The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 9, 1993 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 of the Henry A. Skews Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 23, 1993 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: that Item 19) be consideration of an amendment to the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement between the Friend of the Court's Office and Department of Social Services.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period February 20, through March 5, 1993 in the amount of $1,112,048.94 be approved.

The Committee of the Whole continued with Departmental Introductions. The following Department Heads were present to introduce themselves and give a brief description of the duties and responsibilities of their various departments:

James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer
Joseph Maino, Marquette County Sheriff
David Roberts, Marquette County Clerk

The Committee considered a request from the City of Ishpeming that Marquette County withdraw its lawsuit against their planned TIF District. Ishpeming City Representatives present included: James F. Tobin, Jr., Mayor, along with Council members Gail Blanck, Ken Lord, and Angelo Basio. Also present: City Manager John Korhonen, City Attorney, David Savu, City Clerk, Corbin Hytinen, and Chairman of the Ishpeming DDA, Al Burkhart.

Civil Counsel David Payant pointed out to Commissioners that because of pending litigation by the County against the Ishpeming TIF District, he recommends the County Board not negotiate with the City of Ishpeming at this Committee meeting but rather form a sub-committee for the purpose of negotiating.

Mayor Tobin presented a written statement to the County Commission regarding the lawsuit. Mayor Tobin did not read his statement, but summarized his thoughts as follows: He believes, with the advice of Ishpeming's legal counsel, that the City of Ishpeming will win the lawsuit. If Ishpeming City's TIF is illegal, so then is Marquette Township's. He believes the City of Ishpeming will help itself develop more business on the West end, which would benefit all of Marquette County in the long run. A lengthy lawsuit would only cost both parties much wasted time and money. Mayor Tobin requested the County drop it's lawsuit.

Al Burkhart, Chairman of the Ishpeming DDA, reported out that there are 240 acres of land north of the proposed TIF Development for deferred development in the next fifteen to twenty years if the TIF District is allowed to work. This deferred residential development will add greatly to the City's and to the County's future tax base. The Ishpeming DDA has volunteered two-and-a-half years preparing these documents at very little cost.

Ken Lord, Ishpeming City Council member claimed that the County will only lose $8,216 in tax revenue because of the TIF District, however, it
will get much more back in the long run.

David Savu, Ishpeming City Attorney, explained that the lawsuit may hinge upon the word, "significant". It can be shown that 22% of the property in the TIF District has shown a decline - would the court consider this to be significant? For Ishpeming City it is. Should the County win, the whole Ishpeming DDA dies. The City of Ishpeming would have to start over with notices and hearings and plans. The proposed TIF District will capture approximately $70,000 in 1993 tax revenue of which only $8,216 will be City money. The Ishpeming School District will contribute approximately $35,000 in property taxes, and the City portion will be approximately $26,000. Both Ishpeming Public Schools and Ishpeming City have agreed to the TIF District.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that the $35,000 captured by the TIF District from the Ishpeming School District would be reimbursed to them from the State of Michigan. Chairperson Corkin added that he has no problem with appointing a sub-committee to sit and negotiate the TIF plan with representatives from the City of Ishpeming.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve of a sub-committee to be appointed by Chairperson Corkin, to negotiate the proposed TIF District with the City of Ishpeming.

The Committee a request from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, for a new Unit I Secretary position. Ms. Hanson has requested this position in the last two budgets, but it was not approved. Ms. Hanson will be able to negotiate 66% of the salary cost to be reimbursed by the State for the first year (1993) and 75% in future years. In addition, the $8,178 additional dollars required from the County for 1993 could be generated from additional revenues in the collection of ADC incentive payments. This is an estimate and cannot be guaranteed, but Ms. Hanson is confident that even more would be collected and is willing to have the position re-evaluated during the 1994 budget process.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, recommends that the County portion for the cost of this position be taken from the Circuit Court Mediation Fund for 1993, with no cost to the General Fund. Future general fund costs for 1994 and beyond, can only be determined after a review of revenues generated by the additional collection ability.

