The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 10, 1993 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skees Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 27, 1993 be approved, however, Comm. Potvin made note of the following: Jay Patrick Farrell was not present to make a complaint about the Road Commission, but is a member of the Road Commission. Comm. Potvin expressed displeasure at bringing the Road Commission before the Committee of the Whole; it was not an appropriate thing to do.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 17) become a letter from the manager of the Joint Military Services Credit Union at K.I. Sawyer and Item 18) become an update from Rom Roshorek, Resource Management Director on the Big Bay Harbor fuel tank project.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that Claims and Accounts for the period July 24, through August 6, 1993 in the amount of $1,028,416.04 be approved.

The Committee of the Whole considered a proposal presented by Mr. George McLaughlin, Rural Development Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service and Ed Winger, Forest Service Staff Officer, to develop a New Job Corps Center at K.I. Sawyer. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the U.S. Department of Labor plans to develop 50 new Job Corps Centers throughout the United States between the years 1996 and 2001.

Mr. McLaughlin invited a proposal team from all over the United States which met Monday, August 9th, with County and K.I. Sawyer representatives for a tour of the base. It was the unanimous decision of the team that the U.S. Forest Service send a proposal to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to develop a Job Corps Center to be located at the K.I. Sawyer site. Mr. McLaughlin envisions the proposal would utilize from one-fifth to one-third of the air base property. The rest of the base could be used for businesses, etc. that could integrate with the Job Corps Center. There would be approximately 1,000 to 1500 participants in the training program which would employ 300 to 400 civilian workers. Participants in Job Corps Program would include urban and rural youth from ages 16 to 24 who will receive training in a number of skills including maintenance, carpentry, masonry, heavy equipment, and cooking. Mr. McLaughlin sees a possible special focus for this Job Corps Center towards the single parent, so training in developing family and social skills would be important.

If the proposal is approved, the U.S. Forest Service is willing to administer the Center, but some other agency also could do that. The Department of Labor is flexible and does not wish to compete with already existing training program, but also can develop training programs for special needs. A Job Corps Center at K.I. Sawyer could provide training in basic skills while at the same time, maintaining the buildings and property at the air base. For example, heavy equipment training and snow removal could be integrated. Priority will be given to proposal sites that already have existing facilities such as K.I. Sawyer.

The Job Corps does not like to participate in mock programs, but wants to actually provide services and construct things that are used by business
and government. The staff needed to administer the Job Corps Center and teach would have to follow formal hiring procedures by the U.S. Department of Labor. They would become federal employees, but he anticipates the hiring of many local people. Mr. McLaughlin further emphasized that should Marquette County find other uses for K.I. Sawyer, there would be no commitment to follow through on this proposal. The ultimate decision would be left to the Base Closure Authority.

Commissioner consensus: This proposal is a very positive step and certainly should be pursued. A civilian Job Corps Center at K.I. Sawyer could provide a tie-in with Northern Michigan University and local schools, provide 300 to 400 well-paying jobs, and training could be integrated to meet the needs of local business and industry. Commissioners could find no draw-backs. Even the barracks located at K.I. Sawyer could be utilized.

Mr. McLaughlin also pointed out that the $15 to $20 million annually to administer a Job Corps Center would not be part of the federal dollars, promised to help with the reuse of the base. The U.S. Department of Labor anticipates opening new Job Corps Centers in fiscal year 1996, which would be October 1st. The federal government plans to close K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base at the end of fiscal year 1995. The timing for this proposal may be perfect.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide a letter of support for the U.S. Forest Service proposal to develop a Job corp center at K.I. Sawyer.

The Committee of the Whole considered a request from F/Lt. Joe VanOosterhout, Director, Central Dispatch to purchase recording tapes for Central Dispatch equipment. The total cost of 62 tapes is $4,464 of which the Michigan State Police will pay half, leaving, the County's share at $2,232. Administrator Aloia has reviewed the proposal recommended the funds to be taken from the Central Dispatch budget.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the purchase of the recording tapes for Central Dispatch as requested.

