The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 25, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 11, 1996 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes and additions: Kim Bertram, Base Manager, American Eagle, Maintenance, to give a video presentation on America Eagle Operations under public comment; Move item 12) Proposal to the Rural Development Council of Michigan from John Korhonen, Ishpeming City Manager, to the beginning of the agenda; and add Item 15) Community Mental Health Request to Approve Lease.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 7, 1996 thru June 20, 1996 in the amount of $2,006,055.56 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Kim Bertram, Base Manager, American Eagle, was present to give a brief video presentation on American Eagle Operations. He stated that he has been with the company for fifteen years in the maintenance department. He spoke on behalf of himself and his co-workers. Mr. Bertram explained that the Simmons Airlines Maintenance Department began in the U.P. in a small hanger at the present County Airport. As the airline grew so did the maintenance department. They are proud of what they have accomplished. Their goal has always been to stay in Marquette. The jobs that they have produced were made by dedicated men and women in the U.P. for the U.P. As they face the issues of today, Mr. Bertram is very concerned for their jobs. He explained that the video was produced here in Marquette by the Training Department. It will give Commissioners a better understanding of what they are about and what people of the U.P. are capable of. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

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The Committee considered a proposal to the Rural Development Council of Michigan (RDCM) from John Korhonen, Ishpeming City Manager, and member of the Rural Development Council, regarding the K.I.Sawyer Reuse Project. A letter was sent to Dr. David Skjaerlund, Executive Director, RDCM, explaining that the U.S. Air Force vacated the 5,200 acre K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base at the end of September 1995. A Base Conversion Authority was created with the charge of developing a reuse plan for the facility. The Michigan Jobs Commission has taken a lead role in a variety of reuse activities since closure, however, the state has indicated their desire to phase out of the reuse process and has requested that the local communities identify a Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA). The townships, county, business community, NMU, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians are currently in the process of establishing the LRA.

Working in conjunction with the Federal Office of Economic Adjustment, Marquette, Ishpeming, Negaween Chambers of Commerce, Marquette County Board of Commissioners and the Base Conversion Authority, agreement has been reached to ask for assistance and leadership from the Rural Development Council of Michigan. We believe the K.I.Sawyer Reuse Project is a significant opportunity for and is in direct compliance with the mission and objectives of the RDCM. We believe the leadership and guidance that can be provided by the RDCM at this critical time in the K.I.Sawyer Reuse process will be essential for a successful reuse effort.
Therefore, it was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request that the Executive Committee of the Rural Development Council of Michigan adopt the K.L. Sawyer Reuse Project as a special project for the coming year.

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The Committee considered the 1996 Micro-Computer Purchase recommendations from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager. Sealed bids for various micro-computer equipment were received. The bid specification packet was divided into distinct categories: 1) Digital file server; 2) File server tape backup, 3) Digital graphics workstation, 4) Micro-computers, 5) Printers, 6) Network communications equipment, 7) Notebook docking stations, and 8) Software. Mr. Nault gave a purchase recommendation on 3), 4), 5), 6), and 7). The remaining bids, 1), 2), and 8), requires additional information from the vendors to clarify the equipment and software submitted.

3) Digital Graphics Workstation - Mr. Nault recommends the purchase from CIS Systems Inc., for a total cost of $4,139.

4) Personal Computers - Mr. Nault recommends the purchase from Gateway 2000, for a total cost of $18,200.

5) Printer - Mr. Nault recommends the purchase from Sundberg, Carlson and Associates, for a total cost of $3,447.35.

6) Docking Stations - Mr. Nault recommends the purchase from Lasco Development Corporation, for a total cost of $5,112.

7) Network Communications - Mr. Nault recommends the purchase from NorthLan Computers, for a total cost of $1,936.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the recommendations from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, for the 1996 Micro-Computer Purchase.

