The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 23, 1991, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 9, 1991 be approved.

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

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following additions; that item 12) be a settlement report on the Airport fuel spill from Civil Counsel; and item 13) be an update on the Landfill bond issue from the Landfill Authority Director.


The Committee considered the 1991 Park/Harbor Rules and Rates. Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management Dept., was present and explained that the schedules must be adopted by the County Board on an annual basis. There are no changes to the rules proposed by the Natural Resources Commission, the park fees were raised last year so no change is recommended for this year until the County User Fee Study has been completed. There is a 5% increase however, included in the Harbor seasonal and transient schedules.

Comm. Seppanen arrived at 4:45 p.m.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried, the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board approve the 1991 Park/Harbor Rules and Rates as presented.

The Committee considered a memo from Joseph Racine, Vice-Chair of the County Natural Resources Commission, regarding proposed State cuts to the Soil Survey Program. The Marquette County Soil Survey is in progress and the cuts would have a definite impact on the completion of the Marquette County Soil Survey, because one of the threatened positions to be cut was assigned to Marquette County. Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, was present and explained that the State’s commitment was originally nine years to complete the survey, so the project will now require several more years to complete. The main benefit of the soil survey is that the information is useful to the Health Dept., Developers, and any agency requiring resource based information.

Chairperson Corkin added that part of the soil survey completed to date was very useful to Republic Township for a project being developed there. Republic Township had requested that their soil survey be completed first, and it proved useful and saved them several thousand dollars. The Marquette County Natural Resources Commission is meeting next week. Comm. Seppanen is the County Board member on the NRC and is confident that the NRC will go on record opposing the staffing cuts and request the State continue its previous commitment.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bays, and unanimously carried, the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board go on record asking the State to keep to its originally allocated commitment, and further request that the State Legislature support the MDA funding for completion of the Marquette County Soil Survey project.
The Committee had received an update on the progress and current status of the Marquette County Soil Survey Project from Dennis Robinson, Environmental Division, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture. Approximately 75,000 acres were soil mapped in 1990, with 177,000 acres mapped in total so far. Interim soil maps for the completed acreage are in order and will be available soon for portions of Chocolay, Humboldt, Ishpeming, Michigamme, Negamnsee, Sands, and Wells Townships. The 1991 soil mapping will be concentrated in Humboldt, Michigamme, and Republic Townships.

On a motion by Comm. Bays, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole accept the report and place it on file.

The Committee received an update from Drain Commissioner, Darryll Sundberg, on the Lake Independence Dam Fencing Project. Mr. Sundberg gave a brief historical view of the problem with the fence. The most recent property owner on the south side of the dam does not like the fence, and came to the County Board last year to discuss removing it or making the fence more attractive. The property owner would prefer no fence at all, but Civil Counsel Payant said that that is not a viable option because the County could be held liable in case of an accident.

It has been determined that the County has no legal access to the south side of the dam, and can't do the fence screening/landscaping project until they can gain access. It is possible to condemn the property to gain access for the public good.

Chairperson Corkin requested that Darryll Sundberg meet with the south side property owner to see if a solution is possible for access to the dam. The matter will be discussed again at the May 15, 1991 Committee meeting.

The Committee considered a resolution from the Iron County Board of Commissioners opposing the closure of the Mental Health Facility in Newberry.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried, the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board adopt a similar resolution.

The Committee considered the CUPPAD Regional Commission 1990 Annual OEDP Report to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Chair-person Corkin has reviewed the report and pointed out it has been updated and recommends its approval.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried, the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board adopt the resolution of approval and concurrence of the 1990 Annual OEDP Report.

The Committee considered the release between Marquette County and Capitol City Express from any claims arising out of a fuel spill that occurred at the Marquette County Airport on April 12, 1990. Chief Civil Counsel, David Payant, was present and explained that Capitol City Express has agreed to pay a $5,736.86 to Marquette County, and Mr. Payant has prepared the release which Mr. Shimaneck has signed on behalf of Capitol City Express, and recommends that the County Board also approve the release and have the Chairperson sign.

On a motion by Comm. Bays, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried, the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board accept the payment from Capitol City Express of $5,736.86, and sign the release forever discharging each other from any claims arising out of the April 12, 1990 fuel spill.

The Committee considered an update on the Proposed Bonding Issue/Cell Expansion for the Marquette County Landfill from Michael Etelamaki, Director of the Solid Waste Authority. Mr. Etelamaki presented detailed slides on the overhead projector giving a graphical explanation of the proposed landfill, and then introduced John Blemberg, CPA, Anderson, Tackman & Co.,
who has reviewed and tested the financial model for the bonding issue for accuracy and consistency with generally accepted accounting principals. At their next meeting, the Marquette County Solid Waste Authority will be adopting a financial plan for the bond issue, in the meantime, Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, recommends that the next step for the County Board would be to hire a financial advisor.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to the County Board the hiring of financial advisors for the bonding issue for the cell expansion at the Marquette County Landfill.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Tuesday, April 23, 1991 at 4:30 p.m.  
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. Proposed cut to the State Soil Survey Program.
8. Update on the Soil Survey Project.
10. Resolution proposing the closure of the Mental Health Facility in Newberry.
13. Update on landfill bond issue.
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.