giroux expressing concern with problems arising from the location of the break area near the Health Department's clinic area. The space planning study also addresses this concern and possible solutions.

Re courthouse renovation project. Linc Poley advised the Committee that he contacted EDA about the 90 day deadline from the time of awarding of an EDA grant to commencement of the project. He was informed this is not a hard and fast requirement and that a notice to proceed to the contractor is sufficient to meet the requirement. Linc Poley said he's concerned with getting into adverse weather conditions if the project is delayed too long.

Duane Beard said both Omega, Inc. and Tezak, Co. have accepted the county's invitation to appear at the June 30, 1982 meeting concerning the courthouse renovation project.

Edward Quinnell, Sandy Quinnell, and Steve Adamini were present regarding drainage districts for Whetstone Brook and Badger Creek. Edward Quinnell said he owns property that will be effected by the Whetstone Creek drainage district. He advised the Committee of his concerns with action taken on the drainage districts, and the possible manner of assessment for the districts.

Edward Quinnell, Sandy Quinnell, and Steve Adamini then left the meeting.

Communications from the Drain Commissioner on the drainage districts were tabled until the next meeting when the Drain Commissioner will be in attendance.

A memo from Duane Beard on possible use of Brookridge Facility - Housing for Elderly was provided to the Committee for their information. He transmitted an article entitled "Congregate Living", on housing of the elderly, which was supplied by a local architect who expressed a desire to see Brookridge function in a similar manner.

The Committee also received a memo from Joe Racine, Board Chair, advising them that the Committee's recommendation to continue the caretaker arrangement at Brookridge until August 1 was approved, including provision that the Committee attempt to lease the facility as soon as possible.