The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 27, 1995 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 6 and the Regular Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 13, 1995 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 additions: Item 15) Computer Bids and Item 16) Update on the Powell Township Meeting regarding Perkins Park Water System.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 9, 1995, through June 22, 1996 in the amount of $1,078,434.91 be approved.

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The Committee considered a letter from James Alderton, Chair, Airport Commission, regarding the Marquette County Lease Agreement on the second floor of the Airport Passenger Terminal. The Marquette County EDC leases 1,000 square feet at $8 per foot/per year, which includes utilities. In addition, the EDC pays $50 per month for janitorial services. If the EDC relocates their lease space to K.I. Sawyer this will result in a loss of $8,600 in rental income to the Marquette County Airport which has already had a devastating loss of $80,000 per year because of American Eagle vacating 10,000 square feet of maintenance space. Should the EDC move to K.I. Sawyer the Airport would have to request additional funding from the County General Fund. The Airport Commission strongly recommends the EDC not vacate their lease space in the Airport Terminal Building.

Jay Scherbenske, Director, Marquette County EDC, was present and explained that the EDC is interested in locating to Building 1210 at K.I. Sawyer. This building has its own heating system, no additional renovations would be required, and the building is ADA accessible. Their proposal is still tentative and the lease process will take 90 to 150 days, with a 30 day window for review. The EDC will pass everything through the Civil Counsel for his review.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, has not seen the detailed Airport budget but assumes they will request approximately $100,000 more for 1996. Their 1995 budget appropriation is $190,000. Anything the County Board can do to help the Airport would be considered good. He has no opinion on the move proposed by the EDC.

Comm. Seppanen thought it made sense that the EDC be located at K.I. Sawyer because the County Board has designated the EDC as the lead agency for seeking federal grant funds. The EDC's main job is to help new businesses to locate at K.I. Sawyer so they should be located there.

Comm. Joseph raised several concerns: The perception that the County Airport is definitely moving to K.I. Sawyer will be further given should the EDC move to K.I. Sawyer. He questioned is K.I. Sawyer the only place in Marquette County that needs economic development? He also expressed concern about the loss of Airport revenues. What if the move does not take place but we redirect funds now?

Comm. Bergdahl pointed out that the EDC is only requesting permission to negotiate with the Base Conversion Authority. The Conversion Authority won't even discuss the lease with them unless the County Board gives its permission. A final decision will still have to come back to the County Board for approval.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Seppanen, Angeli, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Rapport, Trudell and Corkin) to 1 Nay (Comm. Minelli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Marquette County EDC to negotiate with the Base Conversion Authority, and also the Marquette County Airport, for a new lease agreement, not to exceed the present budget, the agreement to be reviewed by Civil Counsel, with final review and approval by the County Board.

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The Committee considered a memo from Randall Girard, Director of Human Resources, regarding the Road Commission per diem review. Mr. Girard completed a survey of the twelve Counties in Marquette County's labor market, excluding Jackson County which utilizes a full-time Road Commission. Based upon analysis of comparable survey data, the average 1994 compensation provided to the Road Commission Chairpersons was $4,152, and to Road Commission Members was $3,916. The 1994 Marquette County Road Commission compensation for Chairperson Alderton was $720, Road Commission Member Farrell $450, and Road Commission Member Spindler $1,200. These amounts are predicated upon a $30 per diem.

Dennis Aloia distributed a memo from James Alderton, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to review the labor study conducted by County Staff. Mr. Alderton believed the $4,152 and $3,916 figures to be too high. Instead, the Road Commission members recommend a more fair and reasonable amount. The Chairperson be provided a salary of $1,800 per year plus $30 per meeting per diem, and regular Road Commission members a salary of $1,200 per year plus $30 per diem.

County Administrator Aloia recommends that should the County Board decide to change the level of pay to the Marquette County Road Commission that it either be strictly salary or strictly per diem, not a combination of systems.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole table the Road Commission per diem matter for consideration during the budget process.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Director, Marquette County Health Department, for increased Health Department autonomy and financial self-sufficiency.

