January 10, 1989

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Finance/Personnel Committee met on Tuesday, January 10, 1989 at 5:15 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


The County Clerk opened the meeting for nomination and election of a Chairperson. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that Comm. Arsenault be elected Chairperson of the Finance/Personnel Committee.

Comm. Arsenault immediately assumed the duties of Chairperson.

Chairperson Arsenault opened the meeting for the nomination and election of a Vice-Chairperson. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that Comm. Seppanen be elected Vice-Chairperson of the Finance/Personnel Committee.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting held on December 20, 1988 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following addition; that the request from the Cooperative Extension Service become item 13.

The Committee reviewed Claims and Accounts. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period December 17, 1988 thru January 6, 1989 in the amount of $840,238.33 be approved and ordered paid.

The Committee took under consideration a presentation by James F. Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer. Also present for the presentation was Comm. Bays from the Executive/IGR Committee. Mr. Sodergren expressed his concern over a number of financial matters, highlighted as follows:
First, $500,000 up front money is needed to support Commission on Aging, Central Dispatch and Rescue Safety. The transfer of $500,000 will mean a loss of $150,000 interest earnings over the next 5 years, and Mr. Sodergren suggests that $30,000 interest per year be pro-rated to the respective millage budgets; Second, tax free bonds shall be issued to finance the purchase and reconstruction of the "Jacks IGA" Property. If the money is borrowed from the Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund, Mr. Sodergren is no longer allowed to sell tax free notes, and it will cost an additional 2%; Third, the Brookridge and Acocks property should be sold and proceeds applied to reconstruction of Jacks IGA; Fourth, when Cleveland Cliffs changed to the prevailing price of pellets rather than the published price the reduction in specific ore taxes cost Marquette County approximately $500,000 per year and cost the schools even more. Mr. Sodergren suggests the County join with the
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schools and local units in seeking equity to the iron ore specific tax and also the specific tax paid on commercial forest lands. He further urged the Board support improvements in assessing procedures as suggested by Henry Schneider. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, supported by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board direct the County Board Chairperson to organize an Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of reviewing specific ore taxes in Marquette County.

The Committee took under consideration the 1989 Borrowing Resolution to be adopted as authorization for the issue of 1989 Delinquent Tax Notes (1988 Delinquent Taxes). James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer, was present and pointed out the resolution will provide him with maximum flexibility in borrowing. Mr. Sodergren also pointed out the Resolution Authorizing Administrative Fund should be adopted along with the borrowing resolution. This provides for the administrative fees to be collected by the Treasurer’s Office for its services as provided by law. (Act 206). It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board adopt the 1989 Borrowing Resolution (1988 Delinquent Taxes) and the Resolution Authorizing Administrative Fund as presented. (This recommendation will go to the February 1, 1989 County Board meeting).

Comm. Seppanen had to leave the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting at this time because of another commitment, however before leaving indicated his support for the full-time bailiff position, the establishment of the Regional Technical Assistance Center at the Marquette County Health Dept., and the additional appropriation for secretarial time for the County Extension Office.

The Committee took under consideration a request from Chief Circuit Judge, Edward A. Quinnell, to continue the Bailiff position full-time for 1989. Judge Quinnell and Bailiff Joe Levandoski were present to discuss the matter and answer questions. Judge Quinnell highlighted the trial court delay reduction project in which Marquette County has been a pilot court under direction of the State Court Administrator’s Office. The procedural changes implemented have resulted in a 3-month reduction in the time it takes a Circuit Court case to reach final disposition and Mr. Levandoski is an integral part of the improved procedures. Administrator, Dennis Aloia, has reviewed the Bailiff’s position and believes the full-time position for Mr. Levandoski is justified. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve the full-time Bailiff position by adopting the appropriate budget amendment with funds to be taken from Contingency.
The Committee took under consideration a proposed contract for full funding in the amount of $45,000 for the establishment of a Regional Technical Assistance Center. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director, Health Department, was present and pointed out there will be 8 such Centers in Michigan, one of which is Marquette County. The contract will cost the County nothing, however some staffing changes need approval. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board authorize the personnel changes in the Health Department as presented by Dr. Johnson.

