March 21, 1989

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Finance/Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, March 21, 1989 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Arsenault called the meeting to order, roll call was taken and the following roll recorded: Present: Comm. Corkin, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Arsenault. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting held on March 7, 1989 be approved with the following correction; the last paragraph on page 4 should read "Richmond Township and Tilden Township Assessors have agreed to use the negotiated price that C.C.I. has offered, . . ." rather than "Republic Township and Tilden Township Assessors have agreed to use the negotiated price . . .".

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

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following change; that item 9, a discussion of County liability for David Berns when acting as Supervisor of the Valente Medical Care Facility, be removed from the agenda. The matter has already been resolved.

The Committee considered the review of Claims and Accounts. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period March 4, 1989 thru March 17, 1989, in the amount of $607,670.79 be approved and ordered paid.

The Committee took under consideration a memo from James Kippola, Senior Planner, regarding the 1989 Land and Water Conservation Fund/Natural Resources Trust Fund Project Applications. Mr. Kippola was present and gave a brief overview of the Honor Camp access road design and construction project, the golf course feasibility study, the Perkins Park shoreline stabilization project, and the Perkins Park erosion control project. Mr. Kippola requested the County Board pass the Resolution of Intent, which authorizes that applications be made for the project.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, pointed out that the County Board would still have to give final approval to any project should a grant be awarded.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board authorize that applications be made for the projects by adopting the appropriate Resolution of Intent.

The Committee took under consideration budget amendments #10, #11, & #12, presented by Gary R. Yoder, Finance Manager. Mr. Yoder explained that Budget Amendment #10 is for General Fund Encumbrances received during 1988.
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If an item had been ordered, but was not yet received or invoiced, the
estimated cost of that item is "carried forward" into the next year. The
total of these encumbrances is held as a reserved portion of the 1988 fund
balance. This amendment will have no effect on the Contingency Account.

Mr. Yoder explained that Budget Amendment #11 is for Public Improvement
Fund Encumbrances. It is similar to #10 except that in most cases, a
purchase order was not issued. The amounts being "carried forward" are
either a balance in an uncompleted project, or projects which have not yet
begun but have been budgeted. This amendment will also have no effect on
the Contingency Account, and reserves a portion of the 1988 Fund Balance.

Mr. Yoder explained that Budget Amendment #12 adjusts the revenues and
expenditures of the Community Corrections Grant, and "carries forward"
balances from 1988. This grant operates on an October 1st fiscal year, and
was increased after the budget process last Fall.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Corkin and
unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the
County Board approve Budget Amendments #10, #11, & #12 as presented.

The Committee reviewed a memo from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D.,
Director of the Marquette County Health Dept., regarding Revised Funding
Strategy for Local Public Health Services. A 50% level of funding is
mandated for Local Health Departments by law, however State funding has been
below that level. The legislature intends to enforce the 50% level of
funding, however the Governor has not included the monies into his budget.
The resolution attached to Dr. Johnson's memo urges support of increased
funding for local public health departments to the 50% level as provided by
law. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and
unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the
County Board adopt the resolution calling for the State to meet its mandated
share of the cost of providing Public Health Services.

Chairperson Arsenault declared a brief recess until Comm. DeFant, Comm.
Bays and Drain Commissioner, Darryll Sundberg, arrive to discuss the
Whetstone Drainage District.

