The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 25, 1994 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 11, 1994 and the Statutory Finance Committee Meeting held on January 18, 1994 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: that Item 6a) become a request from Lynn Emerick, Commission on Aging Director, for a resolution to waive penalties for late payment of property taxes for certain eligible citizens.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period December 30, 1993, through January 30, 1994 in the amount of $1,878,882.42 be approved.

The Committee considered the borrowing resolutions for the 1993 delinquent taxes from James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer. Mr. Sodergren was present and explained that the borrowing resolutions are basically the same as last year. He anticipates that close to $4 million in property taxes will be returned delinquent. He will have approximately $3 million on hand to reduce the borrowing to around $1 million. He requested and received bids for bond counsel and financial advisor. The low bid for bond counsel is from John Axe and the low bid for financial advisor is from MFCI.

The law requires the hiring of a bond counsel if the County borrows over $700,000. County Administrator Dennis Aloia has reviewed the bids and the borrowing resolutions with Mr. Sodergren and concurs with his recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the borrowing resolutions for the 1993 delinquent taxes with John Axe as Bond Counsel and MFCI as financial advisor.

The Committee considered a request from Lynn Emerick, Commission on Aging Director for a waiver of penalties for late payment of property taxes for certain eligible citizens. In 1992 and 1993, the County Board approved such a resolution to waive penalty fees under Michigan Tax Law MCL 211.59(3). Ms. Emerick also requested that the County Board consider passing a resolution which would make the waiver effective for more than a one year period.

County Treasurer Jim Sodergren was present and reported that five eligible persons filed for the waiver in 1992 for a total waiver amount of $263.49. Five persons also filed for the waiver in 1993. Considering the unknown status of tax reform in the State of Michigan, Mr. Sodergren recommended the County Board only adopt the resolution for a one year period.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the resolution waiving the penalties for a period of one year for 1994.

The Committee considered contractual agreements for supplemental police
services between the Marquette County Sheriff's Department and Marquette and Tilden Townships. The existing agreements have been in effect since January and February of 1991 and both townships have indicated a desire to renew.

Lt. Bruce Belisle, Sheriff's Department was present and further explained that last year's contract was for $25.48 per hour. This year's contract will be $26.37 per hour with a minimum of 20 hours per week for Tilden Township police services and a minimum of 40 hours per week for Marquette Township police services. The rate of $26.37 is calculated by adding the total cost for providing police services budgeted for 1994, divided by the number of hours worked. The hourly cost includes depreciation spread evenly out over five years for patrol cars, plus all costs for benefits, unemployment, insurance, etc.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the contractual agreement for supplemental police services with Marquette and Tilden Townships.

The Committee considered three bids for three 1994 Sheriff patrol vehicles. Bids were received from Advantage Ford, Marquette; Frei Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-GEO of Negancee.

Lt. Bruce Belisle, Sheriff's Department was present and explained that all of the bidders met and/or exceeded the County's bid specifications and the funds have been budgeted in the FY 1994 CIP. The Sheriff's Department is recommending that the low bidder, Nelson Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-GEO of Negancee, be awarded the bid.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braams and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the low bid be awarded to Nelson Chevrolet-Oldsmobile-GEO of Negancee as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three 1994 Chevrolet Caprice Sedans</td>
<td>$45,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Trade-ins</td>
<td>-12,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Bid amount ($11,175 each)</td>
<td>$33,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator to establish an Ad Hoc Budget Committee which would be in effect through the FY 1995 budget process. Administrator Aloia explained that this Committee would take very specific, in-depth review of programs and services that Marquette County provides, which Commissioners feel the need to be evaluated. Suggested topics for consideration and evaluation may be millages, insurance, individual departments, child care funds, hours of work, personnel levels, mandated vs. non-mandated, and any other items that Committee members feel need to be investigated in more detail.

Administrator Aloia, Finance Manager, and himself as County Administrator, and further that the Committee be made up of any Commissioners that wish to participate. Administrator Aloia hopes the Committee would agree to meet once or twice a month for approximately six months. If the Committee finds that it needs to expand its mission, then the present staffing levels would have to be reviewed.

In summary: Administrator Aloia recommends that an Ad Hoc Budget Committee be established, made of all Commissioners willing to participate, that it be staffed by Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, and himself as County Administrator; that a meeting be set for early February to begin evaluating topics of interest, and further that this Committee make recommendations to the County Board to be considered as part of the FY 1995 budget process.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board establish an Ad Hoc Budget Committee as recommended by Administrator Aloia.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County
Administrator, to undertake a strategic planning session to try and develop a list of long-term goals and objectives for the County of Marquette, along with a mission statement. The County Board undertook a strategic planning session in 1987, but since that time, the Board has been expanded from five to ten members. Also with the mix of new Board members, new ideas that are being brought forth, it is time to reevaluate the goals established in 1987 and set new goals and determine new directions for Marquette County in future years.

