The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 15, 1995 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. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 1, 1995 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 16) A recommendation from the Administrator regarding the Airport Managers Conferences and Item 17) Groundwater Education Center Report.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period July 28, 1995, through August 10, 1995 in the amount of $1,935,91.78 be approved.

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The Committee considered a resolution of approval and concurrence of the 1994 Annual OEDP Report. David C. Gillis, Executive Director, CUPPAD Regional Commission, was present and explained that each year CUPPAD Regional Commission submits documentation to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) to maintain the eligibility of the six central U.P. Counties to receive EDA Funds. Each year they request and have received concurrence of the document. The CUPPAD Regional Commission has for many years prepared the Annual Report on behalf of the Six County Region and has submitted it to the EDA to satisfy planning requirements.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board commend David Gillis and the CUPPAD Regional Commission for a very fine report and recommend that the County Board concur with the 1994 Annual OEDP Report by adopting the appropriate resolution.

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The Committee considered a resolution from Gogebic County with comment from Marquette County Treasurer James Sodergren regarding directives issued by the Michigan Department of Treasury in connection with provisions of Proposal "A". Mr. Sodergren's memo indicated that in addition to the denial of refunds mentioned in the Gogebic County Resolution, Michigan County Treasurers are being asked to complete lengthy and time consuming reports which are very complex and confusing. Mr. Sodergren is in agreement with the Gogebic County Resolution and recommends the County Board adopt a similar resolution, and also include a cover letter that not only asks for our legislators consideration but also for a "yes" or "no" answer on the matter.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution requesting that the Michigan Legislature refund $2 per parcel for each denial or refund issued to the County by the Michigan Department of Treasury and further that a cover letter be included on the resolution asking our legislators for a "yes" or "no" answer on the issue.

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The Committee considered a request from Gerard T. Markey, Equalization Director, for the purchase of an Appraisal Software Package. Mr. Markey was present and explained that in anticipation of employee cutbacks for the next year he would like to purchase the software package this year so it will be in place. This software will help the Equalization Department do random studies as in the past, keep track of taxable values along with assessed valuations, track sales, and speed up the process of calculating appraisals. The "Equalizer Assessing System" costs approximately $1,900. Mr. Markey requests to transfer $2,500 from various line item accounts in his department but needs an additional $600 appropriation to buffer any expenses that he is not presently aware of.

County Administrator Dennis Aloia pointed out that no additional hardware is required. The software will work with our current hardware very well. He concurs with Mr. Markey's request and recommends that the County Board purchase the software package with 1995 funds.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the purchase of the Appraisal Software Package as requested by Gerard Markey, Equalization Director, with an additional $600 appropriation to come from contingency.

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The County Board considered a draft agreement between Marquette County and the Marquette County EDC. County Administrator Dennis Aloia reported that himself along with Comm. Corkin, Comm. Bergdahl, and EDC Director, Jay Scherbenske, recently met and have scheduled another meeting for August 25. Two areas that need more work are County policy matters and the accounting process.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that final consideration of the EDC Agreement will take place at the August 29, 1995 Committee of the Whole meeting.

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The Committee considered a request from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management Department, to amend the 1995 Forest/Recreation budget to increase the professional services line item from $3,800 to $6,800. He requests that the $3,000 be transferred from Fund Equity which has a cash balance of $215,377 as of June 30th with an unencumbered expenditure balance of $99,880.

Mr. Koshorek further explained that the increase in this particular line item is caused by our consulting forester spending more time in the woods. The type of work the forester does averages about 20 hours per month. It is typically characterized by needing 6 hours one week, 3 hours the next week, 3 hours the next week, and then 6 hours the next week, etc. Because of this schedule it is very hard to find a forester that is available on short notice for such a sporadic amount of work. Mr. Koshorek suggested it may be possible that the Forestry Committee could hire technicians for some of the work not requiring a professional forester.

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 request to amend the 1995 Forest/Recreation Fund Budget and further request that the Forestry Committee explore ways to keep future costs down.

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The Committee considered a request from Commissioner Rapport to move the final recommendation of the Budget from October 3rd. October 3rd is Yom Kippur which is a holiday for her.
County Administrator Dennis Aloia added that because of recently passed legislation, it is no longer necessary for the County Board to hold a separate Truth in Taxation hearing, but now can hold the hearing at the Annual Meeting and also adopt the budget the same night.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board change the Fiscal Year 1996 Budget Calendar so that the final Committee of the Whole recommendation on the FY 1996 Budget will occur on Tuesday, September 26.