The Committee of the Whole considered a request from Circuit Judge Edward A. Quinneill for a budget amendment in the amount of $8,000 to pay for visiting judges. Judge Quinneill was present and explained that Circuit Judge Ray Jason is nicely recuperating from a heart attack, he did develop an infection at the incision site and was once again hospitalized. Judge Jason is now home and doing some work on some case files, but recuperation will probably take two to three months. Meanwhile, a backlog is accumulating. Probate Court Judge Anderegg, and District Court Judge Collins and Micklow have been helping out with the Circuit Court caseload, however, several trials are scheduled for September and October. Our local judges have their own work to do and have not time to sit on the bench for 3 to 4 day trials.

Judge Quinneill proposes to hire a retired Judge from Northern Michigan to hear the trials. This would require up to 60 visiting judge days between now and the end of the year. This is the only reasonable option.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appropriate $8,000 from contingency to the visiting judges account.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that 21st Century Pilot Project Agreement between the Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and the Marquette County Judges and their Courts be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee of the Whole considered revised fee schedules for dental clinic services, tobacco retailer licenses, and flu vaccinations presented by Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director of the Marquette County Health
Department. Dr. Johnson was present and explained that the County Health Board approved the new sliding fee schedule for the Dental Clinic at their July 27th meeting. The proposed revised fee schedule incorporates two major changes. First, the maximum discount (for those at or below 100% poverty), is reduced from 80% to 60%. As a result, no services will be free of charge. Second, the level income above which the full fee for given services charges would be reduced from 250% of poverty to 190% of poverty. In addition to the revised sliding fee schedule, the Health Department is proposing a five-dollar appointment fee which they would attempt to collect at the time an appointment is made. This fee is intended to help reduce the clinic's "no-show" rate which causes a great burden on the clinic.

In addition, the Health Department is proposing the fee for flu vaccination be increased from the current $7 to $10. Also, the charge for the 3-year tobacco retailer's license be increased from $5 to $15.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the new proposed revised fee schedules as proposed by the Health Department.

The Committee of the Whole considered a proposed 1993 Health Department Budget amendment #3 presented by Randall M. Johnson, M.D. Health Department Director. Dr. Johnson explained that as a result of the delay in the opening of the Dental Health Clinic, continuing reductions in the home health program volume, and reduced construction-related fee revenue in the Environmental Health Division, it is necessary to amend the Health Department's 1993 budget. The total decrease in revenues from these activities amounts to $152,545. In order to accommodate for these reductions in revenue, a wide variety of expenditure adjustments have been made throughout the budget, which include drastically reduced projected expenses for the rest of the year for office supplies, education materials, printing, travel, employee training/education, and capital outlay. The Health Department still, however, needs an additional $42,074 increase in County appropriations.

County Administrator Aloia has reviewed various options with Dr. Johnson and recommends that $15,200 comes from the voluntary retirement payment fund, with the rest to come from either anticipated home health program Medicare cost settlement for 1992, or anticipated Medicaid cost based reimbursement settlement for 1992. This would be determined at the end of the year during budget roll-over.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Health Department Budget Amendment #3 which requires an increase in $42,074 in the County appropriations from the various sources as recommended by Administrator Aloia.

The Committee of the Whole considered a memo from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director regarding the Honor Camp Access Land Acquisition Grant. Mr. Koshorek was present and explained that he's been advised by the DNR that they will stand by their approval of the appraisal granted by their real estate division. The County Board therefore, at this point must decide whether or not to proceed with the project and if so, how to deal with the increased cost of the land acquisition. The Natural Resources Trust Fund Project cost is $50,000, 25% of which must come from the County. The appraised value of the properties involved is $118,320. If the properties could be purchased for this amount, adding closing costs and appraisal fees, would bring the project cost to approximately $125,000.

