January 26, 1987

The Finance/Personnel Committee of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners met on Monday, January 26, 1987 at 4:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Conference Room, Marquette, Michigan.

Vice-Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order, roll call was taken and the following roll recorded:
Absent and Excused: Comm. Valente.

It was moved by Comm. Lowe, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the minutes of the January 12, 1987 Finance/Personnel Committee meeting be approved.

The meeting was opened for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following additions: that item 13 become the lease for Employment Programs; and an announcement under item 17 regarding a public meeting of the Dept. of Transportation to be held in Escanaba.

The Committee took under consideration claims and accounts. It was moved by Comm. Lowe, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that claims and accounts for the period January 9, 1987 thru January 26, 1987, in the amount of $883,389.38 be approved and ordered paid.

The Committee took under consideration a policy proposal for the use of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund developed by Dennis Aloia, Administrator, James Sodergren, Treasurer, and Gary Yoder, Finance/Manager. By use of a chart showing delinquent tax fund projections, assuming a 6% interest rate, Administrator Aloia explained that $200,000.00 could be annually transferred to the Capital Improvement Fund while the Delinquent Tax Fund continues to grow. This policy would protect the integrity of the fund and also help maintain Marquette County’s bond rating. County Treasurer, James Sodergren, was present and related the policy is sound and will benefit the County for years to come if adopted. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board adopt the Tax Delinquent Fund Policy.

The Committee took under consideration a request from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management/Development Dept., to hire one full-time staff person for the remainder of 1987 and amend the FY 1987 budget accordingly. Because of recent Solid Waste developments which are a priority with the County Board, Mr. Koshorek and Administrator Aloia recommend the County hire a planner, thereby shifting routine planning work from the Senior Planner and then use the Senior Planner to begin the update of the Solid Waste Management Plan and other matters involving Solid Waste. Comm. Greg Seppanen, former Planning Commission Chairperson, was present and urged the Committee to recommend the staffing increase. By adding a staff member the County would retain the knowledge and expertise gained by the completion of this work. The necessary money is available, but a budget amendment would be necessary to convert the funds to a salary expenditure.
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Comm. Lowe stressed that the hiring of another staff person for the Resource Management/Development Dept. should in no way change the hiring freeze initiated by the County Board. It was moved by Comm. Lowe, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend that the County Board approve the request and adopt the necessary budget amendments.

The Committee took under consideration a request from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Director of the Health Department, to change the position of Cashiers/Receptionist to Data Processing Specialist, and omit it from the hiring freeze. Dr. Johnson was present to answer questions and discuss the request. The new position would cost $571.00 less per year over the present Cashier/Receptionist position, but even more important is the need to support the Health Department’s $100,000.00 in computer hardware and software with an in-house specialist. Administrator Aloia pointed out lack of support will only cause long term waste and recommends the request be approved. It was moved by Comm. Lowe, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve the proposed Health Department staffing change which would allow the hiring of a Data Processing Specialist.

The Committee took under consideration a request from the Marquette County Soil Conservation District for a $12,000.00 appropriation. The County Natural Resources Commission reviewed the request and voted unanimously to appropriate $7,000.00 to the S.C.D. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, concurred with the Natural Resources Commission and recommends the necessary funds come from the Forestry Enterprise Fund. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve the $7,000.00 appropriation to the Soil Conservation District by adopting the appropriate budget amendment resolution.

The Committee took under consideration information from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, on the Plan for User Fee Implementation. Mr. Aloia will meet with Department Heads and Elected Officials to develop a new User Fee Schedule for each department involved, and will make the appropriate recommendations by the middle of February. These recommendations will meet or exceed the revenue appropriations the County Board made in the 1987 budget. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried to accept the communication for file.

The Committee took under consideration a request from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, to opt out of the Municipal Employees Retirement System. A letter from John W. Fonger, Manager of the Michigan MERS, outlines the provisions of HB 5007 which allows the Chief Executive Officer of a participating municipality to be excluded from MERS membership if there is less than ten years of credited service with the present employer. For an individual who elects to opt out of MERS, a refund of the individual’s accumulated contributions shall be paid and all credited service forfeited.
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For Administrator Aloia the reimbursement amounts of $3,987.00 which will be at no cost to the County because MERS will reduce the County's quarterly payments accordingly over the next year. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve Administrator Aloia's request to opt out of MERS by adopting the budget resolution.

The Committee took under consideration an informational memo from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding the upcoming County Bond Sales. The Forsyth Township Bond issue of $700,000.00 for water improvements will be sold on February 5, 1987. The County Medical Care Facility Bond issue for $5.5 million dollars will be sold on March 3, 1987.

The Committee took under consideration a lease agreement for more floor space for the Employment Programs Department which is located on south Front Street in Marquette. Robert Taylor, Director of Employment Programs, was present to discuss the lease and answer any questions. Mr. Taylor reported Marquette County's Title II-A, JTPA Program, outperformed national standards and as a result has received additional incentive monies which will go back into the program. This has doubled the size of the program and more office space is needed accordingly. The terms of the lease are identical except for more floor space and more dollars, therefore a budget amendment is needed even though the monies come through grant funds. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve the lease for the Employment Programs additional space and authorize the signing of the agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Lowe, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the Committee go into closed session to discuss a grievance. Comm. Corkin declared a five minute recess to clear the meeting room.

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CLOSED SESSION
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The Committee came back into open session. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee, after reviewing and considering testimony and documentation presented, affirms the action of the Sheriff and denies the subject grievance. Randall Girard, Human Resources Director, will draft a letter for the Chair to sign and send to the subjects attorney.

Vice-Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the January 29, 1987 public meeting regarding the improvements to Marquette County Road 550 has been postponed until February 5th, 1987.
The Michigan Department of Transportation will hold a series of public meetings throughout the State regarding the future of Rail Freight Service in Michigan, one of which will be on Thursday, January 29, 1987 at 1:30 p.m. in the Ramada Inn, 2603 N. Lincoln Road, Escanaba, Michigan.

There being no further business to come before the Finance/Personnel Committee the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Communication from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding a policy with regard to the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund.

Request from Ron Koshorek, Director of Resource Management/Development Department, for one full-time staff person for the remainder of 1987.

Communication from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding Proposed Health Dept. Staffing Change.

Communication from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding 1987 Soil Conservation District Appropriation.

Communication from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, giving information on Plan for User Fee Implementation.

Communication from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, requesting removal from Retirement Fund.

Communication from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding Upcoming Bond Sales.

Lease for Employment Programs

Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.