The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 13, 1995 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 23, 1995 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jay Scherbenske, Marquette County EDC Director, was present to provide an update on the pending EDA Application. He has received word from the EDA Title IX Division in Chicago that only $1.82 million in funds remains available for Fiscal Year 95. The EDC will have to reprogram the application if this is true, but as of now everything stands as submitted. Our present application calls for $2.5 million in EDA funds with a notice of intent for $830,000 from the Michigan Jobs Commission.

Mr. Scherbenske also reported that he has requested and received the water study from K.I. Sawyer and has sent a copy to Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, for his review.

Mr. Scherbenske further explained that even though reports appeared the media regarding the Michigan Jobs Commission demanding unspent Community Development Block Grant Revolving Loan Funds be returned to the State, Marquette County has not received such a request. Marquette County’s CDBG Revolving Loan Fund is very active it would only require that we provide documentation to keep our funding in place.

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

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 17) A Personnel Policy Manual Amendment and Item 18) The Courthouse Annex Window Blinds Bid.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 19, 1995, through June 8, 1995 in the amount of $1,668,158.22 be approved.

The Committee of the Whole considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding the sale of the Acoks property. Administrator Aloia explained that he has received two proposals to purchase the property and has reviewed these proposals based on the criteria that the County Board said were important. These included indemnification from liability for potential contamination, compliance with Negaunee Township Zoning, and purchase price. Administrator Aloia did not seek an appraisal of the property which is estimated to cost $15,000 to $20,000, nor did he evaluate the financial background of the persons making the proposals. His recommendation boils down to one issue, price and $120,000 is better than $81,400. He recommends that the County Board sell the property to Four UP, Inc. contingent on staff and legal counsel being able to negotiate acceptable terms.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl that the Committee of the Whole place the Administrator’s recommendation on the floor for further discussion.

Civil Counsel David Payant pointed out that the County cannot completely rid ourselves of liability even though the purchasers may guarantee potential cleanup costs. Should the property be ordered by the State for a cleanup, and the owners are financially unable to pay, then the County would be responsible. We could file a lawsuit for our cleanup costs if we did have a contract with the purchaser.
Tom Clark, Attorney at Law, representing L & J LeBoeuf, was present and pointed out that the County received two proposals the last time they advertised the Acокks property from the same people. Mr. Clark contended that Four UP Inc. does not exist. They use several other names within their proposal none of which are registered with the County Clerk's Office as a DBA, nor on file with the State of Michigan Department of Commerce. They are a paper company and will be using the property as collateral for the financing of their proposal.

Mr. Clark further explained that on the other hand L & J. LeBoeuf exists. He is a sole proprietorship and will pay cash. As far as indemnity is concerned, Mr. LeBoeuf has the financial wherewithal to provide the County Board with the security it desires. He thought the County Board would like to sell the Acокks Property and be done with it. Mr. LeBoeuf will also allow the Employments Programs to continue to stay in its present location until they can be relocated this fall.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl and seconded by Comm. Braamse to table consideration of the Administrator's recommendation and to forward it to the full County Board meeting next week, with a Committee of the Whole recommendation. Motion unanimously passed 6 Ayes to 0 Nays.

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The Committee of the Whole considered the Michigan DNR Plan for Little Presque Isle. Dennis Nezich, Area Forest Manager, was present to discuss the plan and answer questions. Mr. Nezich explained that in April of 1993 the County Board of Commissioners, among many organizations and public groups, got a report that the Escanaba State River State Forest Management Plan was being reviewed. There was an opportunity for public input and as a result of that public input the Little Presque Isle Advisory Committee was formed. The Michigan DNR did not cater to the will of a small group but got a diverse opinion from 26 organizations represented on this group, one of which was the County Board of Commissioners. That Committee has come close to developing the plan in its final form for Little Presque Isle which is part of the Escanaba River State Forest Plan. The DNR will be holding a public hearing sometime during the summer to receive further comment from citizens and organizations.

The Little Presque Isle Plan provides for development on the Harlow Lake side of County Road 550 of toilet facilities, a picnic area, campground, and the construction of eight 16x16 cabins. On the Lake Superior side of County Road 550 no development is planned and it will be designated as a wilderness area. As far as the campground and cabins are concerned, the Michigan DNR Forest Management Department will take care of the Park's cleanup, maintenance and administration.

Mr. Nezich further explained every time a boat launch was considered on Lake Superior the group engaged in a lengthy discussion but the final result was always that it is not appropriate. The cost to provide a boat launch on the Lake Superior Side would be considerable because there is no such thing as a small boat launch. As soon as access is provided to the Lake then boat trailers come in so a parking lot must be provided, the launch site may require a breakwall, cement ramp, dredging, etc. The DNR has been looking for a suitable site for a boat launch between Marquette and Big Bay for 25 years, however, a launch site at Little Presque Isle was considered not compatible.