Mr. Koshorek further explained that if the County Board wishes to proceed, there would be three options:

1. Increase the local share by approximately $70,000 and make an offer to purchase. The land acquisition fund has sufficient unencumbered funds to this.
2. Ask the State to increase the amount of their grant, which would involve re-applying for funds next April, competing
with other communities with the final decision by the legislature in late summer of 1994.
3. Ask the State to allow reduction of the size of the acquisition in an attempt to stay within the current project budget. This may not require legislative action.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board proceed with option #3. After considerable discussion, Chairperson Corkin called for a roll call vote: motion was defeated three ayes to six nays.

The Committee of the Whole considered providing a letter of support for the Ishpeming/Negaunee Area Chamber of Commerce proposed Sesquicentennial celebration marking the 150th Anniversary of the discovery of iron ore in the Great Lakes Region near Negaunee, Michigan. The Ishpeming/Negaunee Area Chambers of Commerce are also asking for a representative from the County Board to serve on the Sesquicentennial Planning Committee. Chairperson Corkin, with the Board’s permission, requested that he be allowed to serve on this committee, and Comm. Angeli serve as alternate.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide a letter of support for the Sesquicentennial Celebration planned by the Ishpeming/Negaunee Area Chambers, marking the discovery of iron ore, and designate Chairperson Corkin as the County Committee representative with Comm. Angeli as alternate.

The Committee of the Whole considered a memo from James Callahan, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Counties, regarding SBL/Revenue loss to Counties. Chairperson Corkin pointed out that the State revenue sharing to Marquette County amounts to approximately $800,000, but the State may reduce or not pay because of the SBL which eliminated school millages.

The Michigan Association of Counties is requesting a Commissioner and an alternate to participate in a County Coalition to fight and protect County revenues.

Comm. Potvin pointed out that he has suggested similar efforts in the past and fully agrees that Marquette County has to be involved in these discussions.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board participate in the MAC Coalition and provide expenses for a representative to attend meetings on a case-by-case basis.

The Committee of the Whole considered a grant proposal prepared by Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, in which the Marquette County Emergency Rescue Unit, operated by the Sheriff’s Department, would be eligible to receive funding assistance through the U.P. Emergency Medical Services Corporation, who recently received funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, to assist with equipment purchases for Emergency Medical and Rescue Services. The equipment being recommended for purchase through the grant include dispatch pagers for “on-call” rescue unit crew members, and hazardous atmosphere alerting monitor equipment required for confined space rescue operations. Total cost for the proposed equipment is projected to be $5,460, with 75% being reimbursed by the U.P.E.M.S. Corporation and the 25% local match should not exceed $1,365.

County Administrator Dennis Aloia further explained that he has not included this in his 1994 budget. He suggested the County Board approve submitting the grant application at this time. It is possible that during the budget process, the necessary funding may be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the grant application to the U.P.E.M.S. Corporation for upgrading emergency equipment.
The Committee of the Whole considered a letter from Rudy LaFrenciere, Marquette County Mine Inspector requesting that $450 in his budget, laboratory testing line item be transferred to a different line item to pay compensation to former Mine Inspector, William C. Maki. Mr. Maki has been assisting Mr. LaFrenciere in locating some abandoned mine shafts that are in the Marquette County backwoods where there are no roads.

Administrator Aloia explained that the laboratory testing line item was developed 4 or 5 years ago when the former Mine Inspector Maki needed to test some mining waste discharges that could have been harmful. This line item has not been used since. He recommends the County Board allow it to be used as requested by Mr. LaFrenciere.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braaske, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow the line item transfer in the Mine Inspector's budget as requested.

The Committee of the Whole considered a letter from R.T. Stephenson, General Manager, CEO, of the Joint Military Services Credit Union, located at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base. Mr. Stephenson explained because of the closing of K.I. Sawyer, the Credit Union's present membership will be seriously depleted and may force a possible shut-down of their operations at both K.I. Sawyer and Kincheloe. The Credit Union is submitting a proposal to the Commissioner, Financial Institutions Bureau, Lansing, Michigan, requesting approval and assistance in expanding their field of membership to include active and former U.S. military personnel, military reserves and former reserves, members and former members of the National Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, and VFW Posts located both in Marquette and Chippewa Counties.

