The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Monday, December 28, 1992, at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 8, 1992 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Lois Paquette from the Commission on Aging requested to speak on Item 9) when it came up before the Committee. There being no further public comment, Chairperson closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenaault and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following change: Item 24) "Closed Session to Discuss Pending Litigation" be moved up on the agenda to Item 5A).

It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that claims and accounts for the period December 4 through December 23, 1992 in the amount of $1,543,830.84 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenaault 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

The Committee came back into open session at 4:55 p.m. No action was forthcoming as a result of the closed session.

The Committee considered the 1992 year-end budget review presented by Gary Yoder, Finance Manager. Mr. Yoder reported that expenditures for the first eleven months of 1992 resulted in an unfavorable variance of $29,649 and recommends the Contingency Account be decreased from $30,547 to $898 to balance the budget. Overall revenues increased by $2,168 while expenditures increased by $31,617.

It was moved by Commissioner Arsenaault seconded by Commissioner Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the necessary budget amendments for the General Fund, Friend of the Court, Central Dispatch, S.O.D.A. Grant, Probate Child Care, Building Authority and the Service Center Fund as presented.

The Committee considered a recommendation from the December 8, 1992 Committee of the Whole to appropriate funds for overtime in the Register of Deeds office for the remainder of 1992 and consider a part time employee to be funded out of the 1993 contingency. Patricia Manley, Register of Deeds, was present and explained her office gained three days on the backlog of documents to be recorded for each evening they worked overtime. Two more overtime sessions are planned before the end of the year. Register Manley thanked the board for its support and looked forward to hiring a new part time employee so the backlog of recording instruments can be eliminated.

It was moved by Commissioner Arsenaault seconded by Commissioner Potvin and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve hiring a part time employee in the Register of Deeds office for 10 weeks at 30 hours per week, with fund to come from the 1993 Contingency Fund.
The Committee considered a change in the 1993 AIP Grant application from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager. Mr. Pawley was present and explained that he received word from the State bureau of aeronautics that they are unable to pay the State's 5% Share ($18,500) for the runway extension project due to budget reductions. The State suggests the County pay the State's share or delay the project until 1994. Mr. Pawley intends to amend the final financing plan when the application is submitted to include the additional cost as being covered by the Passenger Facility Charge, (PFC) increasing the local share from $57,000 to $75,500. He needs a commitment from the county for the additional cost immediately, even though approval is still pending with the FAA. It is possible that the FAA may not approve of the additional $18,500 (state share) to come from the PFC.

It was moved by Commissioner Seppanen seconded by Commissioner Arsenault and carried on a roll call vote, four-to-one, (Ayes: Seppanen, Arsenault, Potvin, Corkin. Nay Angeli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board commit to a local share of $75,500 in the application for an Airport Improvement Program.

The Committee considered a report from Randall E. Girard, Human Resource Director, on the reclassification of the Commission on Aging Director position. Mr. Girard evaluated job analysis questionnaires which were completed by Commission on Aging Staff, reviewed by its director, and returned to him on December 18, 1992.

After his review Mr. Girard would now classify the Commission on Aging staff as being comprised of 3 Professional and 6 T.G.P.S classifications, however, in comparison to other county departments Mr. Girard does not recommend the requestors modification.

Lois Paquette, from the Commission on Aging was present and disagreed with Mr. Girard's analysis but thanked him for his time and efforts. It appears there are some inconsistencies in the system that only Mr. Morley can explain.

It was moved by Commissioner Arsenault seconded by Commissioner Seppanen and carried on a roll call vote four-to-one. (Ayes: Arsenault, Potvin, Seppanen and Corkin. Nay Angeli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board change factor 7 “Characteristics of Subordinate Population” from low to intermediate for the Commission on Aging Director position, which will result in the position being reclassified to "Managerial Level 8".

The Committee considered a request from Richard Klahn Interim Director on behalf of the Marquette County EDC for reimbursement of $17,318.88 for the termination costs of Mrs. Mary Lynn Markey and Mr. Charles L. Manto. Mr. Tony Kronchich, President of the EDC, was present and explained that the EDC was $22,500 short in generating revenues, then the termination of Mrs. Markey and Mr. Manto came as a surprise and these were not budgeted for. He indicated at the EDC liaison meeting to County Staff that the EDC would not request these funds from the County but would rather utilize funds from a revolving loan account. The EDC Board, however, has directed Mr. Kronchich to make this request and he is duty bound to do so.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin and carried on a roll call vote, three ayes to two nays (a yes: Seppanen, Potvin, and Corkin, nays: Angeli and Arsenault) To deny the request for reimbursement to the EDC for the termination costs.

The Committee considered bids for two small pick-up trucks for the Resource Management Department. Ronald Koshorek, Director, was present and explained that five bids were reviewed with Hooper-Stanaway Ford, Ishpeming, being the low bidder at $16,762 after trade-in allowance. Twenty thousand dollars has been budgeted for FY 1993 for this purchase and Mr. Koshorek recommends the bid be awarded to Hooper-Stanaway Ford.

