January 14, 1992

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Finance/Personnel Committee Organizational Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 14, 1992 at 4:15 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


Comm. Corkin nominated Comm. Arsenault for Chairperson. No other nominations were forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Corkin, and unanimously carried that Comm. Arsenault be Chairperson of the Finance/Personnel Committee.

Comm. Corkin nominated Comm. Angeli for Vice-Chairperson. No other nominations were forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Corkin, and unanimously carried that Comm. Angeli be Vice-Chairperson of the Finance/Personnel Committee.

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

Chairperson Arsenault opened the meeting for a special public comment from Dr. Randall Johnson, Director of the Marquette County Health Department.

Dr. Johnson presented a written report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Nursing Home Beds. Dr. Johnson explained that Chairperson Corkin appointed Lynn Emerick, Brad Cory, Bill Nemancheck, Dr. Ray Johnson, and Dr. Randall Johnson, to the Committee last October to review the long-standing problem of lack of available nursing home beds in Marquette County and throughout the Upper Peninsula.

Dr. Johnson reported that this Committee met on December 7, 1991 and discussed many aspects of the problem and several potential solutions, and has made a number of recommendations to the County Board. During the discussion it should be noted that Dr. Ray Johnson is presently appealing a denial for a Certificate of Need from the Michigan Department of Public Health for a new 100 bed nursing home in Negaunee. Although Dr. Ray Johnson does not know when a final decision will be made, there is a hearing regarding the matter before the Michigan Public Health Department at the end of February.

The Committee also discussed political and administrative changes that have occurred in Lansing, which may have an effect on the Certificate of Need process and future nursing home regulations. As a result of these discussions the Committee would like to recommend that the County Board take the following steps in attempting to resolve Marquette County's nursing home bed shortage:
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners should write a letter to each hospital social work department, nursing home, and home health agency in the county asking them to submit to the Board a report listing the individuals (identified by Social Security Number and county of residence) on their nursing home placement waiting list as of a particular date (e.g. January 24, 1992). In addition, the nursing homes should be asked to identify the county of origin of all their current residents, and the hospitals should be asked how many of their patients who were Marquette County residents were placed in nursing homes in other counties in the last year (i.e. during 1991). A draft letter to the facilities and suggested report forms are enclosed as Attachment A. The data from the report forms can then be analyzed in order to develop an unduplicated list of Marquette County residents presently placed or waiting for placement in Marquette County nursing homes. (In order to protect the business interests of the nursing homes, analysis of the documents should be performed by someone not directly involved in the nursing home industry).

2. Assuming that the above described data demonstrates a mismatch between the number of nursing home beds in Marquette County and the number of county residents requiring nursing home placement, we would recommend that the Board of Commissioners write a letter to the Director of the Michigan Department of Public Health (Vernice Davis Anthony) supporting the need for more beds and requesting that she and other appropriate members of her staff come to Marquette County for an in-dept discussion of this issue.

3. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners should write letters to the Governor, the Director of the Michigan Department of Public Health, and our legislators, expressing its support for complete implementation of the recommendations included in the report entitled "Long Term Care in Michigan's Upper Peninsula" released by the Michigan Department of Public Health in September of 1987 (a list of these recommendations and their current status is enclosed as Attachment B).

4. If the "advisory ad hoc committee" referred to in Recommendation 7 of the above referenced report (see Attachment B) determines that a modified statewide bed need methodology that results in approval of more nursing home beds in the U.P. is indicated, the Board of Commissioners should go on record supporting immediate implementation of the appropriate changes. If the committee does not recommend a statewide formula change that results in more beds for the U.P., the Board of Commissioners should go on record supporting granting an exception to the formula for the U.P. Such an exception can be justified based on documented higher occupancy rates and longer placement waiting lists in this region as compared to the rest of the state.
RECOMMENDATIONS - Cont’d.

5. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners should provide a copy of this communication to Rep. Jacobetti and Sen. Koivisto so they know what is being done locally to attempt to resolve this issue. They may be able to suggest additional actions.

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The Finance/Personnel Committee concurred with the recommendations from the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on Nursing Home Bed Recommendations; also, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Potvin were present and also concurred. It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee direct Chairperson Corkin and staff to immediately begin following through on the Ad Hoc Committee on Nursing Home Bed Recommendations.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period December 20, 1991 thru January 10, 1992, in the amount of $1,105,639.29 be approved.

The Committee considered a Proposed Pilot Grant with the Michigan DNR, negotiated by Bob Taylor, Director of Employment Programs. The proposed pilot project is a $40,000 grant to utilize our Employment Program employees to construct park equipment for State Park Campgrounds. The result will be an increased number of job training placements for the unemployed in Marquette County. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that this is similar to the Little Presque Isle Project where the DNR provides the materials Marquette County provided the labor. While this program is a pilot project, it has the potential to become ongoing, and Bob Taylor is to be commended for negotiating such an agreement. This will help to offset losses from other state programs that have been cut.

Bob Taylor, Director of Employment Programs, was present to answer questions. This grant proposal will provide training and employment for twelve to sixteen people. Mr. Taylor will continue to try to develop similar projects to help cover Marquette County losses in other areas.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board approve of the Proposed Pilot Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Marquette County Department of Employment Programs for the construction of park equipment for State Park Campgrounds.
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The Committee considered the 1992 Sheriff Patrol Vehicle Bids. Undersheriff, Michael Quayle, was present to explain the bids and answer questions. Two bids were received for three 1992 Sheriff Patrol Vehicles and one Detective Vehicle. The bids were from Frei Chevrolet - GEO, Inc., Marquette, and Advantage Ford, Marquette. Both vendors met or exceeded the County bid specifications. These bids include the trade-in of the old Sheriff's Department vehicles.

