BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  January 11, 1994

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 11, 1994 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 14, 1993 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, was present and spoke regarding Item 12 which is a request from Sands Township for an upgrade of County Road 557 between the Crossroads and the City of Marquette. Mr. Yelle explained that the main concern is the steep hill of approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Marquette Mountain Ski area heading southward into Sands Township. The large trucks that are hauling materials to Cleveland Cliff's, cause a very serious traffic backup and safety problem which could be solved by constructing a truck lane.

Chairperson Corkin distributed a letter that explained that the Marquette County Road Commission has scheduled construction of a 1.6 mile truck lane in 1995.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following change: that Item 6 and Item 14 be switched.

The Committee considered competitive bidding procedures as required under Public Acts 167 and 168 of 1993. These acts require that counties conduct sealed, competitive bids for any contracts of $20,000 or more in order to qualify for State revenue sharing payments.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that while this is a change on the State level, it has no effect on Marquette County. Marquette County's current policy #215, "Comprehensive Purchasing Policy" has a provision in it whereby competitive, sealed bids are required for items that cost $5,000 or more. Marquette County far exceeds the requirements of the law.

Administrator Aloia recommended that the County Board pass a resolution indicating that our Comprehensive Purchasing Policy #215 meets the requirements of Public Acts 167 and 168 of 1993 and forward that resolution to the Department of Treasury for their records.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board pass Resolution #94-02 entitled Marquette County Bid Policy and forward a copy to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

The Committee considered the Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Marquette County Department of Employment Programs. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that in the past, the Employment Programs Department has constructed barrier free toilets, tourist information centers, and picnic tables for the Michigan DNR. Last year's agreement was initiated at a financial base of $40,000 but with amendments, concluded at $70,458.

It is projected that during this term of the agreement a minimum of 38 concrete vault covers, 36 barrier free toilet buildings, and 24 tourist information centers will be completed. The agreement provides for $39,000 of man-hour costs, at $10 per hour, and also up to $17,000 for materials for a total not to exceed $56,000. The agreement has been given legal review and Administrator Aloia recommends its approval.
It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the grant agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Marquette County Department of Employment Programs as presented.

The Committee considered a memo from the Michigan Department of Social Services regarding Public Act 258 of 1992. Civil Counsel David Payant explained that PA 258 amends the Civil Rights Act PA 453 of 1976 by requiring that the Michigan Department of Civil Rights assess a fee of 1/20th of 1% (.0005%) of the amount of any contract that is valued at $100,000 or more. The fee is due and payable to the Department of Civil Rights in order to defray costs for their monitoring of businesses for equal employment practices. For example, if there was a contract between the State of Michigan and the Friend of the Court Family Support Division for $200,000, then $100 of this or the .0005% would have to go to the Department of Civil Rights. If a contract was less than $100,000 then no funds would be payable to the Department of Civil Rights.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file.

The Committee considered the Annual Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement between the Michigan Department of Social Services and Marquette County. County Administrator Dennis Aloia explained that the 1994 Grant Agreement totals $131,848, similar to the 1993 Cooperative Reimbursement Grant. These funds have already been approved as part of the 1994 budget.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1994 Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement between the Michigan Department of Social Services and the County of Marquette as presented.

The Committee considered an application to the State Court Administrator’s Office for Phase II of the 21st Century Commission Project from Patricia L. Micklow, 96th District Court Judge, Judicial Council Chairperson and Joseph Levandoski, Project Director.

Probate Judge Michael Anderegg was present along with Mr. Levandoski and Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager to discuss the project and answer questions. Judge Anderegg pointed out that Marquette County received $45,000 for Phase I of the 21st Century Commission Project, which was undertaken to study administrative functions in the three Courts to see if they could be consolidated or improved. The Phase II proposal for the "Project" is to implement some of the solutions identified in Phase I, and to develop some additional areas, such as cross assignment of judges for criminal arraignment and improving the Court libraries. Under Phase I, the trial judges met informally to study the 21st Century Project and selected the following six areas of study:

1. Integrated Court information systems.
2. Uniform collection and indigent counsel.
3. Purchasing and supplies.
5. Uniform training.

Probate Judge Anderegg further explained that it is the Marquette County Judges' wish to be part of the SCAO 21st Century Project Phase II to implement several goals developed in Phase I. The Phase II grant application is for $212,000, most of which will be utilized for equipment to automate Circuit and Probate Court and provide an integrated Court information system. The grant application states that we expect to meet or exceed the 50% match requested through cash and/or in-kind contributions and also expect that the local match shall not drop below the 25% of the total grant. This was similar language as that used in Phase I.
Joseph Levandoski, Project Director, was present and explained that he has identified $69,745 in local match for in-kind services that could be provided by Marquette County. During the Phase I Project, all staff kept time sheets of their hours working on the Project and the in-kind match was calculated at approximately $35,000. This was much greater than the in-kind match required for the $45,000 Phase I grant. We are also hoping to roll-over this excess in-kind match from Phase I into Phase II.

