The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met on Tuesday, August 18, 1992, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI.


A Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the County Board Special Meeting held on July 29, 1992, and the County Board Regular Meeting held on August 4, 1992, be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Ken Opell, North Lake Location, was present and explained that he recently moved from Keweenaw County to Marquette County. Over the years he served on several boards and commissions in Keweenaw County and is interested in establishing roots in Marquette County and becoming politically active and is interested in serving the community.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board welcomed Mr. Opell to Marquette County, appreciates his interest and instructed him to apply for various vacancies when they are advertised through the County Clerk.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

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

Informational Items

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the following Informational Items be accepted and placed on file: 9a) Department of Employment Programs Monthly Report for July, 1992; 9b) Memo from Civil Counsel, David A Payant, regarding the Status of Pelletech Loan Collection Efforts; 9c) A copy of the Remonumentation Plan Resolution which was sent to the Michigan Department of Commerce; 9d) A letter of appreciation from Sharon Burns, Community Corrections Coordinator, for County Board support of OCC's programming and budget; and 9e) Acknowledgment from State Senator Don Koivisto of the County Board resolution supporting a Regional Detention Center in Delta County.

Action Items

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that Action Items 10a), 10b), 10c), and 10d), be approved as follows:

10a) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board direct Civil Counsel to draft a letter for signature by the Chairperson and the Mine Inspector, to request that property owners whose land contains abandoned mine shafts or pits cooperate to eliminate any danger by capping or filling the shafts or pits, and further that copies of these letters be sent to our State Legislators.

10b) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board pay the County's portion of the most recent billing for the Specific Ore Tax litigation amounting to $4,931.34.

10c) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board waive the monthly rent for the "Passages Program" housed at the County Acoccks site, and only require them to pay utilities through the month of December, 1992.
10d) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt a resolution supporting the continuation of a Michigan Department of Commerce Field Representative for the Upper Peninsula as follows:

MARQUETTE COUNTY RESOLUTION
CONTINUATION OF A COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
FOR THE UPPER PENINSULA

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan, through both parties' administration, have had a Department of Commerce field representative serving business and economic development needs in the Upper Peninsula for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, other areas of the State of Michigan have had and currently are provided with a Commerce field representative; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula is the greatest distance removed from Lansing, making it difficult and expensive to obtain services from Commerce Department Headquarters; and

WHEREAS, very few of our local communities have full or part-time paid economic developers; and

WHEREAS, over the last year there has been an evaluation going on to identify economic development service providers in the Peninsula, where we have holes or gaps to fill and will conclude with how best to provide a coordinated economic development service delivery network. These efforts will require cooperation between private, local, and state resources. The Upper Peninsula Field Representative is an integral part of our coordinated economic development network.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners fully support continuation of the Commerce Field Representative position for the Upper Peninsula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the technical expertise and direct commerce ties are essential and critical to developing a balanced and effective economic development service delivery network for the Upper Peninsula.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor John Engler, Department of Commerce Director Arthur Ellis, Upper Peninsula State Legislators, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Action Items Cont'd.

10e) The County Board considered an update on the Equalization Director position. Chairperson Corkin announced that David Gillet has withdrawn as a candidate for the Marquette County Equalization Director. The County offered him the position at a salary of $42,000.00 a year, plus all County benefits currently received by non-union employees; however, Mr. Gillet requested that Marquette County purchase his eight years of retirement with MERS from Mecosta County at an estimated cost of $65,000.00. Marquette County cannot justify this expenditure of the taxpayer dollars.

Chairperson Corkin is recommending that the County offer the position of Equalization Director to Mr. Girard T. Markey for $42,000.00 a year salary, plus all County benefits currently received by non-union employees.
Mr. Markey is currently serving as the Director of the Livingston County Equalization Department and has served in that capacity for approximately four years. He also served as a staff appraiser for Livingston County for five years. Mr. Markey is certified as a Level IV Assessor and Personal Property Examiner, and has completed several courses of the American Institute of Real Estate Appraisers and International Association of Assessing Officers. He attended the University of Michigan for two years and earned his R.A.M. Certification in Real Estate, and is a graduate of the University of Detroit, with a bachelors of science degree in economics.

Mr. Markey is a member of the Michigan Assessors Association, Southeastern Chapter of Michigan Assessors Association, Michigan Association of Equalization Directors, and the Livingston County Assessors Association.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, further pointed out that he has discussed the position with Mr. Markey and he would be available by October 1st, which is approximately six weeks. Should the County Board concur with Chairperson Corkin's recommendation to offer him the Equalization Director position, Administrator Aloia will then formally offer the position to Mr. Markey.

It was moved by Comm. Arsensault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the County Board offer the Marquette County Equalization Director position to Mr. Girard T. Markey of Livingston County as recommended.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Ren Opell, Resident of North Lake, again addressed the County Board and pointed out that he was especially interested in serving on the Marquette County EDC. He recently read in the newspaper where the Marquette County EDC had some funding problems and its Director has resigned. Mr. Opell was a member of the Houghton County OEDP.

Wes Larson, Neguane Township Supervisor, had read in the minutes of the Special Meeting where Commissioners interviewed the Equalization Director candidates, that one of the questions was "What is your philosophy regarding the relationship between the County and local units of government in tax equalization?" Mr. Larson was interested in the applicants responses, especially Mr. Markey's.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out to Mr. Larson that the Commissioners emphasized to all of the applicants, including Mr. Markey, in very certain terms, that it is very important to Marquette County that the Equalization Director have good communications and a good working relationship with the local units of government. The County Board would like equalization problems ironed out with the local units before their final consideration by the County Board. This was generally done in the past under Henry Schneider's direction.

There being no further public comment, this portion of the meeting was closed.

Commissioners Comments

Comm. Arsensault reminded his fellow Commissioners of the Michigan Association of Counties Conference to be held on August 23, 24, & 25, 1992. It is still not too late for other Commissioners to register and attend.

Chairperson Corkin announced the FY 1993 Departmental Budget Hearing Schedule to be held in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex as follows:

Wednesday, August 19, 1992 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 20, 1992 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Friday, August 21, 1992 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, September 1, 1992 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, August 18, 1992, 7:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. (None).
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT.
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   b. Memo from Civil Counsel, David A. Payant, regarding the Status of Pelletech Loan Collection Efforts.
   c. A copy of the Remonumentation Plan Resolution which was sent to the Michigan Department of Commerce.
   d. A letter of appreciation from Sharon Burns, Community Corrections Coordinator, for County Board support of OCC’s programming and budget.
   e. Acknowledgment from State Senator Don Koivisto of the County Board resolution supporting a Regional Detention Center in Delta County.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Committee of the Whole recommendation to request that owners of abandoned mining property eliminate any danger by capping or filling shafts or pits.
    b. Committee of the Whole recommendation to pay the County’s portion of the Specific Ore Tax litigation billing.
    c. Committee of the Whole recommendation to waive the monthly rent through December 1992 for the "Passages Program" housed at the Acoks Facility.
    d. Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt a resolution supporting the continuation of an Upper Peninsula Department of Commerce Field Representative.
    e. Update on the Equalization Director position. (No packet materials).
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a.
    b.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.