A strategic planning session serves multiple purposes, in addition to setting direction for the County, it will allow input for the newly expanded County Board that will then more adequately reflect the interest of citizens on the whole. Also, it would give the County Board an opportunity to meet with the various Department Heads for in-depth discussion and learn more about their operations. This would provide feedback from Departments as to where they’ve been successful, where there have been problems, and for the Departments and the County Board to assist each other in developing goals and objectives for at least the next five years.

Administrator Aloia further explained that the strategic planning session will probably take two days. He recommends the County pick a location in Marquette County where each day would start at approximately 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m., which would include lunch. It is essential that the all Commissioners attend the sessions in order to have equal input. The meeting would also be attended by all department heads and critical staff. Estimated costs for this strategic planning session are $3,500 to $4,500.

The last time the County undertook a strategic planning session, Professor Ken Verberg, Michigan State University, through the Cooperative Extension Service, was the facilitator. Administrator Aloia notes that once again we use Professor Verberg and also Professor Lynn Harvey. Both Mr. Verberg and Mr. Harvey have conducted numerous planning sessions throughout the State of Michigan and have vast experience with County Government. Mr. Verberg is the author of Guide to Michigan County Government, which is in general, used throughout Michigan Counties. Also, by utilizing MSU, the County would receive a written report of the planning session outlining Marquette County’s goals and objectives.

It was moved by Comm. Braams, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried by voice vote, eight (8) ayes to one (1) nay (with Comm. Potvin voting nay) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board undertake a strategic planning session within the next two months, to have the work completed by June, that the County use Michigan State University, and that the necessary funding for the project be appropriated from contingency in an amount not to exceed $5,000.

The Committee considered a resolution from Iron County requesting that the Governor restore the State Revenue Sharing to Counties in his FY 1995 budget and/or the 2 mill property tax option. Comm. Potvin suggested that the County Board adopt the resolution but just support the additional two mills to replace revenue sharing, because revenue sharing will continue to be dependable and subject to cuts in future years.

It was moved by Comm. Braams, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and carried by voice vote, eight (8) ayes to one (1) nay (with Comm. Potvin voting nay) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution similar to Iron County.

The Committee considered a resolution from Iron County supporting the recent $15.1 million increase in public health cost sharing by the State of Michigan.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braams, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a similar resolution.

The Committee considered a memo from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager regarding the 1992 Deficit Fund Plan. Mr. Yoder was present and stated that the State Department of Treasury has reviewed the County’s deficit elimina-
tion plan for 1992 and requested further information on two items: First, the Mental Health Capital Fund was resolved by a bond sale in the fall of 1992 and the State has requested further proof of the bond transaction. Second, the County's 1992 plan indicated a five-year increased appropriation which would solve the deficit in the Mental Health Fringe Benefits fund. The State has requested an estimate of revenues and expenses through the point at which the deficit would be resolved (Both items were attached to Mr. Yoder's memo).

Mr. Yoder has been in contact with the State Department of Treasury and has been assured that if the County Board approves submission of the information that he has presented, it will satisfy questions raised by the State Department of Treasury.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the submission of the AMCMH Employee Benefit Funds, (revenue and expenditure estimate) and a copy of the Marquette County Building Authority Bond Series 1992 to be included with the 1992 Deficit Elimination Fund Plan.

The Committee considered the record in the House Journal of the vote on House Bill 5097, Specific Ore Tax legislation. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

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

Announcements

On Monday, January 31, 1994, there will be a special Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:30 p.m. along with the Social Services Board for the purpose of considering financial options for the operation of the Valente Medical Care Facility on the ballot.

Comm. Braamse announced a CUPPAD meeting will be held Friday, January 28, 1994 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Marquette Holiday Inn, the meeting includes lunch.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, announced that Gerald Markey, Equalization Director, will come to the County Board meeting next week with a special request. Recent legislation will require that all homeowners file an affidavit for exemption in order to qualify for the reduction in school millages on their homesteads. This affidavit must be filed with the local assessors. Mr. Markey is concerned that many homeowners will not file this affidavit by the deadline of March 1, 1994 and therefore, will not qualify for a reduction in their millage. Mr. Markey would like to explain the filing requirements at the next Board meeting and request funds to publish notices in the newspaper.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, January 25, 1994 at 4:30 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Borrowing Resolutions for 1993 delinquent taxes from James Sodergren, County Treasurer.
7. Agreements for supplemental police services with Marquette Township and Tilden Township from Sheriff Joseph I. Maino.
9. Recommendation from Administrator Dennis Aloia to establish a Budget Committee.
10. Recommendation from Administrator Dennis Aloia to undertake a strategic planning session.
11. Resolution from Iron County requesting the Governor either restore State Revenue Sharing or provide a 2 mill property tax option.
12. Resolution from Iron County supporting a recent increase in public health cost sharing by the State of Michigan.
15.
16.
17. PUBLIC COMMENT.
18. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
19. ADJOURNMENT.