The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 27, 1993 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


Also Present: James Alderton, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, John Beerling, Supt./Engr., Marquette County Road Commission, and James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 13, 1993, and the Executive/Intergovernmental Relations Committee meeting held on July 19, 1993 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Arnold Sirtola, Ewing Township Supervisor, was present and asked who the responsibility lies with to assign fire numbers (addresses) for the residences in Ewing Township. Comm. Arsenault stated that the responsibility lies with the local unit of government to assign their own fire numbers. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 11, a communication from the Secretary of Defense inviting Chairperson Corkin to Washington, D.C. to discuss the Administration’s plan to respond to the new round of base closings.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that Claims and Accounts for the period July 10, 1993 thru July 23, 1993, in the amount of $804,456.32 be approved.

The Committee considered the Michigan State Housing Development Authority CDBG Program Application prepared by Patricia Gruber, Planner. Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management/Development Dept., was present and explained that Marquette County is eligible for a $300,000 allocation of MSHDA’s Community Development Block Grant Program Funds as a stimulus to get County involvement in housing rehabilitation. Mr. Koshorek stated that the County was involved in this type of work back in the early 1980’s and it worked very well. He is recommending that the County Board apply for this $300,000.00 and there are in addition to those monies other monies which then become available to residents of the County. A notice of intent to apply for the funds has been forwarded to MSHDA and a draft application has been prepared by staff for consideration by the Committee of the Whole.

Patricia Gruber, Planner, was present and explained the contents of the grant application. She stated that the CDBG allocation will provide an opportunity to address several housing problems which have been identified during the beginning stages of updating the County’s housing chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. They include deteriorating housing stock and the need for low cost starter homes for moderate, low and very low income persons. To summarize the proposed County Program, funds will be used primarily for rehabilitation of single family owner-occupied units for low and very low income households. HUD Section 8 income limits will be used to determine eligibility. The financing mechanism would use no-interest loans secured by a mortgage. The loans would be payable upon the sale or rental of the property. A secondary activity would be to provide a no-interest loan to Habitat for Humanity to assist in constructing four low cost single family homes.
Ms. Gruber further stated that MSHDA also has two other sources of funds which the County can use to compliment the $300,000.00 CDBG allocation. The application calls for the County to participate in MSHDA's Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RAP) and Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP). These programs will augment the grant dollars available to eligible County residents.

The County's responsibilities would be to receive the application, verify the information, and determine if the individuals are qualified. The County would then inspect the property and rank the projects, based on worst first and compatibility with the Comprehensive Plan and maximizing the number of individuals benefiting by the dollar expenditure. Ms. Gruber explained that based on the points that are assigned under this ranking the County Planning Commission as an oversight committee would prioritize the projects. The staff would then prepare bid packages and do on-site inspections with the potential contractors that are interested in bidding. As the work is done staff would be responsible for making progress inspections and upon final completion of the project they would authorize payment.

On August 3, 1993 the full County Board should forward the application to the Marquette County Planning Commission for the purpose of holding the required public hearing. The Planning Commission must forward the hearing comments and a recommended final draft to the County Board for consideration by September 7, 1993. This would be the last opportunity for the Board to alter the application, authorize its submission and adopt the resolutions. The application must be submitted in its final form no later than September 15, 1993.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board forward the application to the Marquette County Planning Commission for the public hearing on the MSHDA CDBG Funds and that several considerations be part of their program, one being use of the BOCA Code for rehabilitation standards, that they would cooperate with any and all financial institutions willing to participate and that they would use licensed contractors as a way of protecting the scheduling and potential quality problems of the projects, that criteria for applications accepted be worst first, consistency with comprehensive plan goals and policies, maximize benefits to households with the exception of Skandia and Forsyth Township, because they have their own, and finally that a no-interest loan as proposed for Habitat for Humanity be granted as a part of the project.

The Committee considered a memo from James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, regarding delinquent personal property taxes. Mr. Sodergren was present to discuss a listing of Delinquent Personal Property taxes as of June 30, 1993 according to records in his office. Mr. Sodergren stated that firm action is needed by the local treasurers to collect the tax owing or petition the court for removal of those taxes which are uncollectible. He further stated that the key is to encourage local treasurers to move on tax collection promptly and never return taxes delinquent on March 1. There is a problem with distribution, monies are not distributed according to law. Mr. Sodergren will be working with those treasurers who seem to be holding these monies in their treasury and may be distributing once a year. He suggested that a letter be sent to the local treasurer in those units of government to encourage them to spend some time and effort in collecting personal property taxes. Mr. Sodergren emphasized that Ewing Township, Humboldt Township, Sands Township, and West Branch Township, do not have any personal property taxes owing. Those townships should be sent a letter of commendation.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send letters to the local treasurers who are delinquent asking for their cooperation in collection of personal property taxes, and also a letter of thanks to the four townships who have collected all of their personal property taxes.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  JULY 27, 1993

The Committee took under consideration the issue of citizen complaints with the Marquette County Road Commission. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners passed a motion at their regular meeting of July 6, 1993 requesting a meeting with the County Road Commission, its superintendent, and other staff members deemed necessary to discuss citizen complaints.

