The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 2, 1996 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


A Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the June 14 and 15, 1996 Special Board Meeting, and the June 18, 1996 Regular Board meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution honoring Robert Neldberg, Chief Executive Officer/Administrator of Marquette General Hospital, on his retirement.

RESOLUTION HONORING ROBERT NELDBERG

WHEREAS, Robert Neldberg joined St. Luke’s Hospital as Director of Personnel and Public Relations in 1968; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Neldberg was promoted to the position of Chief Executive Officer/Administrator of Marquette General Hospital in October 1973 and has served in that capacity since, building Marquette General Hospital to a regional medical center now numbering 2,350 employees and 200 physicians; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Neldberg has brought together 14 Upper Peninsula hospitals into a network with Marquette General Hospital serving as a tertiary care center; and,

WHEREAS, Robert Neldberg’s vision and dedication and career accomplishments have resulted in outstanding medical services available to residents of Marquette County and the Upper Peninsula.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners recognizes and thanks Robert Neldberg for his years of service and wishes him continued success in a healthy, fulfilling, enjoyable “retirement.” Few people can look back on their career and measure such a positive and significant impact on their community. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners commends you on a job well done.

Presented this 2nd day of July, 1996
at Marquette, MI
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Russell-Parks, Marquette, taxpayer of Marquette County, and representative of U.P. Home Nursing and Hospice in Marquette, spoke regarding action the County Board took at the June 18, 1996 meeting. Mr. Russell-Parks stated that the County Board should be ashamed of the action they took to approve a rate hike for private duty services for the Marquette County Health Department. He requested the following letter be incorporated in these minutes:
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you of my great displeasure with a recent board decision supporting a fee increase for Private Duty Services offered by the Marquette County Health Department.

This fee increase constitutes a blatant slap in the face to private enterprise in Marquette County and fully endorses the status quo...giving Public Health Agencies the green light to continue the unsavory practice of using taxpayer dollars to compete with private sector service providers. As an independent business owner and provider of high quality health care services, I strongly resent my tax dollars subsidizing the Marquette County Health Department which not only has created a service which directly competes against our agency, but which you, as elected public officials, fully support. The only commissioner which may be exempt from this act is Commissioner Trudell, as he was absent the night of June 18th, 1996 and therefore did not vote.

In addition, the minutes of the June 18th meeting reflect the board's endorsement of an unethical practice known as "cost-shifting." Commissioner Rapport was quoted as saying, "costs for these services are born generally by third party providers or the people themselves but no one it turned away because they cannot pay. That means a slightly higher fee is charged to those who can afford it who are then subsidizing those who cannot pay, however, no additional County funds are being used." This practice is called "cost-shifting"...completely legal, but highly unethical.

Furthermore, Commissioner Rapport's assessment "that these fees, even with the increase, are still under what other providers offer" is inaccurate. Had the County Board bothered to secure rate cards from other area providers it would have realized this.

By approving this rate hike for Private Duty Services for the Marquette County Health Department, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners acted in an irresponsible manner. The taxpayers of this county deserve an apology. If the County Board is so intent on making sure the Health Department becomes completely autonomous, taxpayers would have been better off to contract these services through a private sector provider, which offers the same, if not better quality care at rates comparable or less.

More bureaucracy and duplication of services are what taxpayers are rebelling against. During an election year, I would think all Commissioners would be mindful of the potential ramifications of constituent dissatisfaction.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Nyquist, RN, BSN.
CEO/Administrator
U.P. Home Nursing and Hospice

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Bill Jacobson, 8442 Co. Rd. 478, Champion, President of Transport Workers Union Local 572, explained that he represents the 500 maintenance personnel that work for Simmons Airlines, of which 140 work in Marquette. He questioned how the County can not afford to support the American Eagle plan. Mr. Jacobson feels Marquette County cannot afford to lose another 180 jobs.

Rex Butenbach, representing the Lake Superior Jobs Coalition, voiced support of the Marquette County Airport and AMR move to K.I.Sawyer. He stated that there is no better cornerstone for the redevelopment of K.I.Sawyer than the relocation of a heavy maintenance base. The Jobs Coalition pledges their support for whatever endeavor the County needs to do to make sure that the relocation of the maintenance base comes to a successful conclusion.

Joe Pietro, Forsyth Township, explained that the Bureau of Aeronautics has disbursed all available money in 1996 for small airport funding, but more funds will be forthcoming for 1997. He encouraged the County to apply for these funds. Mr. Pietro feels that the relocation to K.I.Sawyer is an opportunity that will not come our way again in a long time.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS          COUNTY OF MARQUETTE         JULY 2, 1996

Sam Elder, 2425 W. Grove, Marquette, stated that as a Member of the Conversion Authority, AMR is one of the anchors that they have been looking and hoping for. Something like this can be used as a tool to attract other businesses. He stated that the County Board is not alone, and asked that they join the Conversion Authority in making the relocation happen.

Greg Seppanen, County Commissioner, spoke under public comment. Comm. Seppanen stated that he feels very positive in regard to community support in this effort. He indicated the challenge of the County Board regarding their decision. Comm. Seppanen displayed data on the County’s financial condition and costs associated with relocating AMR Eagle at K.I. Sawyer.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: 11a) County Administrator Employment Agreement.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the following informational items on file:

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   b. Acknowledgement of County Board Resolution regarding Teleconferencing from Timothy McGuire, Executive Director, MAC.
   c. Acknowledgement of County Board Efforts regarding Court Restructuring Legislation from Timothy McGuire, Executive Director, MAC.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10d, 10e, 10f, 10g, 10h, 10i, and 10j, be approved as follows:

10d) Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve the Sheriff’s Department Grant Application 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).