Comm. Seppanen expressed concern that should Marquette County be awarded the total grant, is there a chance that the State Court Administrator’s Office would need the additional $37,000 in cash? The language in the grant seems ambiguous.

Judge Anderegg further pointed out that State-wide, the SCAO is providing a total of $450,000 in 21st Century Project fundings for 5 Projects. Marquette County’s grant application is requesting almost half of that sum so it is very unlikely that we will receive full funding. Comm. Corkin requested that staff look into ways to fund the additional $37,000 if by chance, the total grant was awarded.

Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, added that the automation sub-committee under Phase I travelled to several counties and studied a number of computer systems in other courts. Of three systems studied, OSM (Office of Systems Management) has direct access to the SCAO so is guaranteed that the software meets all of the SCAO requirements. One problem with OSM at this time, is that District Court has not had a chance to adequately review the package, however, the Automation Sub-committee recommends that the 21st Century Pilot Project pursue the purchase of the OSM system for Probate, Juvenile and Circuit Court as soon as possible.

Another consideration with OSM is cost. OSM charges a yearly fee for Circuit Court $9,900 per year, Probate and Juvenile, $9,900 per year and District Court $8,250 per year. However, this yearly fee provides for unlimited training, unlimited support, software maintenance, and software enhancement so that all SCAO mandate changes are done.

It was moved by Comm. Arenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow the grant application for Phase II of the 21st Century Commission Project to the State Court Administrator’s, and whether partial or full, come back to the County Board with the final contract agreement for review and approval.

The Committee considered a letter from Edward Phillips, FAA Regional Administrator, Great Lakes Region, explaining that air traffic control services in the vicinity of Marquette have been provided for many years by the Department of Defense from their facility at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base. When K.I. Sawyer closes, the responsibility for air traffic control service reverts to the FAA. The level of service that the FAA will provide is controlled by government regulations and at this time, the Marquette County Airport does not qualify for an air traffic control tower or a terminal radar approach control system. The level of aircraft operations in Marquette County has to rise substantially before it will qualify for an on-site FAA/ATC service. Air traffic control service to Marquette County will be provided by the Minneapolis Air Traffic Control Center.

In planning for the closure of K.I. Sawyer, portions of the Base Closure and Realignment Act allow the FAA to receive Air Traffic Control assets from the military where such a transfer is justifiable. The Great Lakes region intends to pursue this option.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a request from Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, to upgrade County Road 553 between the Crossroads intersection and the City of Marquette. Chairperson Corkin previously distributed a letter from John Beerling, Superintendent/Engineer of the Road Commission which indicates that the section of County Road 553, between Marquette Mountain and Lea Glass’ curve, a distance of 1.6 miles, has been designated by the County Road Commission as a first priority project utilizing federal
funds in 1995.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file and a copy of the Road Commission letter be sent to Sands Township.

The Committee considered a letter from Peggy Carberry, Past Diversions Specialist, regarding the restructuring of the Diversions Program and the elimination of her position. Judge Anderegg was present and pointed out that Peggy Carberry was the only employee laid off as a result of the County Board accepting various department head proposals for reinstatement of the positions. He was asked to assist the County Board in their budget difficulties and restructured the Diversions Program whereby the full-time position would be eliminated and the County would use part-time hiring for contractual Diversions Services at $15,000 a year. Diversions Services would not be eliminated completely. The misunderstanding took place when the County Board voted to accept the Departmental proposals and reinstate the employees; however, Judge Anderegg’s proposal eliminated the position.

Judge Anderegg further explained that he resents the implication that there is fat in his budget. He and other departments were criticized for attempting to assist the Commissioners by finding ways to reduce expenses. Marquette County is already shorthanded when compared to other counties in its labor market. It still makes more sense to have a full-time diversion specialist, but he will not ask the Board to reinstate the full-time position and will attempt to get by with a contractual part-time diversion specialist. Judge Anderegg offered Ms. Carberry a position at the Youth Home which she did not take.