For the purpose of comparison, the Sheriff's Department also obtained a copy of the State of Michigan's contract for the purchase of police vehicles through State Extended Purchasing. The state purchased vehicles do not include necessary additional modifications which must be made locally to meet bid specifications, nor does state purchasing provide for the trade-in of the old vehicles. The state price is only approximately $1,400.00 per vehicle lower than the low bid from the local dealer. Past experience has shown that the selling of used Sheriff vehicles has been time consuming and not very profitable. Marquette County would have to receive approximately $2,500.00 to $3,000.00 per used vehicle to offset the trade-in allowance and the equipment modifications required. Sufficient funds have been budgeted in the capital budget for replacement of the detective vehicle and the three patrol vehicles and Sheriff Maino recommends purchase from the local dealership with the lowest bid.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Corkin, and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board accept the bids obtained from the low bidder Advantage Ford, in the net amount of $39,284.00 for three patrol vehicles, and $14,738.00 for a detective vehicle.

The Committee considered the purchase of a handgun through the Sheriff's Department for additional courtroom security. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that the Bailiff needs a weapon for Circuit Court security, and the Bailiff job description already includes deputization by the Sheriff to carry a handgun. There are no extra handguns available through the Sheriff's Department. Administrator Aloia believes the request is warranted and recommends that the handgun be purchased and licensed through the Sheriff's Department.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board authorize the expenditure of up to $600.00 for the purchase of a handgun through the Sheriff's Department for additional courtroom security.

The Committee considered a Wellness Committee Update from Randell Girard, Director of Human Resources. Mr. Girard provided a summary of the 1991 Wellness Program activities which included a "fitness game" for the second year for County staff members designed to encourage physical fitness through team participation and competition (60 participated). Some of the other 1991 programs include, in conjunction with the Health Department, classes for smoking cessation, stress management, blood pressure control, and alcohol/substance abuse education.
Marquette County’s Worksite Wellness Program was recognized as one of the best programs in the Upper Peninsula in 1991, and received the 1991 “Excellence in Health Promotion” award from the Wellness Councils of the Upper Peninsula at their annual meeting held in October. The Marquette County Wellness Committee seeks the County Board’s continued support for 1992, and Mr. Girard provided a list of programs that have been designed to be presented to County staff on a monthly basis. Each of these programs deal with either health or safety issues, are designed to last no more than one hour, and will be attended on a voluntary basis. The County Wellness Committee is requesting that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend to the County Board that these programs be allowed to be presented during the working day. County employees and staff members can then attend these programs through the use of release time authorized by their department heads.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee recommend the County Board commend the Marquette County Wellness Committee for their past programs, and continue to support them by allowing the use of release time for County staff and employees to attend 1992 monthly programs.

The Committee considered a memo from Probate Judge, Michael J. Anderegg, regarding exemption from the 1991 travel freeze. The exemption is for expenditures for Dennis Yelle’s trip to Markville, Minnesota. A probationer needed to be placed in a short-term residential treatment facility, and Mr. Yelle transported the young man to the placement. This is not a situation in which public transportation could have been used, and there was no time to come to the County Board in advance for a travel freeze exemption. The cost of the trip was $200.70, and there are adequate unexpended travel funds in the Juvenile Division’s budget.

Don Kauppila, from the Juvenile Division, was present to answer questions and added that they received a call today from Markville, Minnesota, the treatment facility cannot keep this particular youth any longer, and so another trip will be necessary to pick the youth up and then he will be placed in a more secure detention home in Lower Michigan. This could become one of those placement of juveniles that cost the County around $100.00 per day.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Finance/Personnel Committee approve the travel expenses for Dennis Yelle’s trip to Markville, Minnesota, in the amount of $207.70.

The Committee considered a memo from James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding the investment of County funds. Mr. Sodergren attached a bid form which he uses when monies become available for investment. He has also requested a statement of financial condition from First Northern National Bank, and they will be added to the list of bidders once he has received the report and analyzed their financial condition. Comm. Arsenault would like to set up a meeting with Treasurer Sodergren when he returns from his vacation to further discuss the matter.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Corkin, and unanimously carried to file the communication.
Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

Commissioner Comments and Announcements

Comm. Angeli prefers the Committee of the Whole meetings rather than have the separate Finance/Personnel and Executive/IGR meetings.

Comm. Angeli also suggested that a County-wide economic development group be formed rather than having some cities and townships with their own EDC groups. This will stop duplication of effort and should save taxpayers dollars. Comm. Angeli spoke with the Marquette City Mayor who liked the idea. Comm. Corkin felt that it makes sense if the local units are willing to do this. Administrator Aloia suggested that this idea could be discussed during a future County Board goal setting session.

Comm. Potvin went to the most recent EDC meeting and brought up the very thing that Comm. Angeli is suggesting, and the EDC liked the idea. Comm. Seppanen also felt it makes sense. Comm. Potvin and Comm. Seppanen will follow up with the EDC and get back to the County Board when further information is available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 1992, 4:15 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON.
3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON.
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES — (None).
5. PUBLIC COMMENT.
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. Review of Claims and Accounts.
8. Proposed Pilot Grant with the Michigan DNR from Bob Taylor, Director, Employment Programs.
11. Wellness Committee Update from Randell Girard, Director of Human Resources.
12. A request from Judge Anderegg for exemption from the 1991 travel freeze for a Probation Department staff member.
13. A memo from James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding the investment of County Funds.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.