June 26, 1979

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met for a Special
meeting of the Committee of the Whole on June 26, 1979 at 7:00 p.m.
in the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson May and roll call
was held by Joy Schlags, Deputy County Clerk, with the following roll
recorded.

Present: Comm. Anderson, Cheatham, Clark, Coomba, Juidici, Leone,
Lowe, Racine, Steele and May.


Approval of the agenda was given by the general consensus of
the board.

Chairperson May opened the meeting for public comment, none was
forthcoming and Chairperson May declared the public comment section closed.

Chairperson May introduced, persons in attendance, from the Marquette
City Transit Authority, Robert Niemi, Dir.; Peg Bramas, President Marquette
Business service, Hal Dorf, Richard Schuehlin, Dorothy Heldeman, John Martin,
Claude Lauscher and Lou Chappell. Representing the Ishpeming Transit
Authority, Elly Potter, Mr. Kokko, Leonard Altobello and Nicholas Joseph.
Richard Steckel was also present to represent the Senior Citizens, Greg Main
from CUPRAD, Ron Kashorek and Les Ross from the Planning Commission and
Kip Grimes a representative from the State Dept. of Transportation.

Chairperson May explained the purpose of this Special meeting and
what has taken place to this point. She stated the board has been inter-
ested in some sort of county-wide transportation for a number of years,
but to this point the State has not provided funding for County-Wide
Comprehensive Transportation. Recently communication was received from the
Michigan Dept. of Transportation, indicating that they were going to be
funding Transportation Programs through their Small Vehicle County In-
centive Program throughout the State. So this meeting was called to get
input from those persons already involved in Transportation and other
interested persons. At this point it has not been determined whether or
not they will make application for funding.

A list of questions concerning Public Transportation in Marquette
County was used as a guideline for discussion.

1. Is there a need for County-Wide Public Transportation in Marquette
County?
The general consensus was that there was a need. Comm. Leone elaborated
somewhat on the energy situation, and feels the day will come soon when
we will reach a real energy crisis. He stated the funding is available
now and if we don't take advantage and apply now, later on the funds may
be depleted.

2. What areas of the county would have the greatest demand for
Public Transit?
Ron Kashorek, Acting Dir. of the Planning Commission responded on
the needs of the various areas in the county.
Bob Niemi and Elly Potter felt the greatest need was between Marquette
and the Ishpeming-Negaunee Area. Peg Bramas informed us that at one time
we had bus service in this area, but because of funding and lack of support
it had to be eliminated. She agreed it was a great need. A discussion
was held on how this could be handled as to putting it on a referendum
for the people to vote on.

Mr. Grimes responded on how the funding would be allotted for a five year
period.

a. 1st - 2nd year 100% funded
   b. 3rd year 75% funded
   c. 4th year 50% funded (and each successive year)

Marquette and Ishpeming cities are already in the 1st year of funding, so
this would leave only 4 years remaining.

Nicholas Joseph of Ishpeming would like to see Ishpeming and Marquette
cities continue to take care of their own city and the county take care
of the outlying areas.
4. What Organizations are currently providing Public Transportation Services within Marquette County and what is the official basis of each? Marquette City provides service within the city (a combination of fixed and demand response) reported Peg Brahma. Elly Potter reported that Ishpeming City provides service for Ishpeming and Negauaee cities, Ishpeming Township, Tildon Township, Republic- Michigan area and the Mother Nursing Home on a dispatch service.

Both cities operate under the same procedure, one-third state funds, one-third local, one-third from the Highway Dept. and Fare-box. Elly Potter stated that they have relied very heavy on CETA help for drivers etc.

5. What alternatives are available in providing a single Unified Transp. Service for the Citizens of Marquette County? a. County-Wide with the county as the Authority. b. Ishpeming-Negaunea and Marquette Cities as it is now with contractual agreements with surrounding townships. The funding would be the same for the cities in it. Comm. Judici inquired on what the right of the franchise holder would be and what limitation or to what extent a county authority would have. It was determined that if the cities still stayed as it is now and the county authority just take care of the outlying areas, there would be certain limitations of the County Authority.

6. What is the position of the Michigan Dept. of Transportation regarding cooperation and consolidation of Local Public Transportation Program? Kip Grimes, Representative from the State Dept. of Transportation, stated that if a county-wide authority is applied for it would have its own board members. He emphasized the fact that this would be a County Authority and not the Board of Commissioners. He said the most effective way is to start slow and gradually work up to size plan that the county will be able to finance at the 50% level.

The following persons were selected for a committee to come up with plans and recommendations for a County-Wide Transportation Authority. Elly Potter Ron Kasabrek Peg Brahma A person designated from the State Board. Robert Wiel The deadline for reporting back to the Committee of the Whole is July 16, 1979, so that it can be presented at the Regular meeting of the County Board on July 16, 1979.

There was discussion on what would be included in the plan or package, such as the operational and administrative part.

Mr. Grimes reported that there was no deadline for submitting the application to the State but it would be on a first come basis.

There being no further discussion, Chairperson May called the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Schlar
Deputy County Clerk
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting

Tuesday, June 25, 1979, 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners Room, Courthouse Annex
Marquette, Michigan

1. Meeting Called to Order.
2. Roll Call by the Clerk.
3. Approval of the Agenda.
4. Public Comment.
5. Discuss Marquette County's application for public transportation funds from the State. Representatives from the State Department of Transportation and the Ishpeming and Marquette Transit Authorities have been invited to attend this discussion.
6. Additional Business.
7. Announcements.
8. Public Comment.