Don Potvin, a member of the Little Presque Isle Advisory Board, thought it ironic that the DNR has been trying to find a suitable launch site for 25 years between Marquette and Big Bay, and now that it has one it does not fit in. Mr. Potvin suggested that they do not need a launch ramp, just a place to launch, perhaps a small parking lot and a trail down to the lake. The best site would be on the southeast side of Little Presque Isle which is naturally protected from the prevailing northwesterly winds and away from the area most used by the public. The public likes to use the beach from Harlow Creek down to Little Presque Isle Point, and a bunch of kids running around and dogs barking and defecating is okay, but a small boat apparently is not compatible for some people. Mr. Potvin also would like to see a rustic camping area provided for backpackers as they hike along the Lake Superior Trail.
Gayle Coyer, U.P. Environmental Coalition, and a member of the Presque Isle Advisory Committee, presented her ideas which are different from Mr. Potvin’s. The Advisory Committee had 22 meetings and tried to work out compromises on a number of issues. They have worked hard for hundreds of hours and Ms. Coyer requested that the County Board be very careful and conservative with comments regarding the Plan. One access Road into Lake Superior will provide an opportunity for ORV’s to come to the beach and for Jet Skiis to be buzzing around off shore.

Judy Allen, Sierra Club, and a member of the Advisory Committee, explained that the boat launch was the most controversial and contentious issue the Advisory Committee faced. The Committee was split approximately 50/50 on the boat launch ideas. Ms. Allen suggested the County Board, if they wanted to, could hold their own hearings on the issue. As for herself, she finds ORV’s very disturbing and asked the County Board to stay out of the issue.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Corkin and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept the Little Presque Isle Plan and place it on file. Commissioners are invited to attend any DNR Public Hearing to speak as individuals on the issue.

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The County Board received an annual update on the Soil Survey Project from Chuck Schwenner, Project Leader, NRCS. Mr. Schwenner reported on behalf of Dennis Robinson, MDA, that approximately 210,000 acres were soil mapped in 1994. About 960,000 acres have been mapped to date. There are approximately 200,000 acres left to do, most located around the Silver Lake Basin, the Cyr Swamp south of Little Lake, and the mining areas in Tilden Township. All priority requests have been completed.

The Soil Survey Office is averaging about 17 soil information requests per month, with the majority being consulting foresters and local units of government. Last year soils scientists from the Soil Survey Staff assisted the Health Department in conducting 15 on-site sewage disposal investigations. The ultimate goal is to put together a soil survey map on a GIS System in Marquette County.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place the update on file.

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The Committee considered a communication from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Department Director, requesting County Board approval for submission of an Americorp Project Application for Marquette County. The mission of the proposal focuses on needs for 500 elderly and low income residents in their communities and homes by providing health care, personal care, chore, and house rehabilitation services to foster independent living and improve the general quality of their lives. The Marquette County Americorps proposal was developed as a joint venture between several area agencies including the Marquette County Health Department, the Marquette County Volunteer Center, the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Center, the Marquette County Commission on Aging, and the Alger-Marquette Community Action Board. These partner agencies will form a coalition with 20 full-time Americorp volunteers to meet the unmet needs of the 500 elderly, and if the program is funded, these Americorp volunteers will operate out of the Marquette County Volunteer System and the Volunteer Center would hire a full-time staff member. The amount of grant funds requested is $258,268. A local in kind and cash match will bring the total budget amount of the program to $313,623 for one year beginning September 1995.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Marquette County Americorp’s proposal.

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The Committee considered a memo from Dr. William E. Birch, Director of Community Mental Health, regarding Michigan Mental Health Code revisions. Sue Micensky, Recipient Rights Coordinator, CMH, was present on behalf of Dr. Birch and explained that Community Mental Health would like the County Board to endorse a resolution supporting the Health Code revisions. Chairperson Corkin pointed out that the Michigan Association of Counties does not support the Mental Health Code revisions. There are 15 issues related to County Board of Commissioner’s budgetary authority that MAC would like to be considered as amendments to the Health Code revision.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee file the communication from Community Mental Health and participate with MAC in the Legislative Hearings regarding Mental Health Code revisions.

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The Committee considered a request from James Alderton, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, requesting an increase in the compensation paid to members of the Marquette County Road Commission.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct staff to review the request and make a recommendation for consideration at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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The Committee considered a communication from Lyn L. Nelson, Community Corrections Coordinator, requesting County Board approval for the FY 1996 grant application. The Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board has approved the FY 1996 grant application to the State of Michigan Office of Community Corrections (OCC) in the amount of $78,646.75 which requires no County match. The Community Corrections Office is completely State funded.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the FY 1996 grant application by the Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board to the State of Michigan Office of Community Corrections as presented.

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The Committee considered a memo from Bob Taylor, Director, Department of Employment Programs, regarding an amendment to a Grant Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The amendment represents an increase of $106,000 for the current state fiscal period which ends September 30, 1995. The resulting wage and benefit dollars has enabled hiring eight full-time workers through the specified term of the Grant Agreement. The agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources provides for the Employment Programs Department to construct picnic tables, barrier free toilet buildings, barrier free information centers, barrier free fire rings and concrete vault covers for the Michigan DNR.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Amendment/Grant Agreement between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Employment Programs.