Randell E. Girard, Director of Human Resources also reviewed the proposed reorganization of the Friend of the Court's Office. The addition of a Unit Secretary I position will cost $17,154 in wages with an additional $6,839 in fringe benefits for a total of $23,993. The Cooperative Reimbursement Grant can be expected to fund approximately $15,835 of this cost (66%) for 1993. Ms. Hanson also requested reclassification of the present Unit Secretary II into a combination Unit Secretary II/Accounts Processor, however, after review, Mr. Girard could not support this request. He instead recommends reclassification of the existing Unit Secretary II to Account Clerk II, which would provide the ability to handle financial transactions as well as continued clerical support. Both these classifications are in the same pay grade and would require no budget change. Mr. Girard is still reviewing Legal Secretary functions performed by certain Friend of the Court clerical staff and will make a recommendation in the future.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole approve of the additional position of Unit Secretary I and reclassification of the existing Unit Secretary II to an Account Clerk II position, in the Friend of the Court Office with the necessary budget amendments.

The Committee considered a memo from the Honorable Edward J. Quin nell, Circuit Judge, requesting an additional Circuit Court employee. Judge Quin nell in his memo pointed out that his request for an additional employee has been a long-standing request, and with the relaxation of the hiring freeze, he is updating his request along with a 10-year case history activity study for the Circuit Court.
It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole refer Judge Quinnett's request for an additional Circuit Court employee to the budget process and consider it seriously.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager for computer bids for the Jail Management Network and the Administrator's Network from the 1993 CIP Budget. Mr. Nault was present and explained his recommendation in three parts. First, two local vendors submitted bid responses for the File Server Bid Proposal. The firm of Edgar A. Gibbs and Company submitted the low bid, satisfying all components. Mr. Nault, however, would like to further investigate the proposed tape unit as well as other options available for tape back-up before committing to their purchase. At this time, he recommends the County award the File Server Bid to Edgar A. Gibbs in the amount of $12,110.

Second, three vendors submitted bid proposals in response to the P.C. Work station Request. Mr. Nault also included a fourth vendor, Gateway Computers, a mail order firm in Sioux City, South Dakota. Gateway is far less expensive than the lowest local bidder, however, the real power of a network systems lies in the work stations. Gateway's pricing allows the County to enhance the power of the work station and still remain less expensive than a lesser machine. Gateway's more powerful computer has two advantages: Improved performance for the user, and more importantly, a larger computer is capable of handling future software. Gateway Computers also come with bundled software and a very capable word processor and spread sheet. Mr. Nault recommends that the County purchase six 486 SX/33 Microcomputers with 8 MB of memory and 170 MB disk drive for a total cost of $13,140 from Gateway.

And third, four vendors submitted responses to the County's request for network printers. Of the four, only one vendor submitted a response for all types of printers requested, therefore, Mr. Nault recommends the County award the network printers bid to Edgar A. Gibbs and Company, in the amount of $5,414.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board concur staff for awarding the Network Computer Bid Award.

The Committee considered proposed 1993 Health Department Budget Amendment #1 from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director. Dr. Johnson was present and explained that the budget amendment is a result of several things. First, the Health Department has received two grants, a $34,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Health to expand local access for dental services to underserved populations, and a 3-year, $281,059 grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation to initiate activities to protect ground water quality (Gem Grant). Secondly, there is the recent completion of union negotiations, and thirdly, there are unforeseen changes in upfront costs associated with the proposed new dental clinic.

Because of the magnitude of the changes described and the impact on indirect expense allocations, each and every Health Department program budget is affected. Overall, the amendment increases the Health Department's 1993 budget by $166,722 for 1993 (from $3,460,024 to $3,626,744). The County Appropriation to the Health Department remains the same at $610,801.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1993 Health Department Budget Amendment #1 as presented.

The Committee considered a memo from Richard P. Klahn, EDC Director, requesting that the loan for the Cliff's Shaft Site Rehabilitation EDA Grant be renewed. In addition to renewing the note for an additional 90 days, the MFC First National Bank is also asking that principle of $2,500 be paid, as well as the fees and daily interest calculated at $204 to February 22, 1993.
Dennis Aloia, County Administrator explained that this grant has not yet been approved by the EDA. It is still under consideration in the Chicago or Washington D.C. Office, and he recommends that the County Board request the EDC to renegotiate this loan. The County has renewed several 90 day notes and has paid approximately $5,000 towards the $12,000 loan. There still remains a balance of $7,500. At this rate, it is possible the County will have paid off the loan before the EDA Grant is approved.

This being a joint loan, Commissioners also thought that the EDC could pay the additional principle themselves. They have paid salaries out of their own revolving loan fund in the past.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request the EDC to renegotiate the Cliff’s Shaft Site Rehabilitation Loan, with a one year note, and also request the EDC to pay $2,500 in principle as well as $204 in fees and costs from their own budget.

The Committee considered a recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, for awarding the third phase of the Annex Re-carpeting Project. This project was funded for 1993 in the amount of $25,000. Five sealed bids were received by the deadline of 4:00 p.m. and three of the bids were under the approved budget amount, with the low bidder being Sherwin Williams, Company, U.S. 41 West, Marquette, with a bid of $18,676.70.

Ron Koshorek, Resource/Management Director was present and explained that Sherwin Williams completed the second phase of the re-carpeting project and did satisfactory work. Staff is recommending award of the bid to Sherwin Williams.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the low bidder, Sherwin Williams, U.S. 41, Marquette, Michigan in the amount of $18,676.70 for the third phase of the Annex Re-carpeting Project as recommended.

The Committee considered an appraisal from Gerard Markey, Equalization Director, of 56 acres of land being considered for purchase by Marquette County for the Honor Camp Access road. Mr. Markey’s appraised value of the property is $28,100, considerably lower than the $35,000 appraisal submitted by R & R Realty.

Ron Koshorek, Director of Resource Management, spoke with the State regarding Mr. Markey’s appraisal, and they would consider it if the County requests. The difference in the appraisals comes from the method by which the two appraisals were done, and Mr. Markey contends that there was a mathematical error in the previous appraisal.

Comm. Potvin requested that the Resource Management staff review alternative routes into the Honor Camp Property.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request that staff investigate the possible mathematical error in the previous appraisal, and once that is resolved, forward Gerard Markey’s appraisal to the State for their consideration; and in the meantime, direct Resource Management staff to evaluate other access sites into the Honor Camp Property.

The Committee considered a request from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director that the County Board formally accept the extension for the Honor Camp Access Project Grant from the State of Michigan. The State has granted an extension until December 31, 1993 to allow Marquette County to reevaluate the amount of land to be purchased because of the higher land appraisals.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners formally agrees to the extension granted by the State of Michigan for acceptance of the Honor Camp Access Project Grant until December 31, 1993.
The Committee considered a request from Ron Koshorek Resource Management Director that the County Board proceed with the design/engineering work on the Shooting Sports Complex Site so we will be as ready as possible to move ahead when the State Legislature approves the final grant offer. Typically, these approvals come in July and August, however, much can be done ahead in layout work which would be eligible for reimbursement when the grant is received.

Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director was present and explained that the preliminary work would include the following components: aerial topographic survey, layout indoor and outdoor facility, design access roads and utilities, and building design. This would cost approximately $27,000 with the State paying 75%. The aerial topographic survey can be combined with the Perkins Park project which will result in a savings of approximately $2,000.

The total project budget is $299,000 with the County share to be $74,750. The preliminary design and engineering work would come from the County’s match of the funds. This would be reimbursed when the State Grant comes through. There is always the risk of the State not funding this project.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appropriate the local match of $74,750 in order to proceed with the design/engineering for the Shooting Sports Complex to expedite the project for when the grant is finally received.

The Committee considered a request from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator to hire a temporary employee needed to fill a vacancy created due to a temporary absence by an employee for medical reasons. The time off may vary from 6 to 20 weeks, and the amount of accumulated sick and vacation leave by the present employee may vary from 3 to 5 weeks. The total amount of medical leave is not known at this time, so Administrator Aloia has estimated the payout based on the current employee’s 5 weeks accumulated time to be $1,800.24. Because of other personnel changes within the office, Administrator Aloia believes there is sufficient funds in the his budget to cover the majority or all of the shortfall. He requested to be allowed to address any budget transfers during the mid-year budget review.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the hire of a temporary employee in the Administrator’s Office to fill a medical leave vacancy.

The Committee considered a letter from Donald Snitgen, a member of Citizens to Save Little Presque Isle and Wetmore Landing, proposing that the County Board support the designation of the Lake Superior Shoreline, commonly known as Little Presque Isle Point and Wetmore Landing as a natural area and further that the island, known as Little Presque Island, receive Wilderness Area Status.

Comm. Potvin, County Board Liaison to the Little Presque Isle Advisory Committee, reported that the LPI Committee has made no final recommendations, however, he feels a consensus of the LPI Committee would be for very strict usage including no camping and no boat launching especially on the Lake Superior side of Co. Rd. 550. Comm. Potvin feels a small boat launching facility could be accomplished with very little disturbance to the natural surroundings. He also thought that a rustic camping area should be developed on the west side of 550 near Harlow Lake. He does support the designation of the island off the point as a Wilderness Area, but not the whole Lake Superior side of County Road 550 as a natural area. Comm. Potvin made a motion, seconded by Comm. Braamse that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board support the Wilderness Designation of the Little Presque Island.

In the discussion that followed, Commissioners generally wanted to wait before taking any action on the Little Presque Isle issue until a recommendation is available from the Little Presque Isle Advisory Committee.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and carried

The Committee received a communication from Richard Aho, Interim Director of the Solid Waste Authority announcing that the DNR hearing concerning an Air Quality Permit for the remediation of fuel contaminated soil has been rescheduled for May 13th, 1993. The delay is primarily due to inter-agency negotiations among the three DNR divisions involved.

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

The Committee considered an amendment to the Cooperative Reimbursement budget between the County of Marquette and the Department of Social Services, State of Michigan. Gary Yoder, Finance Manager was present and explained that funding from January 1 through December 31, 1992 will be amended and increased by a total of $12,529. Basically, the amendment provides that Marquette County be reimbursed for 1992 at the same rate as 1991, which accounts for the increase.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Cooperative Reimbursement Contract Application for Amendment for 1992 funding as presented.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

Chairperson Corkin announced that U.S. Representative Bart Stupak and U.S. Senator Carl Levin are working very hard on keeping K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base open and have been communicating with the Secretary of Defense, Les Aspin. He feels that Marquette County residents should remain optimistic.

Administrator Aloia requested a closed session at the end of the Regular County Board Meeting of March 16th, to discuss pending litigation the proposed Ishpeming TIF District.

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, March 9, 1993 at 4:30 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Departmental Introductions.
7. Discussion With Ishpeming City Officials Regarding their TIF District (no packet materials).
9. Request From Edward A. Quinnell, Circuit Judge for an additional employee.
10. Computer Network Bid Award Recommendation from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager.
11. Proposed 1993 Health Department Budget Amendment from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director.
12. Cliff's Shaft Site Rehabilitation Joint Loan: Marquette County and County EDC.
13. Recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, for Annex First Floor Carpeting Project.
15. Recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, to Proceed With Shooting Sports Complex Design/Engineering.
16. Request from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, to hire a temporary employee.
17. A Proposal from The Citizens to Save Little Presque Isle and Wetmore Landing.
18. Notice that DNR Hearing regarding Air Quality Permit has been Postponed until April 13th, 1993.
19. C.R.P. w/loss $12,592.00
20.
21. PUBLIC COMMENT.
22. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
23. ADJOURNMENT.