It was moved by Commissioner Arsenault seconded by Commissioner Potvin and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the bid for two small pickups to Hooper-Stanaway Ford for $16,762 with trade-in.
The Committee considered a communication from Norm Holmes, Chair of the Marquette County Planning Commission requesting that the County Board ask Civil Counsel to investigate the propriety of Sands Township controlling the types of materials that can be disposed of at the Solid Waste Authority Landfill. Civil Counsel Payant was present and indicated that he will look into the matter. It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli and unanimously carried to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a memo from Patricia Gruber, Planner, regarding the notice of Mead Corporations' application for licensing their Escanaba River Hydro Project. The application is for a new license for the four dams it operates on the Escanaba River. Ms. Gruber indicated in her memo that none of the dams are within Marquette County and no changes in the operation of the dams is proposed.

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

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried that several communications between the Marquette County Road Commission, Chocolay Township and the Michigan DNR regarding erosion and sedimentation as it pertains to road maintenance in Chocolay Township be placed on file.

The Committee considered the most recent Specific Ore Tax Litigation billings and a breakdown of previous billings for all units of government involved in the litigation. The current county share presented for payment is $2,043.93.

It was moved by Commissioner Arsenault seconded by Commissioner Angeli and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appropriate $5,000 from the FY 1993 Contingency Account to the Specific Ore Tax Litigation Fund.

The Committee considered a resolution to amend the lease contract for the $1,705,000 Marquette County Building Authority Bonds. (Community Mental Health)

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that he received a communication from Robert Cooper, Bond Counsel regarding language in paragraph 4 (page 6) on the Lease Contract which is not specific enough for Mr. Charles Rishpaugh, of Moody's Investors Service. By changing the language as provided for in the resolution, the county will be given the correct bond rating. The language change is no problem because the County Board annually appropriates for the bond indebtedness during the budget process.

The Committee considered a memo from Civil Counsel David Payant explaining that a tie vote on a motion causes the motion to fail since the tie vote is not a majority.

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

The Committee considered a letter from John Beerling, Superintendent Engineer, Marquette County Road Commission to Comm. Arsenault concerning the surfacing of Ontario Street in Marquette Township. Comm. Arsenault explained that he has received complaints from residents in Marquette Township regarding drainage problems and the flooding of a basement which are a result of the recent construction and resurfacing of Ontario Street. Comm. Arsenault felt that Mr. Beerling's letter was a little sarcastic and he believes the Road Commission must follow through better on complaints from County citizens.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli and unanimously carried that the communication be placed on file.

The Committee considered a letter from Stephen R. Dymond, Ph.D., Denver, Colorado who contended that taxpayers spend too much money on community mental health system needlessly.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried to place the communication on file.
The Committee considered a communication from Anne P. Couture, Chief of the Environmental Response to Division, Michigan DNR, regarding the DNR Site Reclamation Program (SRP). This program is designed to provide funding for evaluation and clean up of contaminated sites with economic development potential. The SRP currently has $25,665,000 available from the Environmental Protection Bond Fund to provide grants and loans to counties, cities, townships and villages.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli and unanimously carried that the communication be referred to the Planning Commission for further consideration and distribution.

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

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, updated the Commissioners on the sale of the Acocks property. The proposed purchase agreement is good until June of 1993. The purchaser is in the process of investigating the zoning and land use through Negaunee Township and it will be about three months before Negaunee Township will finally approve the zoning.

County Administrator Dennis Aloia announced that he and Comm. Corkin recently met with the Valenti Medical Care Facility staff. During the 1993 budget process, the Medical Care Facility will be requesting an additional $100,000 for it's 1994 maintenance of effort. There will be a meeting in the near future with Plant & Moran, Auditors of the Medical Care Facility budget.

Comm. Angeli announced his displeasure at the closing of a soil conservation district office in the Upper Peninsula. Chairperson Corkin directed that this matter be placed on the Committee Meeting of January 12, 1993.

Comm. Potvin provided a Little Presque Isle development update. He serves as a member of the Ad Hoc Little Presque Isle Committee. Comm. Potvin reported that although there are no formal votes taken at the meeting, the consensus seems to be that no camping of any kind will be allowed on the Lake Superior side of the highway. However, there will be some camping development allowed around the Harlow Lake area. If other commissioners have any input for Mr. Potvin, he would appreciate hearing from them. A final recommendation by the DNR will be made in April of 1993.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Year-end Budget Review from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager.

Committee of the Whole recommendation to consider hiring part-time help for the Register of Deeds Office.

Grant Application for 1993 Airport Improvement Program from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager.

Report from Randell Girard, Human Services Director, on the Reclassification of the Commission on Aging Director. (Materials forthcoming).

Request from the Marquette County EDC for reimbursement of $17,318.00 in employee termination costs.

Bids for small pick-up truck for the Resource Management Department from Ron Koshorek, Director.

Request from the Planning Commission for Civil Counsel to investigate the propriety of Sands Township controlling the type of materials to be disposed of at the landfill.

Memo from Pat Gruber, Planner, regarding the Mead Corporation Escanaba River Project.

Several communications regarding the Sedimentation/Chocolay River Basin.

Specific Ore Tax Litigation billing.

Resolution amending the lease contract for the $1,705,000.00 Marquette County Building Authority Bonds.

Memo from Civil Counsel, David Payant, regarding tie votes.

Letter from J.E. Beerling, Supt./Engr., Marquette County Road Commission, regarding the surfacing of Ontario Street in Marquette Township.


Letter from Anne P. Couture, Chief, Environmental Response Division, DNR, regarding the DNR Site Reclamation Program.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Closed Session to discuss Pending Litigation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.