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The Committee considered a memo from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, regarding the Perkins Park Water Meter Proposal. The Powell Township Board on June 2nd voted to raise the Marquette County Water Rates and install water meters and bill the County for the work. Mr. Koshorek explained that we are currently budgeting $1,500 per year for water use at Perkins Park. Since Powell is doubling our rates we may need to add another $1,000 to our appropriation, however, the installation of water meters could cost approximately $8,000 to $10,000 is not budgeted for.

County Administrator Dennis Aloia further reported that he met with Powell Township and pointed out such things as the County gave them a building worth $75 to $100 thousand. He also pointed out that the County has agreed not to provide concessions at Perkins Park so that local businesses could benefit from the campers.

The Committee discussed several possible options such as offering the park to the Michigan DNR, or closing the park and selling the land. Chairperson Corkin suggested that a committee be formed and they go up and meet again with Powell Township to discuss the matter.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote that Chairperson Corkin appoint and send a committee to meet with Powell Township and report back to a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

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Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, requested that he be allowed to bring the Central Dispatch Consultant Bids for Communication System Upgrade directly to the County Board meeting next Tuesday. Resource Management Staff has been invited by the Central Dispatch Policy Board to participate in the selection of a consultant and co-manage the project. Interviews have been held with three consulting firms and the recommendation for bids is on a fast track.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee allow the Central Dispatch Consultant Bid to come directly to the County Board Meeting.

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The Committee considered the donations by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to Marquette County and the Sheriff’s Department DARE Program. The County Board recently placed the funds in escrow until it was determined whether they could legally accept them or not. The Attorney General ruled last week that the County could accept donations from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct staff to write a thank you letter to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the donation of funds.

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The Committee considered a memo from Randall Girard, Human Resources Director, regarding the Personnel Policy Manual Update. Mr. Girard was present and explained that he is recommending an amendment to Appendix A of the Marquette County Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to include the classifications of Director, and Administrative Aide of the Commission on Aging. This recommendation is based on the Board of Commissioner’s formal action to include staff of the Commission on Aging as County employees, and to place them within the County structure with the adoption of the 1995 budget.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board amend Appendix A of the Marquette County Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual as requested.

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The Committee considered a memo from George Wright, Facility Manager, regarding the Annex vertical window blind bids. This is an approved Capital Improvement Project for 1995 for the purchase of vertical window blinds for the offices in the Courthouse/Annex Building. The new PVC vinyl vertical blinds will replace the badly worn and torn original cloth draperies. The County has advertised and received sealed bids from four area businesses to provide and install window blinds in 76 rooms.

The approved budget for the project is $11,000 and Sherwin Williams has submitted the only bid under the budgeted amount. Staff recommendation is to accept this bid from Sherwin Williams Company.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Annex vertical window blind bid by Sherwin Williams Company in the amount of $8,077.49.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin read a letter from Mr. Thomas M. Rumora, Executive Director, K.I. Sawyer Base Conversion Authority to Mr. Jack Roemer, DETADO, Federal Aviation Administration, regarding future FAA funding for Marquette County’s Airport asking for assistance and funding for the conversion of the military airfield to civilian standards to meet commercial air carrier needs.

Chairperson Corkin further reported that the State of Michigan Strategic Fund has made a $500,000 commitment to the K.I. Base Conversion Authority to assist in the upgrading of buildings.

Chairperson Corkin further reported that the new Base Conversion Authority Director, Thomas Rumora who will be invited to attend a County Board meeting in the near future.

Comm. Angeli reported that the Marquette Ambassadors went to Detroit to promote the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base as a location for business entrepreneurs. Another such trip is scheduled to the Wisconsin area in the near future.

Comm. Bergdahl reported he attended an “After Hours Dinner” sponsored by the EDC and the Marquette Chamber of Commerce on behalf of our new Base Conversion Authority Director. It was very worthwhile and well attended event.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. Recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding Sale of the Acocks Property.


8. Annual Update on the Soil Survey Project by Dennis Robinson, Environmental Division, Michigan Department of Agriculture.

9. Marquette County AmeriCorps Proposal from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director.


11. Request from Jim Alderton, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, for a change in compensation to Road Commissioners.

12. FY 1996 Grant Application from Lyn L. Nelson, Community Corrections Coordinator.

13. Amendment/Grant Agreement with the Michigan DNR from Bob Taylor, Employment Programs Director.

14. Correspondence regarding Perkins Park Water Meter Installation from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director.

15. Update by Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, on Central Dispatch Bids. (No Packet Materials).

16. Thank you letter to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for donations to Marquette County (No packet materials).

17. Personnel Policy Manual Amendment.

18. Winlaw Bids from Ron Koshorek.

20. PUBLIC COMMENT.

21. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

22. ADJOURNMENT.