April 12, 1989

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Finance/Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, April 12, 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. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the minutes of the March 21, 1989 meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following change; that the review of claims and accounts be moved to the end of the meeting (from item 5 to item 15).

The Committee took under consideration a resolution for Imposition of a Property Tax Administration Fee which was presented by James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer. Mr. Sodergren was present and explained that throughout Michigan there has been a problem between schools and townships on collecting Summer Tax. Mr. Sodergren has agreed with the Powell Township Schools to collect the Summer Tax for them and he will charge $1.00 per parcel. The resolution will also provide for a 1% property tax administration fee which can be imposed in accordance with Public Act 503 of 1982. This fee will be returned to Powell Township and put in their general fund. Mr. Sodergren further added that by providing this service it satisfies both the schools and the township. He has a similar agreement in Sands Township. The Committee felt it was a positive service to the schools and townships in Marquette County. 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 for the Imposition of a Property Tax Administrative Fee as presented.

The Committee took under consideration the Marquette County Treasurer’s Salary. Comm. Corkin requested a survey which Randell E. Girard, Human Resources Director distributed, which showed that in 70 of 83 counties the Treasurer’s salary was comparable to the County Clerk’s.

James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, was present and explained he requested a salary increase in the Fall of 1987 and the matter has been tabled ever since. Mr. Sodergren is opposed to being locked into a particular job classification, and believes it is the County Board’s responsibility to set elected officials salaries. However, a recent Morley Study in 1987 did show that the County Treasurer’s salary was slightly below the average salary for our labor market. Mr. Sodergren believes that he is a better than average Treasurer with 21 years of experience in County Government and believes he should receive better than average pay.
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It was moved by Comm. Corkin that the Finance/Personnel Committee set the County Treasurer's salary equivalent to the County Clerk's salary for fiscal year 1990. There was no second for the motion. Several questions were raised by the Committee regarding the process of setting elected officials salaries as they relate between themselves, to other counties, and to the recommendations of any study.

Administrator Aloia agrees that Mr. Sodergren does an excellent job as Marquette County Treasurer, and further pointed out that the County Board does not set elected official salaries by using the Morley Study. As a result discrepancies have been resulting over the years, and the Morley Study showed that some elected officials may have been under paid. It is the Administrator's position that the elected officials salary should have an established range and performance evaluation.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the Committee direct Staff to provide information regarding elected officials salaries, ranges, job evaluation, etc. for consideration at the next Finance/Personnel Committee meeting.

The Committee took under consideration a request from 96th District Court Judges, James M. Collins and Patricia L. Micklow, that funds be allocated so that a successor may work with Mr. William Rekshan for approximately five weeks prior to his departure. William Rekshan, Magistrate/Court Administrator for the 96th District Court, has resigned effective June 1, 1989 to enter into private law practice. Judge Collins and Judge Micklow were present to discuss various scenarios presented by Randell Girard, Human Resources Director. Scenario C best fits the present needs of the 96th District Court. It provides for recruitment of the District Court Administrator/Magistrate not meeting the current requirements as established in the job description. Under this option, the court would hire from within the system which would not require advertisement. This would allow a five-week training overlap. The position would require reclassification to accurately reflect the new minimum requirements resulting in a downgrade of the position. The budget amendment necessary for Scenario C is estimated at $5,691.00. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board provide for a five-week overlap in training under Scenario C by adopting appropriate budget amendment #14.

The Committee took under consideration a request from Sheriff, Joseph I. Maino, to establish Jail Overcrowding Contingency Plans. Sheriff Maino, Undersheriff Michael Quayle, and Jail Administrator Ernest Grasso, were present to discuss the matter. In the first three months of 1989 the Marquette County Jail had an average of 57 inmates per day compared with 52 per day during all of 1988. The Sheriff's Dept. has been working with the Courts and Criminal Justice Agencies to keep the jail head count below the rated capacity of 60 inmates.
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Comm. Seppanen has also been working on a committee studying local jail alternatives. Two options are being considered for the future, possibly by Fall, first, electronic monitoring of inmates, and second, housing lower security inmates in another facility.

Sheriff Maino explained the plan would require temporarily housing 4 to 6 long-term inmates in other county jails at a cost of $35.00 a day. Only when absolutely necessary. Under the County Jail Reimbursement Plan which took effect in December of 1988, Marquette County would receive approximately $37,000.00 in revenue from State and Federal Governments for housing inmates. Sheriff Maino would like this revenue set aside and used to pay for the Jail Overcrowding Contingency Plan.

Administrator Aloia suggested the County Board appropriate from contingency enough funds to cover one months costs or approximately $7,500.00. The Sheriff’s Dept. won’t use the money unless needed and will continue efforts to keep the jail under capacity.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve of the Jail Overcrowding Contingency Plan and provide $7,500.00 from the contingency fund by adopting the appropriate budget amendment.