The Finance/Personnel Committee reconvened with Comm. DeFant, Comm.
Bays and Drain Commissioner, Darryll Sundberg, joining the Committee for a
discussion on the Whetstone Drainage District. Dennis Aloia, County
Administrator, gave a historical overview of the Whetstone Drainage
District. In 1979 the City of Marquette and Marquette Township made
application to the Drain Commissioner for drain improvements along the
Whetstone Brook to alleviate periodical flooding. Because of the request
some preliminary engineering was done to determine the scope and cost of the
project. The Whetstone Brook Drainage District was established in 1982.
In 1983, the City of Marquette petitioned the Drain Commissioner to proceed
with the drainage improvements, however Marquette Township did not renew
their petition. The Board of Determination was appointed by the County
Board Chairperson. Marquette County made two loans from the Tax Delinquent
Revolving Fund in the amount of $50,000.00 each in October of 1985 and in
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September of 1986. The interest rate charged for the project was equal to the interest that James Sodergren, County Treasurer, received on the Tax Delinquent Notes. As of February 1989 the amount due to Marquette County is $123,794.65. Mr. Aloia reported there are three basic means for repayment provided by law; a special assessment district, a split of the cost between the City and the Township, and a payment from the County General Fund. The Administrator has met with the Drain Commissioner, the Equalization Director, the County Treasurer, and Civil Counsel, to discuss repayment of the loan. Administrator Aloia recommends that a meeting be established with representatives from both the City and the Township to discuss the various alternatives for repayment, and that the County Board Chair, the Commissioner from that District, the Drain Commissioner, Civil Counsel, and the Administrator, represent the County at this meeting. This Committee could then report back to the Finance/Personnel Committee for an appropriate recommendation for charging the costs back to the municipalities.

Gary Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, stated the most equitable alternative would be to split the cost between the City of Marquette and Marquette Township for the period 1979 thru 1982. Then put the remainder of the cost on the City of Marquette, in that they continued their petition for the drainage district. Engineering criteria such as the amount of drain footage or acreage could be used to determine the split of the cost. Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, has a computer program on micro that has been tracking the drainage district cost which shows the City of Marquette to be responsible for approximately 60%, and Marquette Township 40% of the costs.

Drain Commissioner Sundberg pointed out that the Board of Determination made a decision to discontinue the drainage district, and according to the drain code the time has come for repayment of the loan. The County Treasurer, would like to have this money available when the time comes to borrow for the Delinquent Taxes. Drain Commissioner Sundberg also indicated that the Drainage District Project should be continued. If at least 20 property owners, Marquette Township, or the City petition to, it can be continued. Work done so far would not have to be done over.

A lengthy discussion continued with many questions being asked by the Commissioners. The main point brought out: the County is not obligated, but the units of government are. Borrowing from the Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund was a favor to the City and the Township. This provided more loan flexibility and lower interest rates than if the units of government borrowed from the bank.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee follow the suggestions of the Administrator and direct a meeting be established with representatives of Marquette City, Marquette Township, and Marquette County to discuss the repayment, and that the County Representatives be Chairperson Corkin, Comm. Bays, Drain Commissioner Sundberg, Civil Counsel, and Administrator Aloia. County Representatives will report back to the Finance/Personnel Committee at a future meeting.
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The Committee took under consideration a request from Michael J. Anderegg, Probate Judge, that the County compute the cost to him of the reduction of his medical coverage, and buy term life insurance for him up to whatever amount the money will buy. Randell Girard, Director of Human Resources, was present and reported that all Marquette County Judges can buy into the State Retirement Plan, however only the Circuit and District Court Judges are eligible to belong to MERS, Probate Judge Anderegg cannot belong to MERS. Also, the State is presently not providing life insurance for any of the Judges. The County is providing life insurance in the amount of 1-1/2 times the County portion of the their salary. A lengthy discussion followed between the Commissioners, Judge Anderegg, Administrator Aloia, and Randell Girard. It should be noted that all County Employees, as a result of the recent negotiations, receive the reduction in medical coverage benefits. After a lengthy discussion it became clear that it was difficult to determine a good comparison between the Judges, in that their salaries, County and State portions, are different and their retirement plans are different.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault that the request from Judge Anderegg be denied. Comm. Seppanan wanted more time to review the matter and requested the Committee wait until the next meeting to vote.

Judge Anderegg professed that he did not realize his request was so involved and complicated. The additional life insurance is only a matter of a few hundred dollars, and it is not worth the trouble it has caused. Judge Anderegg respectfully withdrew his request for additional life insurance. As a result the motion to deny the request was withdrawn.

Chairperson Arsenault 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
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 21, 1989, 4:00 p.m.
Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
   MEETING HELD ON March 7, 1989.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. 1989 Land & Water Conservation Fund/Natural Resources Trust
   Fund Applications.
   Discussion of County Liability for David Berns when acting
   as Supervisor of the Valente Medical Care Facility. (No
   packet materials).
9. Reimbursement for Whetstone Brook Drainage District.
11. 
12. 
13. 
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.