Comm. Angeli expressed concern about the County Board supporting a private financial institution which would be in competition with other banks in Marquette County. He thought this was not an appropriate thing for the County Board to do.

Comm. consensus, however, was that the expanded membership being proposed by the Credit Union only includes military and former military personnel. This is a very specialized type of individual and should not affect the business of any local banks. The support the County is providing is only in the form of a letter.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried on a roll call vote, 8 ayes to 1 nay (with Comm. Angeli voting nay) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide a letter of support for the expanded membership as proposed by the Joint Military Services Credit Union at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

The Committee of the Whole considered an update from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director on the removal of a 4,000 gallon tank at the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge. U.P. Engineering has completed investigative borings. Unfortunately soil contamination has been found at the site. This is bad news, however, it may qualify the County for MUSTFA assistance. Mr. Koshorek explained, as required by law, he reported the contamination to the DNR. He now must file two reports: one required in 20 days and one required in 45 days. He needs some further engineering services to determine the extent of the contamination and the amount of fuel involved. Mr. Koshorek would like to continue using the U.P. Engineering for these engineering services.

He is pursuing the immediate removal of the tank and took abatement action by emptying the tank and notifying other Lake Superior harbors. Mr. Koshorek is working with a vendor (Marathon Distributor) to help boaters purchasing fuel.

Additional tests for the necessary data in his reports will cost several thousand dollars, which does not include the remediation of the contamination. Presently, there is $20,000 in the public improvement fund.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow staff to proceed with the testing to determine
the extent of the fuel contamination caused by leaking storage tank at the Big Bay Harbor, and the removal of the tank and abatement of the site.

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

Chairperson Corkin announced that he will be absent at next week’s County Board meeting. He has been invited to attend a seminar regarding base closures, which is being paid for by the NEIC of Northern Michigan University.

Comm. Minelli announced that at the last Road Commission meeting, they decided to request copies of complaint policies from other County Road Commissions around the State for consideration and review.

Comm. Bergdahl explained that at this last meeting, the Planning Commission decided to forward a letter to the County Board asking "what to do with fuel contaminated soils?" The County Board did not extend the authority to allow for out-of-County disposal.

Comm. Potvin requested that Commissioners thoroughly review the Draft Stormwater Control Ordinance. If anyone has questions or concerns, or is in opposition to it, please advise the Ad Hoc Committee so your concerns can be addressed ahead of time and avoid a controversy during the public hearing.

Administrator Aloia announced that his FY 1994 budget recommendations will be distributed Friday to Commissioners and County Departments. Departmental Budget Hearings will start the week of August 23rd, 1993.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Proposal from George McGlaughlin, U.S. Forestry Service, for a Job Corp Program at K.I. Sawyer. (No Packet Materials)

Request from F/Lt. VanOosterhout, MSP for approval of $2,232 to purchase tapes for the Central Dispatch recording equipment.

Request from Chief Circuit Judge Edward A. Quinnell for a budget amendment for visiting judges during Judge Ray Jason’s absence.

Memo from Joe Levandoski, Project Director, regarding the 21st Century Commission Pilot Project Agreement.

Proposed revised fee schedule for Dental Clinic, tobacco retailer’s license, and flu vaccination from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Department Director.

Proposed 1993 Health Department Budget Amendment #3 from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Department Director.

Memo from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, regarding the Honor Camp Access land acquisition grant.

Letter supporting a celebration marking the 150th anniversary of the discovery of iron ore in the Great Lakes Region near Negaunee.

Various communications regarding SB 1, legislation eliminating school operating millages and freezing property taxes.

Grant application for Emergency Rescue Unit equipment from Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, to U.P. EMS Corporation.

Memo from Rudy LaFreniere, Marquette County Mine Inspector, regarding transfer of funds in Mine Inspector’s budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.