Dr. Johnson was present and explained that this has been a long term goal and project of the Health Department. A number of discussions have taken place over the past several years regarding the Health Department eventually achieving financial self-sufficiency. After extensive review the Board of Health has voted unanimously to accept this proposed plan and recommends adoption by the County Board of Commissioners. Dr. Johnson believes that now is the time to implement the plan which would take approximately 10 years for the Health Department to become completely financially self-sufficient.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, believes the proposal has merit and requests that the County Board adopt a motion to allow Dr. Johnson and himself to work on the proposal. Then he could have a recommendation for the budget process. Mr. Aloia believes it will only take five to seven years for the Health Department to become self-sufficient. The Health Department is one of our most successful departments financially and in providing services. Their appropriation has remained level at $610,000 for the last eight years. Mr. Aloia admits that he has questions and some details must be worked out, but he believes the time is right for the County to consider such a proposal.
The major components of the plan include: Increasing the level of the Board of Health autonomy through a Board of Commissioner’s resolution delegating more authority to the Board of Health. Establish a fixed County appropriation to the Health Department of $550,000. The County discontinue charging the Health Department for the space it occupies at the Service Center with the understanding that all maintenance and all related building expenses become the Health Department’s.

The proposal would also utilize the annual fund balances in the following manner: Apply 20% to an Employee Incentive Plan to increase productivity and reduce costs, apply 20% to a Health Department Reserve Fund which would be allowed to accumulate interest, and apply 60% to the next years County’s fixed appropriation.

A chart (Attachment D) projects the annual totals for these various funds until the year 2012. By the year 2006 a fund balance of approximately $760,000 will provide a payback to the County General Fund of $422,000, an incentive to employees of $152,000, and an addition to the Annual Reserve Fund of $152,000, which by 2006 would have accumulated over $1,000,000.

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 give its approval for Administrator Dennis Aloia and Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director, to work on the proposed plan for increased Health Department autonomy and financial self-sufficiency and that a recommendation be made during the FY 1996 budget process.

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, June 27, 1995, they considered a memo from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding completion of the Strategic Planning Session. Mr. Aloia has had the opportunity to discuss the Strategic Planning with Mr. Ken VerBerg and Lynn Harvey of Michigan State University. Both gentlemen would like to complete the process which began over one year ago in order to fulfill their obligations. Mr. VerBerg has indicated that they are available August 4th and 5th, and August 11th and 12th to meet with the County Board.

Administrator Aloia further reported that to date the consultants have been paid nothing for their work. Their work is incomplete and cannot be completed until they have an opportunity to meet again with the County Board to discuss policy issues. Administrator Aloia recommends that the County Board set up a meeting to complete the Strategic Planning process in August, total cost would be around $3,500 for the project. Should the County Board have no confidence in the goals and objectives generated by the Strategic Plan sessions, then he suggests that he be allowed to negotiate the settlement amount with the consultants for the work they have done, and perhaps pursue a strategic planning session with some other group in the future.

Comm. Angeli contended that the County Board should discontinue the strategic planning process with Mr. VerBerg and Mr. Harvey. He no longer has confidence in them and thought it best that the Administrator negotiate for their final payment.

Comm. Joseph wondered why we should even negotiate with a consultant that did not complete their part of the agreement?

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Angeli, Braamse, Rapport, Seppanen, Trudell, and Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Joseph and Minelli) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow the Administrator to negotiate a settlement with Mr. Ken VerBerg and Lynn Harvey of Michigan State for the work they have done and pursue strategic planning with some other group in the future.
The Committee considered a memo from Regner C. Rider, Colonel, U.S. Air Force Commander, 410th Bomb Wing, regarding heat plant utility costs for reuse tenants. The 410th Bomb Wing does not intend to charge any reusers for heat costs relative to the operation of the Base Heat Plant, retroactive to their April 1995 occupancy through September 30, 1995.

