The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, September 7, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried that the minutes of the August 17, 1993 Regular Board Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Comm. Don Potvin, 1027 N. Front Street, Marquette, made the following comments:

Don Potvin, 1027 North Front. I know something about what I plan to say to you tonight, but I can't be sure what I will say in the end. My statement at this time is designed to let you know that I am disappointed in the new ten cylinder County Board, which seems to be firing on about three or four cylinders at this time. I've continually told people that would bother to ask me, that the County Board is much more attuned to and more professionally qualified, to seek good answers to problems than has been my experience while serving or observing city commissions. I have come to the point where I will no longer say that again.

Please understand that I am also displeased that I don't have the ability to get your attention on any of a number of topics. Needless to say, I feel that I have attempted to find some curves in the road, but have concluded that this Board wants to run a very straight track. I'm disappointed.

My opinion of the budget process is, why did we bother to sit through it? Why did we ask Department Heads to attend? It is quite clear that there was little to none inclination to really talk about the budget. This is sad. We laid people off without discussing the merits of mandate versus non-mandate. There was supposed to be a schedule in your packets so you all would know the mandate versus non-mandate. It wasn't in there as I understand it.

I made an attempt to speak of several things. All I succeeded in doing was raising the ire of the Sheriff and I'm quite sure the ire of some of our Commissioners here. I believe that prior to October budget day, we should seriously discuss, asking the Sheriff to provide empirical evidence of the real need to have an auto 24 hours a day, as opposed to a perk. He can disprove my contention that it is a perk by showing some evidence of why he needs it and what its really done to amount to anything. We can't avoid this by having our head in the sand, thinking, "Joe's a nice guy, he's gotta have it." Some of you know better, but you won't speak to it because you feel you're intimidated.

I would like to discuss at some point, very shortly, our administra-
tion's and other options for cost containment on the health insurance. I've raised that questions. I didn't get a tumble out of any of you. It's a real problem.

I would like to discuss, in the Sheriff's Department, the relationship of the command structure to the Department, and the Department to the troops in the field. You dismiss that out of hand. It ought at least be worth a discussion. I raised several times the issue of having a Board evaluation in a total meeting of the Mr. Aloia's work force. You don't want do it. As of now, we have one or two people know what the
consensus is, or the non-consensus is, of our Commissioners. And I still believe the best thing we could have is to have a discussion about Mr. Aloia's abilities, or non-abilities, so that we all understand the same thing, so that we hear the same phrases, we hear the kicks. You've refused to do that. I don't think you're being fair to the rest of us by hanging your head in the sand again.

One of the problems I would like to discuss, in terms of the Commissioner's relationship with Mr. Aloia is this: (and I just noticed it the other day) This isn't a long standing gripe or anything like that, but on the minutes of July 27th of the Health Department, I noticed that Dr. Johnson spoke about the County may be inspecting underground tanks for the State Police. It's an option I guess that we could exercise or not to do, for pay of course. It's a non-mandated thing. The minutes say this: "Mr. Aloia would talk with Ron Koshorek and the Chairman of the Board to determine if the County wants to become involved in this project." I don't want Ron Koshorek and the County Board Chairman to decide whether we should become involved in a project. We should all hear that information and we should all make that decision. I think we're wrong if we don't insist on it. That isn't the only time, I'm sure, but that's one of them which I just ran across it in the minutes.

The main point is that we as Commissioners should all get the same message that the other Commissioners are getting, and deal with the same thing. Now if the rest of you are so faint-hearted that you can't insist on it, then I feel real confident in what I'm saying, that we're hitting on about four cylinders. We have the brain power here, we're just not using it.

I raised the issue of administrators and elected officials being paid comp. time. I raised that some time ago prior to the budget time, I was told it would be discussed in budget. It wasn't discussed in budget. Nobody cared about it. Taxpayers and laid off workers care about this kind of thing, believe me. They're interested in this sort of thing. I'm interested, and I have since asked our accountant to give us that information. I asked him, I didn't tell him, I suspect we'll have it one day.

