The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 13, 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. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 29, 1994 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 16) Marquette County Medical Care Facility 1994 $100,000 Maintenance of Effort Payment.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 24, 1994, through December 8, 1994 in the amount of $918,557.97 be approved.

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The Committee considered the application for the 1994 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract between the Family Support Division of the Marquette County Prosecutor’s Office and the Michigan Department of Social Services. The 1995 Title IV-D State funding amounts to $133,141 for the period January 1 through December 31, 1995. This is an annual contract that requires County Board approval.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the 1995 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract for the Family Support Division of the Prosecutor’s Office as presented.

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The Committee considered the application for the 1995 Cooperative Reimbursement Contract between the Marquette County Friend of the Court’s Office and the Michigan Department of Social Services. The Title IV-D State funding for 1995 amounts to $269,863 for the period January 1 through December 31, 1995. This is an annual contract that requires County Board approval.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1995 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Application for the Friend of the Court’s Office as presented.

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The Committee considered bids for the 1995 Sheriff Patrol Vehicles. Undersheriff Michael Quayle was present and explained that bids were received on December 6, 1994 from Choice, Advantage Auto Group, Advantage Ford of Marquette and Frei Chevrolet Geo, Inc. of Marquette. The low bidder was Frei Chevrolet Geo for three 1995 Chevrolet Caprice Sedans, for $46,061, including trade-in and change over costs.

Undersheriff Quayle attempted a number of options to obtain a fourth patrol vehicle. He received quotes from two Lower Michigan dealers along with the local bidders. The best that he could do, utilizing the full $50,000 capital outlay and the $11,500 insurance for the wrecked patrol car, leaves the Sheriff’s Department $3,148 short.
Even with the annual purchase of three patrol vehicles, maintaining of a good patrol vehicle fleet was not being kept up. An additional warrant officer was approved for 1995, so the additional patrol car, or some type of vehicle, will to be absolutely necessary. Undersheriff Quayle thought that at the end of the 1995 the additional $3,148 may be available in the Sheriff’s budget.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, recommended that the County Board purchase only three patrol cars at this time. He believes it very inappropriate to begin 1995 with a budget line item being over expended.

The Undersheriff, Administrator, and Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding all options.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the purchase of the three Sheriff Patrol Vehicles from Frei Chevrolet Geo for a total price of $46,061, which includes trade-in and vehicle changeover. The Committee further recommended that Undersheriff Quayle negotiate the purchase of a fourth Sheriff’s Department Vehicle (not necessarily a patrol vehicle) with the remaining $15,400 in funds available for 1995.

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The Committee considered a request from the 96th District Court for a 1995 Budget Amendment in the amount of $1,546 to cover the cost of a temporary replacement during Mary Mantyla’s medical leave beginning January 4, 1995. District Judge Patricia Micklow and District Court Magistrate Jennifer Bennnon were present to discuss the request.

Judge Micklow explained that they are in a very tight situation in District Court. Mary Mantyla supervises an active probation caseload, conducts pre-sentence interviews and makes appropriate sentencing recommendations to the Court. She also performs substance abuse assessments. Without Ms. Mantyla, or a replacement, District Court will be losing revenues.

Jennifer Bennnon pointed out that new Warrant Officer will generate more work for District Court. She further explained District Court still hasn’t filled a Probation Secretary position as of yet but that will occur by early January. During the posting process, the probation secretary position will probably be filled internally, therefore, leaving a temporary vacancy in another position. Those who take these positions will be paid at a lower rate. This may free some funds to help pay for the temporary replacement.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, contended that it is premature for the County Board to be approving budget amendment requests for next year’s budget. Also, one month is too short a period of time to have to fill in with a temporary employee. Many County personnel take two to three weeks vacation with no replacement. If Mary Mantyla’s medical leave goes beyond the one month period, then perhaps the Board should reconsider it.

A discussion of the options ensued among Administrative Staff, County Commissioners, Judge Micklow and Magistrate Bennnon.

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 recommend Human Resources Director, Randy Girard, meet with Judge Micklow to determine if various personnel changes could make up the funding difference for this temporary replacement, and present their findings to the next County Board meeting.

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The Committee considered a request from Michael H. Clark, President, Marquette County Habitat for Humanity, for a grant pursuant to Marquette County Commission Policy #229.1 for reimbursement of the cost of building permits for two homes built by the Habitat for Humanity during the calendar year 1994. The amounts requested are $472.00 for the 120 Hillside Street home in Ishpeming and $466.00 for the North Wilkinson Street home in Marquette, total $938.00.
Civil Counsel, David Payant, pointed out that it is not legal for the County Board to donate tax funds to a charitable organization, except in cases where a specific function is being served or benefit on behalf of the County. He needs more time to review the matter.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, further explained that the County policy to waive fees was established 10 years ago and since then it has been determined to be not legal. Another possibility may exist. He will check with Ron Koshorek, Resource Manager, regarding the HUD Funding Grant that Marquette County is administering to see if funds are available there.

It was moved by Comm. Braames, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct that Civil Counsel provide a legal opinion for consideration at the next regular County Board meeting.

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The Committee considered a resolution from Ellwood Mattson, K.I. Sawyer Conversion Authority, regarding the Michigan Department of Transportation Study. The resolution basically calls for good highway, rail and air facilities to insure a future for K.I. Sawyer. The Conversion Authority is contacting other governmental bodies in the Upper Peninsula also requesting their support.