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

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The Committee considered a memo from Joseph D. Cousineau, Ameritech 911 Manager, regarding a technical charge adjustment for the County's 911 Network. Marquette County's technical charge adjustment actually results in a lower rate.

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

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The Committee considered a memo from Richard L. Baldermann, C.P.A., Administrator, Michigan Department of Treasury, notifying Counties that Public Act 347 of 1994 authorizes County Board of Commissioners to elect an optional fiscal year beginning October 1 and ending September 30. Administrator Aloia is not recommending that the County Board change its fiscal year at this time, however, he may do so next year.

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

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Copies of a letter written by Chairperson Corkin to U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Spencer Abraham and U.S. Congressman Bart Stupak regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnership Program were reviewed. Chairperson Corkin requested that these programs be funded by Congress at a level of at least equal to FY 1995.

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

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The Committee reviewed a copy of a letter written by Chairperson Corkin to Congressman Joseph Knollenberg, House Committee on Appropriations, in support of the proposed $21 million increase in the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program.

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

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County Administrator Dennis Aloia, on behalf of Data Processing Manager Brent Nault, requested that Data Processing be allowed to bring computer bids directly to the County Board meeting on July 11, 1995. If Data Processing has to wait until the next Committee of the Whole meeting of July 18th the County Board would not be able to give its approval on the bids until July 25th.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole allow the Computer Bids to come directly to the July 11, 1995 County Board Meeting.

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Chairperson Corkin provided an update on a meeting with the Powell Township Board regarding the water rate at Perkins Park. Chairperson Corkin, along with Commissioners Arsenault, Trudell and Seppanen, met with the Township Board and reached an agreement to continue with the flat fee for the 1995 camping season. In the future Powell Township will install water meters with the cost of installation will be paid off with the water bills over a period of several years. Perkins Park will continue to operate with no additional fees so it was a very worthwhile meeting.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Civil Counsel David Payant reported that the Complaint filed by Brian Rochon, Northern Michigan Aviation, against the Marquette County Airport with the Federal Aviation Administration has been dismissed.

Civil Counsel David Payant reported that he has met with the Mine Inspector and the County Treasurer twice regarding Mine Reclamation Legislation. Also, there is an open shaft in West Branch Township that the County Mine Inspector will need an appropriation to fence. Notices sent to the owner of the property have been returned unanswered.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Mine Inspector be invited to the July 11, 1995 County Board meeting for an update.

County Clerk, Dave Roberts, reported that a special Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., July 11, 1995, just prior to the Regular County Board meeting, to discuss Indigent Counsel Proposals. Judge Quinnell has written a letter inviting members of the County Bar Association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 1995, 4:30 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skowis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
   MEETING HELD ON JUNE 6, 1995 AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
   MEETING HELD ON JUNE 13, 1995.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. EDC Lease Update.
7. Road Commission Per Diem Review.
8. Proposed Plan for Increased Health Department Autonomy and Financial Self
   Sufficiency.
9. Completion of Strategic Planning.
10. Memo from the 410th Bomb Wing regarding Heating Plan Utility Costs for
    Reuse Tenants at K.I. Sawyer.
11. Notice from Ameritech regarding a Technical Charge Adjustment for the
    County's 911 Network.
12. Memo from the Michigan Department of Treasury regarding Optional Fiscal
    Years for Counties.
13. Letters from Chairperson Corkin to our Federal Legislators regarding the U.S.
    Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development
    Block Grant Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program.
14. Letter from Chairperson Corkin to Congressman Joseph Knollenberg supporting
    a $21 Million Increase in the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT Program).
15. [Date: 7/11/95]
16. [Power ranger logo]

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

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REMINDER! THERE IS NO MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 4, 1995
THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING IS TUESDAY, JULY 11, 1995
HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY