The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 10, 1992, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewls Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenaught, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the October 27, 1992 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenaught, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following addition; item 15) a letter regarding fuel contaminated soils.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenaught, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts, for the period October 24, 1992 thru November 6, 1992, in the amount of $897,807.43 be approved.

The Committee considered the Borrowing Resolutions for the 1992 Delinquent Taxes from James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer. Mr. Sodergren was present and presented the fee schedules from the three bidders for bond counsel and financial consultant. The low bid for bond counsel was John Axe & Associates at $1,500.00, and the low bid for the financial consultant was the firm MFCI (John Axe) for $1,000.00.

Commissioners questioned why John Axe was so much lower than the other bidders. Mr. Sodergren's explanation is that Mr. Axe represents 50 counties in Michigan. He can get an analysis of any bank's financial condition in a short time, and because he is so familiar with the delinquent tax borrowing process his fees are lower.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, agreed with Mr. Sodergren's analysis as to why Mr. Axe's bid was so much lower than other perspective bond counsels and financial consultants. Mr. Axe has put into the borrowing resolutions all the items that the County Board requested, and has never done anything in any way that is inappropriate. Administrator Aloia did request that the County Board give him the same consideration when he presents the bids for the 1992 audit. The same situation will arise, in that the present auditors will be so familiar with Marquette County that their bid will be substantially lower than any other.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenaught, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the 1993 Borrowing Resolutions (1992 Delinquent Taxes) and approve of the low bidder, John Axe & Associates, as bond counsel, and also the low bidder MFCI as financial consultant.

The Committee considered a request from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director, regarding the proposed filling of a Field Services Supervisor position. Dr. Johnson was present and explained that he presently has 1.75 FTE Field Services Supervisor positions. In July the one full-time person left so the three-quarter-time person became the full-time person. Instead of now hiring a three-quarter-time Field Services Supervisor position, he would like to hire a full-time person. The justification: This particular position is critical to the Health Department's ability to continue services with clients within the Home Health, Gerontological Health, and General Nursing Programs. These positions are being overwhelmed and it is difficult to recruit someone for a three-quarter-time position. The replacing of the 1.75 FTE positions with two full-time positions would not require any additional County funding. Administrator Aloia concurs with this request.
It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole approve the proposed filling of the Field Services Supervisor positions from 1.75 FTE to two full-time positions as requested.

The Committee considered a request from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director, to fill a Clerk/Typist II position. The position will be vacant as of November 16, 1992 in the Health Department’s Clinic Services Division. The position is full-time and funded 100% by the WIC Program. The current employee has posted into another position in the Health Education Division. Administrator Aloia concurs with the request.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole approve the filling of the Clerk/Typist II position in the Health Department’s Clinic Services Division as requested.

The Committee considered a request from Marjorie A. Seymour, representing AFSCME Sub Chapter 113, Upper Peninsula Retirees, that the County Board adopt the benefit program rider E-1, which would provide for an automatic cost of living increase of up to 2-1/2% per year for the present County Retirees.

Randell Girard, Human Resources Director, was present and explained that a resolution to adopt a one-time E-Rider which provides for a 2% increase has been done in the past; however, this request is requesting the E-1 Rider which would provide automatic annual increases. A resolution would have to be adopted by the December 1, 1992 Board meeting. He has contacted MERS and they have agreed to rush the necessary actuarial figures and cost analysis for both an E and an E-1 Rider.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that when the financial analysis is available for the providing of additional retirement benefits to Marquette County Retirees, that Administrator Aloia present them to the County Board for further consideration.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding the Honor Camp Access from Co. Rd. 553. In a memo from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, explaining that based on a 1990 offer from C.C.I. to sell 160 acres adjacent to the Honor Camp, Marquette County applied for and received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant to assist in the acquisition. The grant total was $50,000.00 with $37,500.00 provided by the State. During the time that the County was awaiting the funding, C.C.I. sold the property to Benson Forests and David Kallio. After notice of the grant award appraisals were performed by R & R Realty and the value of the original property has now increased to $118,000.00. According to the requirements of the grant we are obliged to offer to purchase the property at the appraised value, and so now there are three options: First, to increase the local share of the project by $70,000.00. Second, to ask the State to increase the grant amount, which would involve reapplying for funds. And third, ask the State to allow a reduction in the size of the parcel purchased, and stay within the $50,000.00 budget.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, is recommending that the County Board authorize staff to complete the reanalysis of the value of the land based on the $50,000.00 available to spend, and also request that the State extend the County’s grant agreement while we complete the analysis of the options. It is possible that the additional monies may be available for the acquisition of the land should the County Board approve of a proposal to sell the old Acoks property.
It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board concur with Administrator Aloia’s recommendation to ask the State for an extension to the grant agreement while they complete an analysis of the value of the land based on the availability of the $50,000.00, and complete the investigation of other options.

The Committee considered an award of a $31,284.00 grant from the U.S. Small Business Association to assist in Marquette County’s 1993 Tree Planting Project. Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, was present and explained that the grant will be administered by the Michigan DNR Forest Management Division. The funds would be used for site preparation, seedling procurement, and planting. Funds must also be expended with small business (less than 100 employees), and the County must also perform tree maintenance for three years after planting. The local share of the funds for this project, which amounts to $34,406.00, as been budgeted for FY 1993 from the Forestry Enterprise Fund.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, explained that the full amount of this project, approximately $65,000.00 was already budgeted, but because Mr. Koshorek applied for this grant, the County will be able to do the 1993 tree planting utilizing only 55% of the budgeted funds.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the $31,284.00 grant from the U.S. Small Business Association to assist in the 1993 Tree Planting Project.

Chairperson Corkin read a letter from Richard S. Pastula, Director, Office of Federal Grants, Michigan Department of Commerce, explaining that they have received Marquette County’s notice of intent to apply for a “Rebuild Michigan Initiative” grant; however, they regret to inform Marquette County that they are unable to authorize an application for funding at this time. Marquette County presented several projects totalling approximately $1 million, which included a proposed parking ramp.

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

The Committee considered the 1992/1993 Emergency Management Assistance Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of State Police, Emergency Management Division, and Marquette County. A memo from Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Director, explained that this is an annual agreement for the purpose of distributing Federal Emergency Management Agency funds to local jurisdictions. The funds are used to reimburse local units of government for certain costs incurred for the development and maintenance of their Emergency Management Programs. The agreement has been given administrative and legal review.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1992/1993 Emergency Management Assistance Grant Agreement.

The Committee considered a list of County-owned vehicles driven to/from work by employees. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that during the annual budget process it was requested that a list of vehicles being driven home by County employees be provided to the County Board. Three years ago an analysis was done by the County Board of County-owned vehicles being driven home by employees, and the present group of employees has not changed from that time.

Comm. Potvin felt that the County should have in writing why each employee must take home a County-owned vehicle, cite the advantage to the County, and provide examples.
Administrator Aloia explained that five of the vehicles on the list are under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff, only Bob Taylor answers directly to Administrator Aloia. Mr. Taylor drives his vehicle home because it is cost effective, and a financial analysis can be provided to the County Board justifying this. Mr. Aloia further explained that should the County Board want to further investigate this matter, that some kind of policy statement ought to be drafted, so every two or three years the County Board does not have to go through this process. This would not preclude future County Boards from changing the policy. As far as providing an analysis of vehicles driven by Sheriff Department employees, Administrator Aloia could not do so without Sheriff Maino's input.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Administrator Aloia to accumulate a financial analysis to provide justification as to why these County employees must drive County-owned vehicles to and from work.

Comm. Angeli thought that the development of a policy was a good idea; however, he did not feel that directing staff to do an analysis was necessary.