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The Committee considered a Sheriff’s Dept. Grant Application to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning for Overtime Law Enforcement (MCTV). This grant is consistent with the enforcement portion of previous MCTV grants and requires no local matching funds. The time period for the grant will cover the State’s fiscal year 1997 (10/1/96 - 9/30/97). The application has received approval from the Office of Highway Safety Planning and from Cyndi Beaudry, Risk Management Specialist, David Payant, Civil Counsel, and Ron Koshowek, Interim County Administrator.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Sheriff’s Dept. Grant Application for Overtime Law Enforcement (MCTV).

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The Committee considered the CUPPAD Regional Commission By-Law Revisions from David Gillis, Executive Director. Mr. Gillis was present and explained that the revisions change the method in which appointments are made to the Commission. Under revisions to the bylaws, appointments to the Commission will be made by county boards, cities, township associations, and villages. Prior to the revisions, the Six County OEDP Committees each appointed five members to the Commission and nominated one of those members to the Executive Committee.
In the past eight to ten years the OEDP Committees have been struggling to maintain membership and to get members out to meetings. The OEDP Committees have been functioning mainly as county forums. Four of the County OEDP Committees have opted to disband, and because some are disbanding, revisions pertaining to Commission membership are necessary.

Mr. Gillis is requesting that each county board appoint one county board representative (board member or county employee), one county planning commission representative (planning commission member or staff of the planning commission), and in Marquette’s County’s case two members-at-large. He strongly urges that one of the members-at-large be a non-elected citizen representative. In Dickinson, Marquette, and Schoolcraft Counties, the additional representative is appointed to compensate for no village appointment.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Chairperson Corkin to make these appointments.

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The Committee considered the CUPPAD request to amend the Community Adjustment and Economic Diversification Planning (CAEDP) Grant. In April, CUPPAD initiated an amendment to their agency’s tasks outlined in the subject grant with Marquette County. The amendment would reprogram funds ($12,000) from the Urban Area Planning task to a new task which would assist local government planning for the provision of essential services at the now closed K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base. Authorization has been received from the funding agency to reprogram the funds. Accordingly, staff recommends the County Board approve the amendment agreement with CUPPAD authorizing the change.

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 approve the CUPPAD request to amend the CAEDP Grant.

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The Committee considered a Planning Commission recommendation to adopt a Ground Water Protection Resolution. The Planning Commission reviewed a communication from Kristine Bradoff, Coordinator of the regional Groundwater Education in Michigan (GEM) center, urging Marquette County to pass a groundwater resolution.

The Planning Commission strongly supports the protection of groundwater resources. Nearly 70 percent of the citizens of the County rely on groundwater for drinking purposes, and we anticipate reliance on groundwater as a public water supply will continue to increase.

The resolution provided by GEM was considered by the Planning Commission and modified specifically to reflect Marquette County and the sentiment of the Marquette County Planning Commission. The primary difference between the two resolutions is that GEM’s proposal is to utilize money currently targeted for cleanup to fund the program, and the Planning Commission urges legislating “new” money and not reducing cleanup funds. It is recommended that the County Board adopt the resolution proposed by the Planning Commission.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the resolution proposed by the Planning Commission.

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The Committee considered a Parking Evaluation for County Buildings from Steve Enright, Planner. Staff was directed to evaluate the current parking conditions for the lots and on-street parking areas surrounding the County Courthouse/Annex, Jail, and Geraldine DeFant Community Mental Health Building. Staff sampled use of parking facilities (seven lots, eight street segments) in an effort to compare new data with results of the 1993 parking study undertaken by the Resource Management Department. Selected parking areas were monitored at peak hours to determine vehicle turnover rates. Finally, they developed recommendations to improve parking efficiency.
Staff estimates the number of employee cars parked daily at the complex to be 250 based on an average 10 percent absentee rate (vacation, medical leave), car pooling, and employee drop offs. Based on that estimate, approximately 100 day long parking spaces are available for public use. Estimates for the number of daily public visits to the County Buildings is believed to be at least 400 people. This number can more than double depending on high volume scheduled events such as jury trials, small claims court, etc. The southeast part of the DeFANT lot is designated for visitor parking (34 regular spaces), yet is used almost exclusively by Courthouse and DeFANT employees. Visitor parking should be enforced at that location.

