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

Chairperson Valente called the meeting to order, roll call was taken and the following roll recorded: Present: Comm. Corkin, Comm. Lowe and Comm. Valente. Absent: None. Also Present: Dennis Aloia, Randell Girard, Gary Yoder, Brent Nault, Ron Koshorek, Civil Counsel, Gary Walker, and James Sodergren.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Valente and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting held on October 13, 1987 be approved.

Chairperson Valente opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Valente and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved as presented.

The Committee took under consideration the review of claims and accounts. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Valente and unanimously carried that claims and accounts for the period October 14, 1987 thru October 26, 1987, in the amount of $531,241.37 be approved and ordered paid.

The Committee took under consideration the sale of the obsolete Data General Eclipse C/350 Computer. Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, was present and after contacting various wholesalers to see what they would offer, recommended the County Board sell the C/350 to Compuplan International for $1,500.00 plus shipping costs. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board concur with Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, and sell the Data General C/350 to Compuplan International for $1,500.00 plus shipping fees.

The Committee took under consideration a request from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, to increase his annual salary by $477.00 before adjusting by the 3% adopted by the County Board for Elected Officials salaries. Mr. Sodergren believes that he is doing a better than average job as Treasurer, and that the County Board should recognize his length of service, and job performance, by adjusting his salary accordingly. Elected Officials were excluded from the Morley Study, but the Study did show the Marquette County Treasurer was $477.00 below the average County Treasurer in our labor market. After lengthy discussion the Committee consensus was that there is no rational in establishing Elected Officials salarier, and some structure or policy should be established. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Committee direct Staff to develop a policy for establishing Elected Officials salaries for review at the next Finance/Personnel Committee meeting.
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The Committee took under consideration a petition to amend the Commercial Forest Reserve Act (P.A. 94 of 1925) to increase the payment in lieu of taxes from $1.00 an acre to at least $2.50 per acre. This would increase Marquette County revenues from approximately $40,000.00 to $100,000.00 annually. Marquette County has in excess of 300,000 acres registered under the Act, which generates approximately $216,000.00 from the State (.70 per acre) and the balance from the landowner (.30 per acre). James Sodergren, County Treasurer, explained the intent of the Act was to allow and encourage the planting and harvesting of timber. It takes many years to grow harvestable trees before a landowner can make any money. Properties registered under this Act are removed from the Ad Valorem tax roll. But, many smaller landowners are registering under the Act as a tax dodge, and do not intend to replant. It was moved by Comm. Lowe, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board support the Michigan Township Association in their effort to amend the Commercial Forest Act.

The Committee took under consideration a request from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management/Development Department, to add $1,000.00 to construction code line item for building inspections and plan reviews. There has been an unusual increase in building activities since mid-year and it has been necessary to work more overtime. Construction code revenue has exceeded the total original budget by $8,000.00. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board add $1,000.00 to the construction code line item #101-70-801.20-705.00 to be taken from the Contingency Fund.

The Committee took under consideration a resolution defining a normal "day of work" for purposes of establishing employee eligibility for MERS membership. Randell Girard, Human Resources Director, recently learned that Marquette County has never filed a resolution defining a normal work day which is required by the retirement act. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board adopt the resolution.

The Committee took under consideration a letter from Phil Bareham, Legislative Coordinator, Michigan Association of Counties, regarding 65 m.p.h. speed limit legislation. MAC supports efforts to raise the speed limit to 65 m.p.h. and also supports stricter enforcement of the speeding laws. However, actual revenues may not increase enough to cover court costs while enacting a minimum fine structure. MAC proposes two possible solutions; 1) language be inserted to prohibit the reduction of suspension of court costs; and/or, 2) oversight by the State to monitor the revenue picture. If funding units are showing a decrease in revenue from their District Courts - dollars could not be appropriated to the State fund. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board write to all Upper Peninsula State Representatives and Senators regarding this serious concern.
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The Committee took under consideration the developing of a policy for the disposition of County property. Administrator, Dennis Aloia, pointed out the County has no such policy and Staff must come to the Board for approval on an item-by-item basis. Mr. Aloia recommends Staff be directed to develop a policy for consideration at a future Finance/Personnel Committee meeting. In the meantime, Administrator Aloia requests permission to sell the leftover equipment from the Honor Camp property, which wasn’t disposed of during the grummage sale. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board allow the sale of leftover equipment at the Honor Camp property and that a policy be drafted for the disposal of County property for review by the Finance/Personnel Committee,

The Committee took under consideration the development of a policy regarding the use of County owned vehicles. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, requests that he be allowed to perform a survey of what county owned vehicles are being taken home, and for what purpose, and return to the Finance/Personnel Committee for further consideration. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Lowe and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee direct Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, to do a survey a County owned vehicles for future review and recommendation by the Finance/Personnel Committee.

The Committee took under consideration reviewed a letter from Bendzinski & Co., Financial Advisors for the refinancing of the Ishpeming Wastewater Treatment System Bonds. Staff does not believe that Bendzinski & Co. are purposely delaying the refinancing. They stand to profit substantially from the refinancing from legal fees as provided by law. The Committee however was not pleased with Bendzinski’s explanation regarding the delay by AMBAC Indemnity Corporation on providing the insurance. The Committee thought perhaps another bonding company should be hired. The Finance/Personnel Committee requested to have all letters and documents with Bendzinski & Co. regarding the refinancing of the Ishpeming Wastewater Treatment System available for further review at the next Finance/Personnel Committee meeting.

Chairperson Valente opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

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

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Salary adjustment request from James Sodergren, County Treasurer.
7. Petition to amend the Commercial Forest Act.
8. Sale of Data General Mini-Computer.
9. Request from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management/Development, for a $1,000.00 budget amendment to perform increased building inspection work.
10. Resolution defining a normal "day of work."
11. 65 m.p.h. Speed Limit Legislation.
12. Discussion on Policy for Disposition of County Property.
13. Discussion of policy regarding use of County-owned vehicles.
14. Update on Ishpeming Wastewater Refinancing.
15. 
16. 
17. 
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.