This Board here indicated earlier, in no uncertain terms, that the EDC left much to be desired. Now it seems in the last month or so, that there's a love-fest going on. I fear that this tone is directly related to the perceived political implications of not spending money on economic development at this time with the closing of the Sawyer Air Base. And I think that's sad that people are down-beaten so they won't even say what's on their mind. And I think that this has been a real change in the prospects of success, or rather I should say, there's been no change in the prospects of success of the EDC, but now, like I say, there is this love-fest. And of course the EDC is a non-mandated program, and again I would remind you cut staff for mandated programs to fund that.

I believe from talking to Dennis, that our Administrator would have recommended not funding this EDC at this time, except that he had certain reservations about recommending something that he knew he could not make fly with the tone of the people here. Now we pay him a good chunk of money to give us his very best advice, and in this instance, I'd have to tell you again, he didn't give us that advice because he felt stifled just a little bit. And if this Board is going to act in a stifling manner on Mr. Aloia, or any of the other of us here, we are not going to function on ten cylinders, I'll guarantee you. If you want to look over your back for your fellow Commissioners as well as voters, you really got a problem. He felt he would stand alone, and for the record I would have joined him on it, but he didn't feel like
doing that. I really believe that's the truth. After he refused to cease funding the EDC, I suggested, let's move the EDC into a Department of the County under Mr. Aloia. He agreed, he said he didn't want it, but he would do it. Now that would have given us a couple things. We would have an EDC Department but we'd also had good control over it, control by people we have confidence in, and I think that was very important, and possibly a better chance of success. But we didn't even discuss it. It was turned down out of hand again. As the EDC and Mr. Aloia left here last week, after talking to us, they claimed thirty new jobs already in the short time that, Mr. "Hootinanny" has been here. Nobody disputed it. I understand Mr. Arsenault went out in the hallway, but our Board did not dispute that and we should have. We should have told them, hold on a minute, where is the thirty new jobs that are here because of this guy? They aren't here and it's a lie that's now allowed to stand, to make him look good, and it's wrong. When the truth stretches, we shouldn't be a part of it.

If that isn't enough, I have a copy of an EDC and Mr. Sherbenske contract. For your information, he has something like a two-year contract that amounts to a no-cut contract for all intent and purposes. This contract was entered into and signed by the EDC Directors, knowing they didn't have the funds to pay him for two years. They didn't even know if they were going to get paid for him for this year, but they entered into a contract back in May for two years. The amount is around $100,000. It appears also that this contract was made without discussion with our Civil Counsel. I find that hard to believe. That's what he's here for. And it's been clearly known that he could, they could use him whenever they pleased.

I would also say that this particular item is another instance of Commissioners not getting all the same information. Mr. Payant sent copies of this correspondence to Mr. Klahn, to Mr. Corkin and Mr. Aloia. I found out last week about this contract and about the shortcomings. I don't know if you've ever found out about it, but those people had it and I don't think they shared it with us. We need to be shared with this. We are not second to them. We all have the same vote, we have the same kind of people electing us, we're representing the County of Marquette and we should know everything that's going on. No secrets from us is a part of the deal.

I'm hoping that if nothing else, after you get over being mad at me, that there's some food for thought in what I've said tonight. That's all I ask, "that you think about it, and think if there isn't some reason for you to talk about some of these things. These are not happy things, and are not popular. And after they're discussed and we have a good discussion, and have a vote, I can live with the vote anytime. But I can't abide a situation where we refuse to talk, because Don Potvin suggested it, instead of for instance, Greg Seppanen or Paul Arsenault or someone else. You know I find it real hard to believe, and I want to tell you my opinion right now, that everyone here is not equal. I'll guarantee it. You are not treated and thought of as an equal on this Board. I can't prove it, but I guarantee it's so.

I guess I'm going to have to end up by saying that I expect you to do something about this. I expect you at one point, fairly soon, to move to discuss these kinds of things because they're real important. They're real issues and the kind of things that we have tonight on the agenda doesn't amount to a pinch of anything, because as you know, they just aren't real important.

These are the important things, to get this of this thing, and drive it, and find a curve and a nitch that works instead of going straight down the road with habit and what used to be. And I'm going to say to you, I'm going to leave tonight and I'm going to come back when you
guy are ready to start talking about some of these kinds of things. Thank you for your attention.

Comm. Potvin then left the meeting.