The Committee took under consideration Sheriff Dept. Vehicle Bids and Options. Sheriff, Joseph I. Maino, was present and reminded the Committee that his department vehicle was totally damaged in an accident in 1988. The County has approximately $3,900.00 from the Insurance Company payoff and sale of the damaged vehicle. Under Option IV, Frei Chevrolet has submitted a quote that would allow the County to lease a Blazer S10 for the remainder of 1989 for $300.00 a month, and then in January of 1990 the County would have to pay the balance in the amount of $14,178.00. This option, because of financing costs for the remainder of 1988, will cost approximately $800.00 more than if the County Board purchased the vehicle outright.

Undersheriff Quayle noted the County Board could not take final action on this recommendation until April 19th, however the auto dealer must know today, April 12th, so that the vehicle can be ordered. Apparently among auto dealers there is a deadline for ordering new vehicle inventories from the manufacturer.

Comm. DeFant and Comm. Bays were present, so Chairperson Arsenault asked for a consensus of Commissioners before accepting a motion. The consensus among Commissioners was to proceed with recommending Option IV.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board replace the Sheriff’s vehicle by leasing a Chevrolet Blazer S10 from Frei Chevrolet for the remainder of 1989 at a cost of $300.00 per month, using funds from the $3,900.00 insurance company payoff from the damaged vehicle, and then the County pay the balance in the amount of $14,178.35 in January of 1990 from the Capital Improvement Fund.
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The Committee took under consideration a memo from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Dept. Director, on the creation of a full-time Clinic Nurse position. The County Board acted on March 28th to create such a position by consolidating the following; 1) a contractual .5 FTE Clinic Nurse; and 2) a 0.3 FTE Clinic Nurse (prenatal care grant). This position totals 0.8 FTE. The economic impact of creating a 1.0 FTE regular full-time position is as follows:

a) Budgeted amount for 0.8 FTE contractual position - $20,148.00.

b) YTD expenditures plus proposed regular full-time position beginning 5/1/89 - $20,100.00.

Due to the small financial impact, no budget amendment would be required. The cost for this position next year will be approximately $21,000.00. The Board of Health has acted to approve the proposed changes and recommends the County Board concur. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board concur with Dr. Johnson's request for the creation of a regular full-time Clinic Nurse position in the Health Dept.

The Committee took under consideration a memo from David A. Payant, Civil Counsel, regarding sale of the Ishpeming Hotel. The "City of Ishpeming Real Estate Taxes" mentioned on page 2 of the schedule of claims are in fact County real estate taxes. Since the Hotel sold for $65,000.00 and the administrative expenses total $83,000.00, the pro-rated share of taxes will be $18,000.00. Marquette County Treasurer, James Sodergren, commented earlier that the County will receive 12% of the $18,000.00 in taxes or approximately $2,160.00. No Committee action or recommendation was required and the communication was placed on file.

The Committee took under consideration a National Association of Counties Alert regarding Federal budget cuts for public lands that receive Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). The Presidents proposed budget for FY 1990 calls for a change in the timber and mineral receipts formula that would result in a reduction of about 20% in receipts to school and county budgets. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board request our Federal Legislators to seek full entitlement for the PILT Program in FY 1990 and full payment to counties under the National Wildlife Refuge Fund.

The Committee took under consideration a resolution calling for the release of Federal Highway Trust Fund monies for road improvements. There is $9 billion dollars presently being held in the Highway Trust Fund which is needed for highway improvements, and the release of these funds would ensure that our vital highway improvements and maintenance programs
continue. 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.

The Committee took under consideration Claims and Accounts. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that claims and accounts for the period March 17, 1989 thru April 7, 1989 in the amount of $1,546,155.48 be approved and ordered paid.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE/PERSOENNEL COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 12, 1989 - 4:00 p.m.
Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PERSOENNEL COMMITTEE
   MEETING HELD ON March 21, 1989.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Resolution for Property Tax Administration Fee presented by
   James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer.
7. County Treasurer Salary.
8. A request from 96th District Court Judges, James M. Collins
   and Patricia L. Micklow, to fund a 5-week training period
   for the successor to Magistrate William Rokshan.
9. A letter from Sheriff Joseph I. Maino regarding jail over-
   crowding contingency plans.
10. Sheriffs vehicle bids and options.
11. Memo from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Department
    Director, on the creation of a regular full-time Clinic
    Nurse position.
12. A memo from David A. Payant, Civil Counsel, regarding sale
    of Ishpeming Hotel.
13. A Public Lands Alert from the National Association of
    Counties.
14. A resolution calling for the release of Federal Highway
    Trust Fund monies for road improvements.
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.