The Committee took under consideration the Rescue Services 1989 Capital Outlay Budget. Undersheriff Michael Quayle was present and explained that the 1989 Capital Outlay Budget was not included during the budget process. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, reported that this is a technical budget change which only needs clarification, not a new budget amendment. The funds were already approved within the 1989 Rescue Services C.I.P. millage, including the extra $1,404 which is covered by a $7,000 fund equity in the millage budget. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve the 1989 Rescue Services Capital Outlay Budget as a matter of clarification.

The Committee took under consideration the 1989 C.I.P. Pick-up Truck bids for the County Airport. $8,500 was budgeted, however the low bid was $9,805. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, recommended the County Board approve the purchase of the low bid pick-up with the extra $1,305 to come from one of several 1989 C.I.P. Airport projects. John Ennett, Assistant Airport Manager, was present but was not given authorization to direct which C.I.P. project was to be reduced by $1,305. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve the purchase of the low bid pick-up truck from Superior Ford at a cost of $9,805, with the $1,305 in over-budget costs to be obtained by the reduction of another Airport C.I.P. expenditure. Airport Manager, Charles Hohman, Jr., must indicate which project budget will be reduced by $1,305.

The Committee took under consideration a request from the Marquette County EDC for an additional appropriation. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, suggested the possibility of forgiving the EDC’s 1988-89 rent which totals approximately $8,000 which would be a solution to the immediate problem. However the EDC has also indicated they will need an additional $50,000 in new funding for next years budget. The Committee was concerned that by forgiving the rent, a precedent may be set for such future action with the EDC or other County Departments. The Committee decided to table discussion of the matter until the next Finance/Personnel Committee meeting of January 24, 1989, in that Comm. Seppanen had to leave the meeting early and is not present. Also, the Finance/Personnel Committee requests that Charles Manto, EDC Director, be present on January 24th.
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The Committee took under consideration a request from Phillip A. Seitz, County Extension Director, for an additional appropriation of $7,652 to support an additional 25% of secretarial time, and also travel dollars and supplies for the 4-H Youth Agent. Mr. Seitz, along with Shelly Ovink, 4-H Program Assistant, and Nancy Beukema, Area 4-H Youth Agent, made a presentation during the earlier Executive/IGR Committee meeting explaining the MSU 4-H Spaces Grant Program and their need for the additional support. Comm. Seppanen had to leave the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting early because of another commitment, but indicated his support for Mr. Seitz request. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, supported by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board deny the request of the County Extension Director for an additional appropriation.

Comm. Arsenault opened the meeting for public comment. Phillip A. Seitz, Cooperative Extension Director, expressed his concern regarding the level of County support for the County Extension Office, which had not recovered from the budget cuts of several years ago, whereas many other County Departments have. Mr. Seitz contended that lack of County support for the Extension Office may in the future effect support from Michigan State University. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Arsenault closed this portion of the meeting.

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, January 10, 1989, 5:15 p.m.
Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan

1. ROLL CALL by County Clerk:
a. Nomination and election of a Committee Chairperson.
   (Chairperson immediately assumes duties of Chair)
b. Nomination and election of a Vice-Chairperson.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
   MEETING HELD ON December 20, 1988.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

**6. A letter from James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding the iron ore specific tax, maintaining County
   services and borrowing from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund. (5:20 p.m.)

1989 Borrowing Resolutions from James F. Sodergren, County
Treasurer.

8. Proposed contract from the Michigan Dept. of Public Health
   for $45,000.00 funding to establish a Regional Technical
   Assistance Center.

9. 1989 Budget Amendment requests from Judge Edward A.
   Quinnell.

10. Rescue Services Division millage budget.

11. 1989 CIP Pick-up Truck bids for Airport.

12. Marquette County EDC Budget Amendment request.

13.  

14.  

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

17. ADJOURNMENT.

**All Commissioners are requested to be present for item 6.