Several Commissioners expressed surprise that Ms. Carberry was laid off after they voted to reinstate the County positions. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that his recommendation was clearly stated to the Board. When they voted to reinstate the positions, Judge Anderegg’s proposal clearly explained his plan to eliminate the full-time diversion specialist and hire part-time contractual services for up to $15,000. The Health Department still lost 5 1/2 positions and the Accounting Department a 1/4 position which were a mixture of management and union positions.

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

The Committee considered a memo from Randall Johnson, M.D. Health Department Director regarding the enforcement proposal for the Marquette County Youth Tobacco Access Ordinance. The Health Department proposes to implement a program in which they will investigate a public complaint against any tobacco retailer who continuously sells to minors. The Health Department will follow up the complaint with a compliance check by using a 16/17 year old minor. The ordinance requires that ID’s should be checked by retailers of all individuals who are not over the age of 18. The Health Department could check to see if a retailer in fact, sells tobacco to minors by conducting the compliance check.

A letter to Mr. George Sedlacek, Marquette County Health Department, from Terrence Dean, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, recommends against using minors in sting operations conducted by the Health Department. Chairperson Corkin also opposes the use of sting operations by the Health Department against tobacco retailers.

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

The Committee considered a memo from Gerard T. Markey, Equalization Director, Equalization Director, stating that in compliance with Public Act 146 of 1993, the Equalization Department has submitted: a) The required L/4018’s for 1990 for equalization and b) required L/4018’s and supporting documentation for the 1995 equalization.

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

The Committee considered a copy of a letter written by Sheriff Joseph
I. Maino to Mr. Colin Jacobetti, District Operations Engineer, Michigan Department of Transportation requesting a traffic light study along the U.S. 41 business corridor in Marquette Township.

Comm. Angeli pointed out that as long as the Department of Transportation is going to conduct a traffic light study, perhaps some other problems could also be addressed. The street lighting is inadequate, and there must be some speed controls enforced.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board also request a study of the street lighting and the speed limits along the U.S. 41 business corridor in Marquette Township.

The Committee considered a memo from Christopher M. Thomas, Director, Michigan Bureau of Elections, regarding the March 15, 1994 State-wide Special Election. The memo includes a calendar of deadlines which will be observed for the March 15, 1994 Special Election and noted that any County or Local proposals that are to appear on the ballot must be certified to the County Clerk no later than January 25, 1994.

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


It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow two County Commissioners to attend the 1994 Annual Legislative Conference.

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

Anouncements

Comm. Seppanen requested an organizational meeting of the Statutory Finance Committee to be held at 6:45 p.m. just prior to the Regular Board Meeting next Tuesday.

Comm. Bergdahl reported that he attended the State Fair Director’s 105th Convention as a representative of Zone 6. This convention is attended by 700 to 800 people and all State Legislators are invited to attend. There were about 40 to 50 that did, however, none of the U.P. Legislators attended.

Comm. Angeli recently attended a Health Department meeting on ground water and heard an excellent seminar conducted by NMU and MTU Staff.


Comm. Corkin and other County representatives recently met with Simmons Airlines. Simmons’ president was very forthright and clearly explained that even though enplanements are up, the larger planes are flying partially full which costs money. Simmons will be moving 30 management people to Dallas in 90 to 120 days. Also, approximately 30 pilots and flight attendents will be moved to Chicago within the next 30 days. For the time being, the maintenance base will remain.

Chairperson Corkin contended that an increase in passengers may help keep AMR in Marquette County. If more people “fly from nearby”, we may be able to save some local jobs.

Comm. Potvin reported that Senator Koivisto will be in Marquette on Thursday, January 13th. Comm. Potvin is attempting to arrange a luncheon meeting with the Senator. If it is arranged, he will call Commissioners.
Chairperson Corkin distributed the 1994 Commissioner Committee Liaison assignments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, January 11, 1994 at 4:30 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
   HELD ON December 14, 1993.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts. (NONE)
7. Grant agreement between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Marquette County Employment Programs.
9. Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement between Michigan Department of Social Services and Marquette County.
10. Application for Phase II of the 21st Century Commission Project.
11. Letter from Edward Phillips, Great Lakes Regional Administrator, FAA, regarding Air Traffic Control (ATC) Services in the vicinity of Marquette.
12. Letter from Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, requesting an upgrade of County Road 553 between the crossroads and the City of Marquette.
13. Letter from Peggy Carberry, past Diversion Specialist, regarding the elimination of her position.

Informational Items:
14. Memo from Administrator Dennis Aloia regarding competitive bidding as required by PA 167 and 168 of 1993.
16. Letter from Sheriff Joseph I. Maino to Collin Jacobetti, regarding U.S. 41 Business Corridor traffic light study in Marquette Township.
19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.