THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE

OCTOBER 13, 1992

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 13, 1992, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the 1992 Committee of the Whole Budget Hearings and Work Sessions and the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 22, 1992 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following addition; item 12) radio communication equipment for the Mine Inspector, and that this item be moved up on the agenda immediately after item 6).

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that claims and accounts for the period September 19, 1992 thru October 9, 1992, in the amount of $2,284,231.99 be approved.

William C. Maki, Marquette County Mine Inspector, was present to give an update on the filling or capping of open mine pits and shafts. Also present was Rudy LaFreniere, Mine Inspector Elect.

Mr. Maki reported that Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. is cooperating and doing a good job. C.C.I. recently filled two pits in Michigamme Township and more are scheduled to be done by C.C.I. around the Negaunee area. Also U.S. Steel filled a pit in Champion Township. Mr. Maki reported that he has heard nothing from the Hanna Mining Company as of yet, but expects to in the near future.

Mr. Maki reported that he has found a shaft with a hemp rope hanging down in it and another one with a plastic garden hose hanging. He felt that somehow the help of the parents should be solicited to inform their kids not to play in the abandoned and fenced-in mining areas. Mr. Maki wondered if it was also possible that increased penalties be provided for those who cut fences and go into abandoned mining areas.

Commissioners commended Mr. Maki for his continuing efforts and hoped that the media will speak to the issue for the publics benefit. Also, Commissioners requested staff send a thank you letter to those companies and landowners who have responded so far, and suggested that a letter be drafted and sent to the schools to educate our young people in the dangers of playing in abandoned mining areas.

The Committee considered a request from William C. Maki, Mine Inspector, that the County Board approve a radio communication system for the western end of Marquette County so that the Mine Inspector can be in radio contact when he is walking alone along the pits and caving ground fences. The Marquette County Road Commission also indicated during their budget hearing that they have a communication problem with their trucks and road equipment in this part of the County due to the bluffs and rock formations. A cooperative agreement has been worked out between the Mine Inspector and the Road Commission and a list of equipment and prices for the a second repeater system at Champion was distributed to the Commissioners.

Comm. Seppanen reported that the Road Commission has agreed to take care of the rest of the costs of the system if the County appropriated $5,000.00 for the Mine Inspector's portion. This would be an approximately 50/50 split.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County
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Board approve of a $5,000.00 appropriation from Contingency for the radio antenna and equipment required to allow for the Mine Inspector and the Road Commission communication system in Western Marquette County.

The Committee considered the proposed 1992 Health Department budget amendment #1. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Director, was present and explained that the Health Department usually has four or five budget amendments by this time of year, but because of labor negotiations they were holding off. As a result the proposed budget amendment is quite large. Overall the amendment increases the department's 1992 budget by $180,524.00 (up from $2,815,115.00 to $2,995,639.00). The County appropriation is reduced from $625,801.00 to $610,801.00 reflecting the elimination of the subsidy for the Humane Society.

The proposed budget amendment requires County Board approval because it includes $66,219.00 in County appropriations for the new dental clinic. It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1992 Health Department budget amendment #1 as presented.

The Committee considered a memo from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director, Marquette County Health Department, regarding the "Targeted Minority Health Program: Community/Local Public Health Collaboration Grant Proposal." This grant proposal is presented for the County Board's information in compliance with Marquette County's Financial Policy #228. The grant proposal is being submitted to the Michigan Department of Public Health requesting $80,000.00 in funding. The proposal does not involve direct or indirect County financial support, but is being provided as a matter of information.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a budget amendment for the Resource Management Department's 1992 operating budget. Don Koshorek, Resource Management Director, explained in a memo that the State is very near adopting the 1990 Building and Mechanical Codes. They will go into effect in 60 days or so. Resource Management is able through their membership in the BOCA to obtain codes books at a discount and offer them to contractors/architects cheaper than they can buy them from the State. They are already getting requests for these publications and have spent the $1,260.00 budgeted for this purpose. The revenue is $500.00 more than anticipated, reflecting increased sales, so they request a budget amendment to continue this service.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the budget amendment for the Resource Management Department for $600.00 from Contingency.

The Committee considered a request from the Community Coordinated Child Care (4C's) of the Upper Peninsula to terminate the lease of Building #5, 1 Acocks Drive, Neguachee Township, with the County of Marquette. In a memo, Susan Wertanen, 4C Director, explained that all State of Michigan funding for pregnant and parenting teens, support, prevention/intervention, and residential, ended in October 1991. Ms. Wertanen thanked the County Board of Commissioners for consistently demonstrating their support of young mothers and their babies. She also thanked the County Facilities Crew and Manager, George Wright. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the request to terminate the lease of the Acocks Building #5 with the Community Coordinated Child Care and cancel any monies due the County from the organization.

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole made on September 22, 1992 that a gathering be organized for various boards and commissions with expenses not to exceed $1,000.00. This
recommendation was placed on the October 6, 1992 Regular Board agenda; however, it was removed after Mr. Bob Beams, during public comment, suggested that holding a picnic for the benefit of members of various boards and commissions violates the State Constitution Article 9, Section 18. Civil Counsel, David Payant, has reviewed the Article 9, Section 18, and contended that this gathering would not be a particular violation of that Section. Article 9, Section 18, prohibits the County from giving money to a non-profit organization; however, the County can provide funding if it serves a public purpose or there is a statutory basis to spend public dollars. In this particular case the County Board could authorize this gathering as a County Board expense and have a meeting to congratulate members of various boards and commissions.

Comm. Potvin believes it is a good idea that we meet with members of these various boards and commissions to get to know them and to discuss matters with them. There can be nothing wrong in sharing a sandwich or a glass of wine together, and he still supports the idea and believes the choice of the word "picnic" on the agenda was unfortunate.

Comm. Angeli also supports the idea of holding such a gathering.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried three-to-two on a roll call vote, with Comm. Seppanen, Comm. Arsenault, and Comm. Corkin voting yes, and Comm. Angeli, and Comm. Potvin voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole withdraw and deny its recommendation to organize a gathering for members of various boards and commissions.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole go into Closed Session to discuss pending litigation.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear Commission Chambers.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee came back into Open Session, no action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

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

Announcements

Comm. Potvin announced the following: a) the Marquette County EDC has hired Dr. Richard Klahn as a part-time director of the EDC at $30.00 per hour; b) at 7:00 p.m. tonight the Little Presque Isle Planning Committee will conduct a meeting; and c) the Marquette County Road Commission is hosting an open house and tour tomorrow, Wednesday, October 14, 1992 at 1:00 p.m.

Chairperson Corkin announced that Marplex and the County are moving forward in their discussions.

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, October 13, 1992, 4:30 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 1992
   BUDGET HEARINGS, and the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD

3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. Update from William C. Maki, Mine Inspector, on open mine
   shafts and pits. (No packet materials).

7. Proposed 1992 Health Department Budget Amendment #1 from Dr.
   Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director.

8. Targeted Minority Health Program: Community/Local Public
   Health Collaboration Grant Proposal.

9. Resource Management Department Budget Amendment request from
   Ron Kosherek, Director.

10. Community Coordinated Child Care (4C's) request to terminate
    lease of building #5 at the Acocks Facility.

11. Previous Committee of the Whole recommendation to authorize
    picnic for various boards and commissions.

12. Mine reector rules project

13. 

14. CLOSED SESSION to discuss pending litigation.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.

16. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

17. ADJOURNMENT.

Note! If necessary the Committee of the Whole meeting will
recess to conduct the Annual Meeting at 5:15 p.m. and
then reconvene.