County Clerk Dave Roberts pointed out that Mr. Potvin misspoke about elected officials receiving comp. time, they do not. Comm. Potvin probably was referring to the salaried, non-union.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

**Informational Items**

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the following informational items be accepted and placed on file:

- b. Letter from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, to State Senator Don Roivisto, regarding the Commercial Forest Act.
- c. Letter from State Representative, David Anthony, to Governor John Engler urging quick appointment of the Base Closure Authority.
- e. Notice from Michigan Dept. of Management & Budget, of computer system renovation at DSS.
- f. Evaluation report of the Marquette County Youth Home.

**Action Items**

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that action items 10d), 10e), 10f), 10g), 10h), 10i), 10j) and 10l) be approved as follows:

10d) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board proceed with the Honor Camp Plan Acquisition Grant, under option 3, which calls for a reduction in the size of the land acquisition to stay within the current project budget of $50,000, $37,500 the State portion, $12,500 the local portion, with Sands Township agreeing to contribute $6,250 to obtain the right of way, with Chairperson Corkin signing the following agreement:

August 31, 1993

RE: Honor Camp Property in Sections 11 & 14, T47N, R25W.

Sands Township is agreeable to contributing $6,250.00 to the County’s effort to obtain right-of-way connecting the above described Honor Camp property to County Road 553 in order that 553 may in the future be connected to County Road NKA by a road in a mutually agreeable location.

Therefore, the above mentioned contribution by Sands Township is in consideration of a commitment by the County of Marquette to allow by necessary right-of-way and/or permit an extension of the proposed road to the Honor Camp property through said property to County Road NKA at a reasonable location agreeable to the County, the County Road Commission, and Sands Township in the future.
Your acceptance of this letter will ensure the County's commitment to Sands Township in that regard.

Sincerely,
/S/
Earl Yelle,
Sands Township Supervisor

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

* * * * *

10e) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board appoint Comm. Arsenault at its representative on the MAC Coalition to protect County revenues, and that an alternate be appointed from remaining Commissioners if needed.

10f) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board send a letter to the Governor and our State Legislators urging the continuation of funding for Emergency 911/Central Dispatch, and that this item be added to the County Board's "issue list" for discussion during meetings with our State Legislators.

10g) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board direct the Health Department and the Sheriff's Department to compile a position paper urging that the Michigan DNH, Environmental Response Division, be responsible for the collection and disposal of "conditionally exempt" hazardous waste, and further that this item be added to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners "issue list" for discussion when meeting with our State Legislators.

10h) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board approve the low bid from U.P. Engineering at $19,480 for various County surveys and authorize the Chairperson to sign the professional services agreement.

10i) A Committee of the Whole recommendation that the County Board approve a contract with U.P. Engineering and Architects to perform the Phase II evaluation of the existing facility to update the Perkin's Park Master Plan, for a bid price of $5,690.

10j) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve the special appropriations contract with the Marquette County Soil and Water Conservation District for $10,000, of which $5,940 is allocated towards wages for an aerial photo interpreter for the Marquette County Mapping Project. The S & WCD expects to have approximately 75,000 acres interpreted and mapped for this amount of funding. The remaining $4,060 will be used for the oversight of landowner information, research, administrative support, and mailings.

10k) The County Board approved the replacement of Marquette County Building Authority bond series 1990-1 (building acquisition and expansion), bond #R-301 at $35,000, on behalf of Laura Duhl as follows:

Trust #807577400 - Marquette County Building Authority Marquette County Michigan (LTGO) Bonds Series 1990-1 (Building Acquisition and Expansion, Cusip #571471AM3 - Bond #R-301 @ $35,000.00 n/o; LAURA DUHL.

Action Items (con't)

The County Board considered the final Community Development Block Grant Application for a Michigan State Housing Development Authority Grant of $300,000, which will be supported by $100,000 from the Rehabilitation
Assistance Program (RAP), and another $100,000 from the Community Home Improvement Program (CHIP), and an additional $32,000 in County funds for a total of $532,000. Patricia Gruber, Planner, was present to explain the grant application and answer questions. The Marquette County Planning Commission held a public hearing on the CDBG application. On a 5 to 0 vote, with one member absent, the Planning Commission recommended that the County Board approve the grant application and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign. The application must be approved and submitted to MSHDA prior to the September 15th deadline.

