The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in joint session with the Marquette City Commission and the Sands Township Board on June 27, 1985 in the County Courthouse at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of a discussion of the Solid Waste Disposal Site.

Geraldine DeFant, Chairperson of the Executive/Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners declared the Marquette County Board of Commissioners were opening their meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem, Robert Berube of the Marquette City Commission declared the City Commission meeting open.

Earl Yelle, Supervisor of Sands Township, declared the Sands Township Board meeting open.

Greg Seppanen, Vice Chair, Marquette County Planning Commission, declared the Marquette County Planning Commission meeting open.

The following persons were present:

- County Board of Commissioners: Comm. DeFant, Valente, Berglund and Roberts.
- Marquette City Commission: Comm. Berube, Johnson, Acoc's, Coyne, Leadbetter and LeBrecque.
- Sands Township Board: Sup. Earl Yelle, Clerk, Sandra Redlon, Trustee, David Kallio.
- Attorneys and Consultants: Philip A. Grashoff, Jr. (Horinigan, Miller, Schwartz & Cohn).
- James Braithwaite (Braithwaite Consultants, Inc.), George Henry (Keck Consultants Services Inc.), Peter Shumar (Rep. Sands Township), Willard Martin (Rep. Marquette City Commission), and Patricia L. Micklow (Chief Civil Counsel, Board of Commissioners).
- Dept. of Natural Resources: Frank Opolka, Earle Olson.
- Marquette County Planning Commission: Gwen Timmons, Greg Seppanen, Carol Peterson.
- East Marquette County Solid Waste Authority: Ivan Fende.
- Staff: Norman Gruber, Jr., Marquette City Clerk; David Svanda, Marquette City Manager; Michael Ethamaki, Marquette City Engineer; Dennis Aloia, Marquette County Administrator; Ron Koshorek, Marquette County Natural Resources Director; Henry A. Skewis, Marquette County Clerk.

Comm. DeFant, Chairperson of the Marquette County Executive/Intergovernmental Relations Commission, opened the official meeting and gave an overview of the County Solid Waste Program from the time the County considered constructing a plan until the present date.

Comm. DeFant outlined the points of agreement reached at the joint meeting held in March of 1985 between Marquette County, Marquette City and Sands Township. These eight points were listed in the letter of agreement. Comm. DeFant commended Sands Township for carrying out the part of the agreement as specified and having a study made of alternate sites.

Philip A. Grashoff, Jr. of Horinigan, Miller, Schwartz & Cohn, was present as Sands Township Consultant. He stated that Sands Township felt that they had come up with two alternate solid waste disposal sites that were comparable to the Russell site. These sites are located as follows:

- Sands Township site located in the north-central part of Sec. 32-T47N-R25W, Sands Township; and
- Forsyth Township site located in Sec. 12-13-T47N-R25W, Forsyth Township.

James Braithwaite of Braithwaite Consultants, Inc., stated that the Sands Township Sec. 32 site is owned by the U.S. Dept. of Forestry who is involved with a land swap with the Cleveland Cliff Iron Co. The land swap is temporarily stopped and CCI will allow use of the Sec. 32 site.

The Forsyth Township Sec. 12-13 site is owned by the County and has a reverter clause to the State of Michigan, but this can be resolved without too much trouble.

The Forsyth Township Sec. 12-13 site, if used for disposal, would have very little impact on the surrounding environment and is not of concern in its proximity to K.I. Sawyer AFB because it is outside the 10,000 ft. distance from any run way.

There is an archaeological site on this section, an old cabin, but this is not a problem as there is plenty of room to have the disposal site east of this area.

The Dept. of Natural Resources will make a site assessment within the next two weeks.
Both sites are zoned forestry so no zoning problems are anticipated.

The Sec. 32 site in Sands Township is approximately six miles from the Marquette City population center and the Sec. 12-13 site in Forsyth Township is about seventeen miles from the population center. It was noted that the difference of eleven miles hauling distance could cost considerable over a period of years.

Additional road construction costs of approximately $106,000.00 could be experienced if the Sec. 12-13 Forsyth Township site is used as opposed to the Russell site. However, the environmental condition would be improved as the Sec. 12-13 site is further away from residential areas.

The Marquette City Commission and the County Board of Commissioners commended Sands Township for their efforts in finding alternate sites. Some of the City Commissioners were not completely convinced that the two proposed sites were comparable to the Russell site. The City Commission will try to make some decision by July 8, 1985. The $106,000.00 road construction cost is an area of concern. Easements and purchase costs can be developed without any great concern according to the consultant, Mr. Grashoff.

The City of Marquette has invested $160,000.00 in engineering costs but regardless of which site is chosen, the City construction design plan can be utilized to its fullest extent. It was noted that snow plowing could be more costly than was anticipated. It was noted that the road to the disposal site is not required to be paved.

Mr. Grashoff stated that the $106,000.00 road construction cost was not considered too great on a 4 to 5 million dollar project, and offered his help and support in dealing with the Cleveland Cliff Iron Co. and others on easements or purchase of site.

Ivan Fendt, Chocolay Township Supervisor and Chairperson of the East Marquette County Solid Waste Authority, stated that the Forsyth Township Sec. 12-13 site was better environmentally because it is on the east end of the Chocolay Sands watershed.

Marquette County Planning Commission officials were pleased with the progress made to date and looked forward to a successful joint venture.

Dept. of Natural Resource personnel present pledged their cooperation in the venture.

Evelyn Heikkila, Supervisor of Forsyth Township, asked for confirmation that the disposal site would be available for all units of government. It was understood by all that the disposal site was for the whole County.

It was determined that the next step would be for the City of Marquette and Sands Township to do their own evaluation of the proposal as it exists now. It was the general feeling of those present that another joint meeting was not needed at this time.

Chairperson DeFant called a short recess in which the individual groups discussed the situation as brought out at this meeting.

The meeting reconvened, no decision was made by units of government, but they await the results of the City of Marquette July 8, 1985 meeting of the City Commission.

Chairperson DeFant opened the meeting for public comment.

David Kallio, Sands Township Trustee, stated that there are advantages and disadvantages for each unit of government. The extra road construction cost for the City of Marquette may be a disadvantage to them but Sands Township having a disposal site next door is not all that great either. Any additional costs could be paid through the fee schedule for dumping.

Chairperson DeFant closed the public comment section and thanked all those who participated or provided services to make this meeting meaningful, in that there has been a major exchange of information. She stated that the County is willing to cooperate in the decision that will be made. It is hoped that a major decision can be made in 30 to 60 days.
There being no further business to be taken care of the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Henry A. Skewis
Marquette County Clerk

NOTE: Tapes of this meeting are on file.
LANDFILL SITES MEETING

Thursday, June 27, 1985

AGENDA

Time: 7:00 P.M.
Place: Circuit Courtroom, County Courthouse

1. Call to order
2. Overview
3. Statement of purpose
4. Sands Township presentation
5. Question and answer by all parties
6. Future direction
7. Public comment
8. Adjournment