Chairperson Corkin spoke in regards to the difficulty of the job of the Road Commission, and also recognizing the excellent job they do in taking care of the roads. He stated that the County Board asked the Road Commission to come to this meeting because of their concern in the "response" or explanation from the Road Commission to citizen complaints.

A lengthy discussion was held and the following citizens voiced their complaints with the Road Commission: Arnold Sirtola, Ewing Township Supervisor; Gary Dalton, 805 Patriot, Ishpeming; Peter Plummer, Marquette; and J. Patrick Farrell, Marquette County Road Commission member. The general consensus was that a problem definitely exits. Citizens feel their complaints are not being taken care of properly, or are not being taken care of at all.

Chairperson Corkin stated that this is one of the reasons the County Board asked to hold this meeting. He hoped that everyone understands that when problems are brought to the County Board, the County Board cares about the problem, and will listen. But the County Board has an appointed board that sets policy for the Road Commission and issues are referred to the Chairperson or to Mr. Beerling. The County Board's only role is to appoint the Road Commission and to see that all goes well. They have no authority to go out and answer citizen complaints. He is concerned however of how the Road Commission deals with people.

Commissioner consensus was that the Road Commission is doing a fine job. But their concern is that many constituents have made comments regarding the way they were treated by the Road Commission. The Road Commission deals with unreasonable people all the time, but people need to be treated with respect.

James Alderton, Chairperson of the Road Commission, spoke in support of the Road Commission and stated that they will review what policies the Road Commission has in dealing with the public. He stated that when citizens come to the County Board they have already heard an answer they didn't want to hear from the Road Commission. Mr. Alderton stated that the Road Commission abides by P.A. 51 which gives them their authority and tells them how to spend their money. He stated that the Road Commission does not do favors, they abide strictly by the book.

Chairperson Corkin called for any other comment from the public, none were forthcoming. He thanked everyone for participating. No action was forthcoming.

The Committee considered the 3rd draft of the Marquette County Storm Water Management Ordinance. Comm. Angeli and Comm. Potvin feel that the ad hoc committee discussing soil erosion and storm water management have done a fine job. The 3rd draft is a product that should be acceptable to most people, including the builders and the townships involved. The ad hoc committee has enough experience to know that storm water management is something that should be done in terms of preventative maintenance.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the County Board study the 3rd draft of the ordinance, discuss potential problems with the ad hoc committee, if any, and come back to the August 24, 1993 Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion and a recommended date for the public hearing.

Comm. Angeli stated that there is an important meeting on Thursday, July 29, 1993, 9:00 a.m. at the Geraldine DeFant Building on the soil erosion issue. The DNR will be there. Comm. Angeli thought that as many Commissioners as possible should be there to discuss soil erosion control with the DNR.
The Committee considered a vacancy in the Military Category of the EDC Board of Directors due to the resignation of Edward Moyle, Ishpeming, MI. A memo from David J. Roberts, County Clerk, stated that the vacancy can be re-advertised, or the Committee of the Whole could recommend the County Board appoint one of the two past applicants; however, the EDC Board is quite large and leaving this category vacant until December should pose no problem.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that Ron Adams, who served before, is willing to serve again. The EDC would like to have him back if the County Board wishes to fill the vacancy.

Comm. Potvin made a motion to nominate Ron Adams for membership on the EDC, but under discussion had a few questions. Motion was seconded by Comm. Angeli. First, Comm. Potvin questioned how Mr. Ron Adams qualifies under the military category; and second, is a military category needed?

Comm. Angeli related that in his discussion with the EDC he learned there is not much need for the military category, rather it is Mr. Adam’s ability and effort, and his attendance at meetings that he is highly recommended.

Comm. Potvin did not question Mr. Adam’s ability, but does question the reason for a military category. He asked what it would take to change the policy from a military category to another category.

Administrator Aloia stated that when this category was originally set up it was the responsibility of the OEDP to nominate people for each of these EDC categories. The OEDP has now stopped making recommendations to the County Board.

Comm. Joseph felt that this issue should be tabled until the EDC Board could change the classification.


Chairperson Corkin stated that Clerk Roberts is not going to bring any names back to the County Board now until November. He suggested that the three Commissioners on the EDC Board discuss the matter and bring it back to the County Board for consideration.

The Committee considered a communication from the Secretary of Defense inviting Chairperson Corkin to join him and other senior officials to Washington, D.C. on August 2, 1993 to discuss the Administration’s plan to respond to the new round of base closings. Administrator Aloia explained that he was contacted by Rep. Stupak’s Office. President Clinton is calling this special meeting for all communities that are on the base closure list and encouraged that each County be represented. Administrator Aloia further explained that the expenses for this trip may be eligible for reimbursement in the planning grant.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole authorize funding for Chairperson Corkin to attend.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Arnold Sirtola, Ewing Township Supervisor, spoke regarding the Marquette County Solid Waste Authority. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Michigan State Housing Development Authority CDBG Program Application prepared by Patricia Gruber, Planner.

Memo from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding delinquent personal property taxes.

Discussion with Road Commission regarding citizen complaints.

Marquette County Storm Water Management Ordinance, (3rd draft July 16, 1993)

Vacancy on EDC Board of Directors.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.