Patricia Gruber further explained that the Community Development Block Grant Program will benefit low and very low income households whose homes will be brought up to code. Such households will be provided with low interest loans which would not require repayment unless the home owner sells the property. Loans under the RAP program are forgivable, if the home owner lives there for an additional 10 years. The CHIP program provides low interest loans from 1% to 9% with a 15 year payback. The Community Development Block Grant Program would allow Marquette County to address housing problems discovered while doing preliminary work on updating the Marquette County Housing Plan. The CDBG funds would be available throughout Marquette County except in those units of government that have their own program, which presently are Skandia and Forsyth Townships. Also Turin and Wells Townships are in the process of applying.

The funds would be available in 1994 and expended through 1995. In addition to the rehabilitation of single family and duplex units, it is proposed that $40,000 be loaned to the Habitat for Humanity to help defray costs for 4-single family homes for four very low income households. Staff anticipates going through several cycles during the application process and will work with other agencies that have home repair programs to maximize County funds.

It is anticipated there will be a considerable amount of staff time involved in administering this grant. The CDBG allows for 18% ($54,000) to be used in administrative fees. The County will contribute another $32,000 to a full two year program and maximize the opportunity to use the RAP and CHIP programs.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the County Board approve the Community Development Block Grant Application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, resolution as follows:

Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan

Authorizing submission of an application to seek Michigan State Housing Development Authority CDBG funding

WHEREAS the Michigan State Housing Development Authority has promulgated instructions for applying for the 1993 Michigan CDBG Housing Program Funds, and

WHEREAS the County of Marquette recognizes the need of low and moderate income residents of the County for safe and sanitary housing, and anticipates the County of Marquette is desirous of applying for such funding to cover proposed single family dwelling rehabilitation in the County for such low and moderate income residents, and to support efforts to construct new low cost housing, and

WHEREAS the County of Marquette hereby adopts a civil rights policy and reaffirms its affirmative action policy and drug free work place policy.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan authorize submission of an application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for funding under the 1993 Michigan CDBG Housing Program to cover the cost of proposed housing rehabilitation and associated activities within the County.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Michigan CDBG Housing Program 1993

HOUSING APPLICATION

Please check one of the following:

☐ Housing Grant Allocation (Counties)
☐ Housing Grant Competition

1. Identification of Applicant:

Community: Marquette County
Contact Person: Ron Koshorek
Address: 234 W. Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: (906) 228-1535
County: Marquette Region: 12

If a planning agency, non-profit community group, or consultant has been involved in developing this application please provide:

Name: N/A
Address: 
Phone: ( )

2. Program Funding:

CDBG Request: $300,000
Other Funds: $100,000 RAP
(specify source)
$100,000 CHIP/HIP
$32,000
Total: $532,000

3. Type of Application (Check One):

☐ On Behalf of Self
☐ Joint
☐ Activities carried out by a Subrecipient

If Joint or Subrecipient Specify:

Contact: James A. Clements, Chairman
Community or Agency: Habitat for Humanity/Marquette Co.
Address: P.O. Box 213 (305 W. Magnetic)
Phone: (906) 228-3578

4. Community Profile:

Please provide the following information relative to your community. (If targeting your Housing Grant Program, provide this same information from your target area.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>18 yrs.</th>
<th>65 yrs.</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Median Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>70,887</td>
<td>35,985</td>
<td>34,901</td>
<td>18,399</td>
<td>7,976</td>
<td>68,117</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>1,625</td>
<td>34,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indicate Source of this information: U.S. Census and MSHDA Sec. 8, Eligibility Limits 5/10/93

(If completed from a survey attach a copy and identify year in which it was completed.)

5. Authorized Local Official:

Name (Print or Type): Gerald O. Corkin
Signature: Gerald O. Corkin
Address: 234 W. Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
Title: Chairman, Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Date: 9/1/93
Phone: (906) 228-1501
10b) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole that Civil Counsel incorporate the necessary changes into the draft of the Marquette County Storm Water Ordinance before distribution, and that a public hearing be scheduled on the ordinance for Tuesday, October 26, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex. This date is acceptable to the County Board.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the recommendation to hold the public hearing be scheduled as recommended.

10c) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole that the Marquette County Airport Committee be reorganized under the Michigan Aeronautics Code and expand its membership to five members by appointing two new members during the annual appointment process, and further that the duties and responsibilities of the new Airport Committee remain as they are; however, they be charged with the responsibility towards implementing County policies and procedures over the next several years. Civil Counsel Payant will draft the appropriate resolution to establish their terms of office and staggered appointments.

