The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 10, 1995 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 26 1995 and the Committee of the Whole Budget Process minutes held on August 28, 29, 30 and September 5, 12 and 19, 1995 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 change: That Item 11 be moved up to be discussed after Item 6.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 22, 1995 through October 5, 1995 in the amount of $1,331,596.13 be approved.

The Committee considered a summary review of Marquette County’s administration of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control and the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act from James A. Caron, Jr., Land and Water Management Division, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, Michigan DNR. Mr. Caron’s summary identified areas in Marquette County’s program that are strong as well as those that need updating. Based on the information obtained during the interview and site visits a rating of "acceptable" was provided.

Fred Benzie, Health Department Environmental Division, was present and explained that "acceptable" is the best rating provided by the Department of Natural Resources. Marquette County’s Environmental Protection and Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Programs have been ranked in the top 10% of the 83 counties in the State of Michigan. These are State mandated programs, however, the County Health Department receives no State funds to administer them.

Mr. Benzie further explained that one program area recommended for modification is charging a fee to single family dwellings for soil erosion permits. The County Board has decided against such a fee in the past and it would not generate a large amount of revenue anyway.

Chairperson Corkin contended that it is ironic that the State would recommend that we charge more fees, however, they don’t pay their fair share for this program. Chairperson Corkin also passed along good comments from the Eastwood Nursing Home in Negaunee, Karen LaMora was very helpful in assisting them to meet the necessary requirements during its construction.

Comm. Arsenault also commended Karen LaMora for her good work and professionalism. He believed the comments from the State suggesting modifications are only picky comments.

Comm. Angeli added that should the County Board again consider adopting a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance that they keep in mind these comments. The Health Department Staff are good people and have only the best interest of Marquette County in mind.

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

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The Committee considered communications from Alan J. Howard, Chief, Environmental Response Division, Michigan DNR, regarding the Harvey Groundwater Contamination Resolution passed by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners. Since 1993, several organic compounds have been identified at variable concentrations in a few wells in the Harvey area, and residential well sampling had not been conclusive. In March, 1995, an agreement was made between the Michigan Department of Public Health and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to collect a complete round of samples of 106 residential wells to provide accurate and useful data. That information was to be used to make an informed decision regarding an appropriate remedy for contaminated residential wells. Once the MDPH makes the necessary analysis and information available, the Michigan DNR was supposed to review the facts and respond to the request for authorization to fund a $1.6 million community water supply system. Since the spring of 1995, MDPH has provided analysis results for 103 wells, however DNR review of the data claim that 26 wells have demonstrated volatile organic compounds at detectable levels, but only three have demonstrated concentrations that exceed safe levels established by State Law. Current information suggested a trend of decreasing concentrations of volatile organics in most residential wells that are affected in the MDPH area of concern.

Comm. Seppanen pointed out the real issue here is that funding available through the Michigan Environmental Protection Bond Program is limited, and any solution must be based upon what is necessary to replace wells that are contaminated above acceptable drinking water criteria. In other words, the DNR changed the rules during the process so now the criteria has been relaxed with the result that the problem has shrunk down to only a handful of wells. Had the rules not changed, the $1.6 million for a new water supply could have been available.

Fred Benzie, Marquette County Health Department, Environmental Division, was present and further explained that the MDPH and the MDNR are not in agreement on the solution. The MDNR will spend $48,000 a year to monitor the situation and is also considering spending $200,000 to $300,000 to replace up to ten wells. Mr. Benzie believes this to be a short sighted solution, because the money could be spent for a municipal water supply system that would completely resolve the problem.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board place the communication on file and further send letters to our Upper Peninsula State Representatives, the Michigan Department of Public Health, the Michigan DNR, and Dave Holli, member of the Natural Resources Commission, indicating that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners supports the recommendation of the Michigan Department of Public Health for a municipal water supply system to resolve the Harvey groundwater contamination problem.

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It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept the communication from Jack Roemer, Airport Engineer, Federal Aviation Administration, indicating a determination by the FAA allowing the establishment of Sawyer Airport as a Public Use Airport.

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It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that a communication from the law offices of Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn regarding zoning and land use approvals in the development of K.I. Sawyer be placed on file.

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The Committee considered the proposed agreement between the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority and the Michigan Department of Public Health/U.P. EMS Corp. for continuing the Pre-Hospital "E-Code" Project in Marquette County and implementing our injury prevention strategy for 1995.

Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, was present to answer questions. The EMS Medical Control Authority and the area EMS Services have participated in the Pre-Hospital Injury Coding component of this program for the past three years. Work is currently underway to design and develop a "Safetyville Project" in cooperation with the U.P. Children's Museum. The Safetyville Project will be the primary injury prevention initiative for this program year.

The $18,000 grant award is approximately $8,000 more than was previously anticipated. The EMS Medical Control Authority budget was amended accordingly during the mid-year budget review process. The Agreement has received administrative and legal review.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Agreement between the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority and the Michigan Department of Public Health/U.P. EMS Corp. for continuing the Pre-Hospital "E-Code" Project for 1995.

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The Committee considered an agreement between the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority and Tom Flynn Professional Services, to provide the necessary staff support for the Pre-Hospital "E-Code" Project. Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, was present to answer questions. The Michigan Department of Public Health is providing 100% funding in the amount of $3,000 for the continued operation of this project in Marquette County. The proposed Agreement has received administrative and legal review.

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 Agreement between the Marquette County EMS Control Authority and the Tom Flynn Professional Services which is fully funded by the Michigan Department of Public Health for the staff support for the Pre-Hospital "E-Code" Project.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept for file the communication from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program regarding funding reductions of approximately 23%.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that a request from Marquette Township to Mike Farrell, Drain Commissioner, for a status report of the Badger Creek Drainage District be placed on file. (Mr. Farrell will attend the October 17, 1995 Marquette Township Meeting to provide that update.)

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It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to place on file a letter from David Savolainen, President, Range Communications, regarding the relationship between Marquette County Central Dispatch and Range Telecommunications.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Corkin reported that he attended a Base Conversion Authority meeting today. A recommendation is soon forthcoming from the Base Conversion Authority to ask the County Board to turn the EDA Funding over to the State of Michigan. This would remove the Marquette County EDC as the lead agency for 1996 and make the Michigan Jobs Commission as the applicant. More information will be forthcoming regarding this matter.

Comm. Arsenault announced that a recent NACo Alert indicated that Federal PILT funding will be cut to 77%. More information will be forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1995, 6:00 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. Summary and Review of Marquette County's Administration of Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control from James A. Caron, Jr., Land and Water Management Division, Michigan DNR.
7. FAA Approval to Establish a Public Use Airport at K.I. Sawyer.
9. Agreement between Marquette County EMS, the Medical Control Authority and the Michigan Department of Public Health/U.P. EMS Corporation for Continuing the Pre-Hospital "E-Code" Project.
10. Agreement between the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority and Tom Flynn, Professional Services, to provide Support Staff for the Pre-Hospital "E-Code" Project.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
11. Communications from Alan J. Howard, Chief, Environmental Response Division, Michigan DNR, to Representative Prusi and Marquette County regarding Ground Water Contamination in Harvey.
12. Notice from the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program of Funding Cutbacks.
13. Request from Marquette Township to Mike Farrell, County Drain Commissioner, for Status Report of the Badger Creek Drain Project.
14. Letter from David Savolainen, President, Range Telecommunications, regarding the Relationship Between Marquette County Central Dispatch and Range Telecommunications.

15.
16.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT.
18. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
19. ADJOURNMENT.