Findings indicate that parking is available at all times around the Courthouse Complex. Employees should be encouraged to use the parking spaces available in a more efficient manner, therefore freeing up closer parking spaces for customers.

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 Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, to write a letter to Dr. Randall Johnson, Marquette County Health Dept., Dr. Birch, Community Mental Health, and all County Employees, encouraging them to use parking spaces in a more efficient manner.

The Committee considered a Letter of Conveyance from the Michigan Jobs Commission to the Office of Economic Adjustment, U.S. Department of Defense, regarding grant funding in the amount of $870,060 to be used at K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base for continuation of conversion activities. The State of Michigan has pledged to match these funds with $216,419 in state funds.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file.

The Committee considered an announcement regarding soil erosion. Chairperson Corkin announced that any Commissioner wanting to make comments on the Soil Erosion Ordinance to submit them in writing to Fred Benzie, Health Department Environmental Division, by July 15, 1996.

When the Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, June 26, 1996, they considered a lease request from Community Mental Health. Community Mental Health is requesting your approval to enter into a lease with O'Dovero Development for office space at 201 Rublein Street, Marquette. These offices would replace space currently under lease at Chippewa Square. According to the two-county agreement, County Board approval is required before the agency may enter into a lease. Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, has reviewed the proposition and finds no administrative impediment for approving the lease.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Community Mental Health Board to enter into the lease contingent upon legal and administrator review.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Richard Pearson, an employee of Simmons Airlines, on behalf of himself and fellow employees thanked the County Board and Staff for the hard work they have been putting in at the Airport. He knows this has been a very difficult issue. There being no further public comment Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Committee considered a report from Chairperson Corkin regarding a MAC Board of Directors meeting held in Marquette this past weekend. Chairperson Corkin, Comm. Braamse, and Comm. Rapport, attended the meeting and pledged their support to MAC in the hosting of the 1997 MAC Conference in Marquette, Michigan. This conference is attended by 500 to 600 delegates throughout the State of Michigan, and Chairperson Corkin recommended that Comm. Braamse and Comm. Rapport be appointed as Co-Chairs.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appoint Comm. Braamse and Comm. Rapport as Co-Chairs for the 1997 MAC Conference.

Randell Girard, Human Resources Director, updated Commissioners regarding the process of hiring a new Administrator. Mr. Girard stated that following the interviews that were conducted on the 15th, he has been in contact with the top two candidates. A tentative offer has been made to the top candidate, contingent upon completion of the full background investigation which is scheduled to be completed tomorrow, at which time the County will formalize the offer. Chairperson Corkin directed Mr. Girard to distribute to each Commissioner a copy of the tentative contract that has been drafted. It has been reviewed by Civil Counsel, Risk Management, and Ron Koshorek.

Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, updated Commissioners regarding AMR. A negotiating session was held last Thursday (June 20th) with expanded groups representing both sides. The major issues are disposition of Simmon's owned facilities at the County Airport and modifications to several buildings at K.I.Sawyer. The bottom line figure of public dollars requested by AMR Eagle to relocate to K.I.Sawyer is about $4 million. Mr. Koshorek will provide a summary of the proposal for the next County Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branim
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 1996, 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.
8. CUPPAD Regional Commission By-Law Revisions from David Gillis, Executive Director.
9. CUPPAD Request to Amend Community Adjustment and Economic Diversification Planning (CAEDP) Grant.
14. Announcement: Commissioners Make Their Comments in Writing on Soil Erosion Ordinance to Fred Benzie, Health Department Environmental Division, by July 15th.
15. Move to Adjourn.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.