Comm. Arsenault was on the County Board three years ago when an analysis of the County-owned vehicles was done, and it showed that it was cost effective for these employees to drive them to and from work. He believed Administrator Aloia has more important matters to contend with, with a limited amount of time, and this is not worth his further attention. Comm. Arsenault is satisfied with the present situation.

Comm. Corkin was also on the County Board three years ago and this was no problem at that time. The same people are driving County-owned vehicles to and from work, and he has no problem with these employees.

Administrator Aloia contended that it would be impossible to develop a policy without first doing an analysis. Whatever the County Board directed him to do he will do; however, he is satisfied with the present situation.


The Committee considered a request from Chairperson Corkin that they send a letter to the Planning Commission directing them to temporarily allow fuel contaminated soils to be transported out of the County, at least until the December 1, 1992 air quality permit hearing before the DNR. Chairperson Corkin thought it would be good for representatives of the constituent municipalities of the Landfill Authority to attend the DNR hearing. There will be people at that hearing who will be speaking against the granting of the air quality permit. With Commissioner approval he directed staff to prepare a letter for his signature to be sent to the constituent municipalities urging their attendance at the December 1, 1992 hearing. (Site yet to be announced).

Administrator Aloia emphasized that the Solid Waste Authority is independent from the County. He often sees in the media that the landfill is referred to as the County's landfill; however, Marquette County has no control over the Solid Waste Authority. The Solid Waste Authority consists of 18 municipalities, and the only type of control the County Board has is that it appoints three of its seven members.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote (Ayes: Comm. Potvin, Comm. Angeli, Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Corkin. Nays: None. Absent and Excused: Comm. Seppanen) that the Committee send correspondence directing the Marquette County Planning Commission to declare an emergency and allow fuel contaminated soils to be temporarily transported out-of-County until December 1, 1992, which is the date of the Michigan DNR Hearing on the air quality permit application from the Solid Waste Authority for the treatment of contaminated soils.
Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, 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.

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CLOSED SESSION

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The Committee of the Whole came back in Open Session. No action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

Comm. Potvin, who is the County Board liaison with the Road Commission, provided an explanation of the snowplowing schedule which resulted in some recent complaints from County constituents. The Road Commission schedule had the crews out until 3:00 a.m. Monday morning, November 2, 1992, at which time there was no snow falling. The next crews were scheduled to begin at 7:00 a.m.; however, a storm began at approximately 5:00 a.m. As a result, those travelling to work on Monday morning experienced some slippery and hazardous driving conditions. When the full winter season begins schedules will be adjusted; however, this storm caught the Road Commission by surprise.

Administrator Aloia announced that a committee made up on Handell Girard, Human Resources Director, Register of Deeds, Patricia Manley, Pat Farrell, and himself, are recommending Larry Bussone, RLS, for the County Remonumentation Representative at a part-time salary of $5,000.00. Administrator Aloia requests that the recommendation be allowed to come directly to the County Board next week. Commissioners concurred.

County Clerk, David Roberts, explained that the response to advertising in the Newspaper for vacancies on various County boards and commissions has been slow. He requested that the application deadline be extended to allow time for more applicants and apply, and encouraged the County Commission members to do some recruiting.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the deadline for applying for vacancies on various County boards and commissions be extended to Wednesday, November 25, 1992, with nominations at the December 1, 1992 meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. 1992 Delinquent Tax Borrowing Resolutions from James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer.
7. Request from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director, Marquette County Health Department, to fill the Field Supervisor position.
8. Request Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director, Marquette County Health Department, to fill the Clerk/Typist II position.
9. Request from the Marquette County Retirees for a 2% increase in pensions.
10. Recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding Honor Camp Access.
11. Memo from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management, regarding 1993 Tree Planting Grant.
12. Announcement that Marquette County has been denied a "Rebuild Michigan Initiative" grant by the Michigan Dept. of Commerce.
14. A list of County-owned vehicles driven to/from work by County employees.
15. Cont'd

16.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT.
18. Closed Session to discuss pending litigation.
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.