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The County Board considered a notice from the Wisconsin Electric Power Company that they have built a campground on the Michigamme Reservoir. The document is an order approving the as built drawings of the campground, no action need be taken by the County Board.

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

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The Committee considered a letter from Jack Roemer, Project Manager, Airports District Office, FAA, to Lawrence Coehorn, OSD/BTC, regarding Marquette County's Airport Reinvestment Funds. The letter indicates that it is the fair market value which must be determined and not the depreciated value in order to establish the amount of reinvestment which would be required if the County decides to transfer their grant applications to K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

Administrator Aloia further reported that he received today a letter from the FAA denying the reinvestment waiver, however, he believes the matter is still subject to negotiations. The letter will be provided to Commissioners in their next meeting packet.

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

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The Committee considered a letter of support from the Marquette County Convention and Visitor's Bureau to relocate the County Airport at K.I. Sawyer, and a letter from Ron Kauppila, Negaunee Township, opposing the relocation of the County Airport to K.I. Sawyer.

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

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, to send James Kippola, Senior Planner, and Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, to the National Association of Installation Developers (NAID) Conference in Chicago and the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) Conference in San Antonio. The cost to send these individuals to both conferences totals approximately $5,000. Mr. Kippola has approximately $1,600 available and Mr. Pawley $1,000 available in their travel budgets. Administrator Aloia is recommending the County Board authorize an additional $2,500 for these two individuals to attend the conferences with the funds to come from the Contingency Account.

Comm. Joseph disagreed with spending $5,000 to send two individuals to these conferences. The Conversion Authority will probably be sending representatives to these conferences.

Chairperson Corkin explained that approximately one year ago he attended a tremendous conference on Airport Conversion which he found very valuable. Yes, some of the Conversion Authority Staff will be attending the conference, but not members of the Board. Several other Commissioners felt it would be important that we send our own representatives and not just rely on the Base Conversion Authority.
It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send James Kippola, Senior Planner, and Hal Pawley, Airport Manager to the NAID Conference in Chicago and the AAAE Conference in San Antonio, and further that the additional funding needed of $2,500 come from the Contingency Account.

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The Committee considered the Marquette County Groundwater Center 1994 Youth Project Summary which was distributed by Comm. Angeli. Comm. Angeli explained that a tremendous amount of fine work went into preparing this report in which the ultimate objective is to protect the quality of groundwater in Marquette County.

A letter is included with the report from the Kellogg Foundation. The Kellogg Foundation congratulates the Marquette County Groundwater Center on a successful project and was very impressed with the time and effort spent, and the attention to detail in tracking and assessing the many education initiatives in promoting groundwater protection in Marquette County.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to the Marquette County Groundwater Center, Fred Benzie, Project Director, Jane Surrall, Project Coordinator, and the Marquette County Health Department commending them for the fine work done in promoting groundwater protection through this project.

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

Chairperson Corkin announced a Special County Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 24, 1995 at 4:00 p.m. to consider the Central Dispatch Study recommendations. The Central Dispatch Policy Board will be meeting Wednesday, August 23, 1995 to approve its recommendation for County Board consideration. The Special Meeting is necessary because the study bid must be approved before September 1st. If all the information is not available on August 24th it would still be possible for the County Board to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, August 29th after the Committee of the Whole.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, reported that negotiations regarding the sale of the Acocks Property are almost complete. The purchase agreement should be signed by tomorrow (August 16th), with the closing of the sale scheduled for Monday, August 21st.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, August 15, 1995, 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 August 1, 1995.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Approval of the 1994 Annual OEDP Report from the CUPPAD Regional
   Commission, David Gillis, Executive Director.
7. Comment from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding Gogebic County
   resolution on provisions in connection with Proposal A.
8. Request from Girard Markey, Equalization Director, to purchase an Appraisal
   Software Package.
9. Agreement between Marquette County and the Marquette County EDC.
10. Request from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, to amend the
    1995 Forest/Recreation Fund Budget.
12. Notice from Wisconsin Electric Power Company that they have built a
    Campground on the Michigamme Reservoir.
13. Letter from Jack Roemer, Project Manager, Airport’s District Office, FAA, to
    Lawrence Coehoorn, OSD/BTC, regarding Marquette County Airport
    reinvestment funds.
14. Letter of Support from the Marquette County Convention and Visitors Bureau
    to relocate the County Airport at K.I.Sawyer.
15. A letter from Ron Kauppila, 230 Co. Rd. 510, Negaunee, opposing the
    relocation of the County Airport at K.I.Sawyer.
16. Airport Mar’s Conferences
17. GEM report
18.
19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.