Comm. Bergdahl expressed concern that the County Board seems to have more complaints regarding the Road Commission rather than the Airport Committee, and wondered if perhaps we were reorganizing the wrong Committee. Comm. Angeli explained that he has received positive comments from several citizens regarding expansion of the Airport Committee so that the citizens of the County would have better representation.

It was moved by Comm. Seppesan, seconded by Comm. Arseaulit, and carried on a roll call vote 7 ayes to 1 nay (with Comm. Bergdahl voting nay), that the County Board approve the Committee of the Whole recommendation to reorganize the County Airport Committee as presented.

10k) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to direct staff to collect information to organize a tour of the Job Corps Training Center in Leona, Wisconsin. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that he has been waiting for the appointment by the Governor of the Base Closure Authority, which will take place by this Friday, and then request that they sponsor the tour. He has been in contact with other agencies and found that representatives from the EDC, CUPPA, and the MIEC are interested in participating. There is an excellent chance that the cost to the County will only be for meals. In any event, Administrator Aloia and Chairperson Corkin, who will automatically be a member of the Base Conversion Authority, will work with other agencies to make arrangements for the tour.

It was moved by Comm. Seppesan, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that the recommendation be approved.

Commissioner Comments

Comm. Trudell spoke in response to Comm. Potvin’s earlier comments regarding the EDC. Although the EDC may have had some problems in the past, Comm. Trudell likes what he sees now and wants the new EDC Director to have an opportunity to pursue some of his ideas. One person may take credit for establishing some new jobs in Marquette County; however, anybody with any common sense knows that one person cannot by himself, create jobs.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that Comm. Potvin often goes to outside meetings and speaks to issues as if he speaks for the County Board. This is not so. Comm. Corkin hopes that no County Commissioner leaves the impression at other public meetings that they are speaking on behalf of the County Board, unless the County Board specifically directs them to do so. Comm. Corkin further asserted that we are still a democracy, and 10 Commissioners must decide by majority vote the budget or any other issue. Comm. Corkin will address some of Comm. Potvin's comments at another meeting, when Comm. Potvin is present.

Administrator Aloia explained that he has been working on the tour for Commissioners of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base. Tentatively, the tour would be
scheduled for the week of September 14th.

Comm. Minelli questioned if Comm. Potvin's public comments were to be printed word for word in the minutes. Clerk Roberts contended that minutes are not normally transcripts, but rather a summary of Board discussion and actions; however, the County Board has made such requests in the past.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that a verbatim transcript of Comm. Potvin's remarks be included in the meeting minutes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts, Marquette County Clerk
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. Letter from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, to State Senator Don Koivisto, regarding the Commercial Forest Act.
   c. Letter from State Representative, David Anthony, to Governor John Engler urging quick appointment of the Base Closure Authority.
   e. Notice from Michigan Dept. of Management & Budget, of computer system renovation at DSS.
   f. Evaluation report of the Marquette County Youth Home.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Application to Michigan Housing Development Authority for CDBG.
    b. Committee of the Whole recommendation to hold a public hearing on the Storm Water Management Ordinance on October 26, 1993.
    c. Committee of the Whole recommendation to reorganize the Marquette County Airport Committee.
    d. Committee of the Whole recommendation to proceed with the Honor Camp Land Acquisition Grant in cooperation with Sands Township.
    e. Committee of the Whole recommendation to appoint Comm. Arsenaull as the County Board representative to the MAC Coalition.
    f. Committee of the Whole recommendation urging Legislators to continue funding for 911/Central Dispatch.
    g. Committee of the Whole recommendation to urge the DNR to be responsible for disposing "conditional exempt" hazardous waste.
    h. Committee of the Whole recommendation to award the bid for various County surveys to U.P. Engineering.
    i. Committee of the Whole recommendation to award the bid for the Phase II of the valuation of Perkins Park to U.P. Engineering.
    j. Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve the special appropriation contract with the Marquette County S.& W.C.D.
    k. Committee of the Whole recommendation directing staff to organize a tour to the Job Corp Training Center in Laona, Wisconsin.
11. LATE ADDITIONS.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.

Remember Labor Day!