The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole for the first session of the 1986 Budget Review on Tuesday, September 9, 1985, at 7:00 P.M. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex.

Roll call was held with the following roll recorded:
Absent: None.

Chairperson Lowe explained the purpose of the Budget Hearings, as follows.
The Board of Commissioners is charged with the responsibility of allocating the County's dollars to provide the programs that, as a group, they feel are in the best interests of present and future taxpayers of the County. Even though the Committee of the Whole is charged with the responsibility to study and recommend a budget to the Board, the budget hearing/ review process is structured so each Commissioner will hear each department/budgetary unit's budget presentation in an informal "Work Session" environment.

These hearings are held to allow department personnel an opportunity to make presentations outlining the department's 1986 financial, as well as other needs. Administrators are requested to limit their remarks to 15 minutes or less.

Committee members and budget staff are allowed an opportunity to direct questions to department personnel or request preparation of additional materials to be submitted at a later time.

Department personnel are offered an opportunity to make a brief closing statement.

No Committee decision is made at the initial budget hearing, nor will even a tentative commitment be made to any department/budgetary unit, prior to Committee of the Whole completion of working sessions to be conducted subsequent to these budget hearings.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, stated that all the information for this first work session would be found in back of volume #1, except for Prosecuting Attorney, which is in volume #2. He also informed the Committee that the $1,500.00 for Bay Cliff is not in the budget this year, and that he did not make any recommendations for Special Appropriations.

Harvest Festival - Mr. John Jayka, Board of Directors, was present to explain their need. He said they have enough funds to make it through this year, but without any appropriation support, they would not be able to have a Harvest Festival next year. Commissioners inquired whether a parking fee or admission fee could be worked out. Mr. Jayka stated the City does not charge them for parking and that if they did charge a fee it would have to go to the City. He said that the attendance fee might discourage attendance and if that is down, the exhibitors will not come. Chairperson Lowe stated he did not feel a small admission fee of 25c or 50c would hinder or keep people from attending. Mr. Jayka said he did not know where they would find people to handle ticket sales, as they have all volunteer help now. Comm. DeFant suggested maybe the Youth Corp could give help. Mr. Jayka thanked the Committee and then left the meeting.

UPTRA - Chris Dancisak, Assoc. Exec. Dir., was present to address the Committee. He distributed a listing of the UPTRA Programs for 1985-86 and some of the promotional items. He spoke of tours that will be coming through the Marquette area. Peggy Brogan was also in attendance from UPTRA and explained the need for a regional tourist association in our area. She informed the Committee of a meeting they will be having in Chicago and they will be bringing people up to tour the U.P. Comm. DeFant inquired where their funds come from and Ms. Brogan said from local units of government and business support. She said a state grant takes care of about one-half the budget. She stated all counties contribute, except Delta County, anywhere from $500.00 to $3,000.00 and that their total budget is $300,000.00 per year, they are requesting an appropriation of $1,000.00 from our County. Mr. Dancisak & Ms. Brogan then left the meeting.

Humane Society - Dr. Hugh Kahler, President, was in attendance to discuss their request for an appropriation of approximately $17,000.00. Mr. Kahler said if the appropriation is not continued in 1986, they will not be able to continue. He distributed a sheet detailing the County Impound Charged (Fee comparison 1983/84 vs 1984/85). He said they are working on a method to improve the cost and are in desperate need of help. Comm. DeFant stated she is asking staff to compile information on where
the contributions or fees are generated from within Marquette County and what systems are available within the State. Dr. Kahler stated the townships pay them nothing for taking in their stray animals, but with the help of the Chocolay Township Office in sending out letters to all the townships they hope to encourage some type of fee payment. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of having a County-wide dog control system. Chairperson Lowe said this was started once before, but you have to have funds available for this. After further comments Dr. Kahler left the meeting.

Prosecuting Attorney - Gary Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, was in attendance and addressed the Committee. He stated there was not much variation between his request and the Administrator's recommendation except a few items. He said that regarding #804 Witness Fees, he has no control over this, that this is set by statute. He requested $14,000.00 and the Administrator's recommendation was $7,500.00. He stated that regarding #810 Professional Contractual Services, this is for a summer intern, he had requested $2,650.00 and the Administrator has recommended none. Mr. Walker said he felt this is a good and worthwhile program, but he understands the deletion. He said that under books and periodicals, the request differs notably. He said in that area they have been receiving for the purpose of labor negotiations, and the representation they do for the County in terms of arbitration, periodicals that are very costly. He said they are working on a tight budget but feel they may be able to get along on less in that area. It was noted that line item 808.28 Service Contracts - Data General, should be deleted. Mr. Walker stated that he is also speaking for the Friend of the Court and Family Support, which are all supported mainly through grants. Comm. Valente questioned $4,000.00 for the telephone. Mr. Rukilla, Finance Officer, stated that it is difficult getting an accurate monitoring of telephone calls, and that in October or November, they will be putting in a new system. Mr. Walker then left the meeting.

U.P. EMS - This will be rescheduled for a later date to enable Bob Struck time to prepare a Budget. We have the request for approximately $11,000.00, but more detail is needed as he is referring to the 1985 request, which he did not receive an appropriation. Mr. Aloia suggested that Mr. Struck complete in more detail his 1985 request and forward it on to the Board in the next couple weeks for them to review. Mr. Struck then left the meeting.

Soil Conservation District - Mrs. Linda Jacobs and Dan Meister commented. They are requesting $13,000.00 from the County Budget, mainly for a forester and office help. Comm. DeFant discussed the use of a fee charged for forester services, but they said this may discourage people from doing any conservation work. After comments by other Commissioners, Mrs. Jacobs and Mr. Meister then left the meeting.

Negaunee Historical Society - No one present to speak on this.

AMCAB - David Brantley, Director, commented on their request for an appropriation of $3,000.00 as part of a match. He said they receive a $10,000.00 State reimbursement to restore Outreach Services. He stated that workman's comp. tripled last year and now has been cancelled, so they will have to rebid. He said their total budget is $178,000.00. Mr. Brantley explained the services they provide through the outreach program, for low income, senior citizens and the handicapped. He said their appropriation from Alger County is $18,000.00, but AMCAB provides all the aging programs. He stated the $3,000.00 would restore the full time position for Marquette and increased budget expenses. Mr. Brantley then left the meeting.

OEDP - Philip Seitz, Secretary for the OEDP, addressed the Committee, regarding their Request of an appropriation of $500.00. He stated that he feels in the past year, the OEDP has become a revitalized organization. He said the meetings start with a dinner, but the membership pays for their own meals and that $500.00 appropriation would be for meeting room rent, supplies and mailing costs. He said their County Extension Office provides all the rest.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of changing the meeting date from the 3rd Tuesday to allow County Board representatives an opportunity to attend and participate, possibly the 2nd or 4th Tuesday. this will be brought before the members. Mr. Seitz then left the meeting.

A discussion was held regarding the dates of Committee of the Whole work sessions. Comm. DeFant informed the members that she will not be able to attend the September 24th, 1985 session, it was decided to leave the meeting date as is, because they may find they will not need to meet that night.

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Comm. Berglund suggested that during these budget hearings, County Commissioners take turns on making comments, so that all have an opportunity to speak.

The meeting was adjourned approximately 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Schlais
Deputy County Clerk