Comm. Joseph questioned the sample resolution. The sixth WHEREAS refers to the Marquette County Airport moving to K.I. Sawyer, and the second recommendation under the RESOLVED portion also refers to moving the County Airport. Mr. Joseph contended that such a decision has not been finalized and is concerned that by approving this resolution it may bind the County Board.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Seppanan, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the supporting resolution urging good highway, rail and air facilities with the deletion of the wording referring to moving the County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.

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The Committee considered communications between Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, Thomas Rumney, M.D., and Mr. Bruce Caldwell regarding aviation fuel costs at the Marquette County Airport. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the fixed base operator has increased the price of fuel from $2.09 to $2.52 per gallon since late 1993. The cost of aviation fuel from the supplier has increased 10 cents per gallon during that period. The Airport’s markup to the FBO has decreased by 3 cents per gallon. The FBO’s revenues have increased by 34 cents per gallon. The increase in fuel cost at the Airport Fuel Farm are not the result of anything that the Marquette County Airport has done but are as a result of action by the fixed base operator.

Hal Pawley also pointed out that it costs approximately $200,000 to construct the new fuel farm at the Airport. There are two loans being paid back on the construction of the airport at a cost of approximately $27,000 per year of which about $20,000 is principal.

Commissioners also questioned the agreement between the County Airport and the fixed base operator. When does it expire? And what would happen to the agreement should the Airport move to K.I. Sawyer? These questions will be reviewed by civil counsel.

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

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The Committee of the Whole considered millage election information for Chocolay Township residents. Comm. Seppanan explained that Mr. Robinson has not gone before the Chocolay Township Board to discuss his concerns. Chocolay Township had to pay their share of the establishment of the new County Landfill and passed a millage in 1988. This millage was again renewed in 1991, however, the voters failed to renew the millage in 1994. Chocolay Township
is forced to find revenues for the disposal of solid waste and will charge user fees through the use of garbage bag tags.

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

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The Committee considered a letter of introduction from Dean R. Masters, Executive Director, Upper Peninsula Construction Labor Management Council.

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

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The Committee considered an announcement from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that Recreation Grant Applications are available for 1995 until February 1st. Any Michigan community wishing to apply for grant funds in 1995 must have a current Community Recreation Plan on file, no more than five years old, with the Michigan DNR. The deadline for applications for the upcoming 1995 grant cycle is April 1, 1995.

Suggestions from Commissioners for various projects to be considered for grant applications include: Perkins Park, the Shooting Sports Complex, the Honor Camp Property, and abandoned railways to be used for recreational trails.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct the recreation grant information to the Resource Management Department for further consideration.

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The Committee considered action by the Social Services Board denying the request from Marquette County for the $100,000 for the 1994 Maintenance of Effort for the Medical Care Facility. County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, reported that when Mr. Alderson, Chairperson, Social Services Board, was at a recent meeting in the Administrator’s Office, he did not indicate the Social Services Board’s intention to do this. Administrator Aloia believes that they may be confused regarding the 1994 $100,000. When the County Board had budget discussions with the Social Services Board during the budget process, the County Board was speaking to the 1995 and 1996 budget. The Social Services Board had already agreed a year ago to provide the $100,000 for the 1994 Maintenance of Effort.

Administrator Aloia requested that the County Board send a directive to the Social Services Board insisting upon the $100,000 that they had agreed to for the 1994 Maintenance of Effort.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Administrator Aloia to send a letter to the Marquette County Medical Care Facility insisting that they pay the $100,000 for the 1994 Maintenance of Effort previously agreed upon.

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The Committee considered the current vacancy as a result of Dominic Jacobetti’s death in the 109th State Representative District. This vacancy leaves Marquette and Alger Counties without any representation. The process for electing a new State Representative begins with the Governor of Michigan setting a date and ordering a Special Election.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to John Engler, Governor of Michigan, requesting that he immediately set a date and order the special election to fill the vacancy for the 109th State Representative District.

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The Committee considered a suggestion from Comm. Potvin that wall space be provided somewhere in the Marquette County Courthouse for memorabilia in honor of State Representative Dominic Jacobetti. There is space already provided for memorabilia in honor of John Voelker and a similar display in honor of Rep. Jacobetti would be appropriate.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board designate wall space for a future display of memorabilia in honor of State Representative Dominic Jacobetti.

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

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, requested and received the approval to bring several items to the December 20th regular County Board Meeting for their consideration. December 20th is the last meeting in 1994. The items are: A) Workman’s Compensation Proposal, B) A tentative proposal to possibly save $10,000 a year by upgrading the Main Frame Data General Computer and C) Administrator Aloia is requesting a Closed Session for the County Board to conduct a performance evaluation.

Chairperson Corkin announced that an industry called Micron Technology contacted Marquette County several weeks ago. They are seeking a site to construct a large semi-conductor manufacturing facility in a remote area. Marquette County has supplied them with lots of good information and meets all of the criteria, however, we are not the only site being considered. It is a long shot but if Micron Technology decides to establish itself in Marquette County it could mean several thousand jobs and more than offset the loss of K.L. Sawyer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1994, 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.
7. 1995 Cooperative Reimbursement Program Contract for the Marquette County Friend of the Court Office.
9. District Court Request for 1995 Budget Amendment to Cover Cost of a Temporary Replacement During Mary Mantyla's Medical Leave.
10. Request from the Marquette County Habitat for Humanity for a Grant to Reimburse the Cost of Building Permits.
12. Communications between Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, Thomas Rumney, M.D., and Mr. Bruce Caldwell regarding Aviation Fuel Cost at the Marquette County Airport.
13. Information regarding Chocolay Township Garbage Collection Fees.

17. [Handwritten note: Letter to Governor]

18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.