10e) Committee of the Whole recommendation to adopt a Resolution in Support of State and Local Partnerships for Ground Water Pollution Prevention.

MARQUETTE COUNTY
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS
FOR GROUNDWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

WHEREAS, groundwater is the drinking water source for approximately 70 percent of Marquette County’s residents; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 sites of groundwater contamination exist in Marquette County, and

WHEREAS, it is far cheaper to prevent groundwater contamination in the first place than to clean it up, and prevention of contamination also reduces business liability costs while assuring protection of public health; and

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WHEREAS, numerous studies, including "Reinventing Government for Groundwater Protection", prepared by the Michigan Society of Planning Officials in November, 1995, recommended partnerships among the state, county, and local levels of government to prevent groundwater pollution; and

WHEREAS, local units of government do not in all cases have the resources or expertise to initiate groundwater pollution prevention programs on their own.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners endorses the following:

1. State government policies should foster prevention, not just cleanup, of groundwater pollution;

2. State government should assist and be a partner with local units of government including Marquette County in preventing groundwater pollution;

3. State government should provide both financial and technical assistance to local units of government in working with businesses and individuals to prevent groundwater pollution;

4. We urge the Michigan Legislature to allocate funds to provide grants to local units of government for the purpose of groundwater pollution prevention.

Adopted this 2nd day of July, 1996
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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10f) Committee of the Whole recommendation to write a letter to all County Employees encouraging them to use parking spaces in a more efficient manner.

10g) Committee of the Whole recommendation authorizing Community Mental Health to enter into a lease agreement with O'Dovero Development for office space.

10h) Committee of the Whole recommendation approving a request by CUPPAD to amend the Community Adjustment and Economic Diversification Planning (CAEDP) grant. The amendment would reprogram $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.

10i) Committee of the Whole recommendation appointing Gerald Corkin as County Board representative to the CUPPAD Regional Commission, and Paul Arsenault as alternate, and Joseph W. Erickson, Planning Commission representative, to the CUPPAD Regional Commission, and Norman Holmes as alternate.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10a) The County Board considered the AMR Eagle Proposal. The estimated value of the incentives is $3,859,000 for capital and start-up. The cost of providing airfield operation and maintenance at K.I.Sawyer is estimated to be $551,000 per year or $471,000 net of revenue. American Eagle is seeking a legally binding agreement with the County to provide these incentives. In return they will transfer to the County ownership of their buildings at Negaunee which have an appraised value of $780,000. They want a 25 year lease with a one year cancellation provision, paying a $100,000 penalty if they leave within 5 years.

Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, recommends that given the significant airfield operating responsibility related to the project and the uncertainty of major grant support, the County Board make a counter offer as follows:

1. The County pursue grant funding for building modifications and airfield infrastructure to support A.M.R. maintenance activities. Should these funds not be secured, or only partially secured, the County will have no obligation to proceed. The firm will make other arrangements to carry out the project.

2. A County pledge of $162,000 from its Land Acquisition Fund in exchange for ownership of the A.M.R. buildings at the County Airport in Negaunee.

3. Airfield services; including maintenance of navigation aids, runway snow removal, crash fire rescue and weather information; must be provided by the K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base/Jobs Commission or the successor local reuse agency to that organization.

Chairperson Corkin explained that there has been meetings held in the past few days and it was suggested by John Korhonen that the County Board strengthen their proposal by working with the Michigan Rural Development Council (RDCM). The RDCM has agreed to come to Marquette the last week of July. Mr. Koshorek has contacted AMR and they have given the County an extension to August 1st. Chairperson Corkin suggested the County Board approve the recommendation of Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, and direct him to work with John Korhonen and the Michigan Rural Development Council in an attempt to strengthen the proposal before final submission to AMR.

John Korhonen, Member of the Executive Committee of the RDCM, was present and explained that the RDCM has been working with staff to find a way to bring in additional revenues into this proposal. He has contacted Donald Hare, State Representative appointed by President Clinton to the State of Michigan representing the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for Rural Development. Mr. Hare was very excited about this project and the fact that the Committee of the Whole has asked the RDCM to adopt it as a special project for consideration. He recommended getting representatives from the EDA, CDBG, Federal Aviation Administration and the AMR, to meet the last week in July to consider what can be offered and what cannot, and work out an arrangement that is acceptable to all.

Commissioners discussed deleting the last two sentences of recommendation #1: “Should these funds not be secured, or only partially secured, the County will have no obligation to proceed. The firm will make other arrangements to carry out the project.”

The general consensus of the County Board is that their best effort will be there and they will be determined to make it happen. Mr. Koshorek explained that the intention of these two sentences is that the County Board will decide whether they can make up the difference between any secured grant support and anything not secured.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Trudell, that the County Board support the recommendation of Mr. Koshorek on the American Eagle Project with the deletion of the last two sentences in #1 with direction given to Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, to work with Mr. Korhonen and the Rural Development Council and all others to strengthen the proposal to relocate ARM to K.I.Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board thanked and commended staff for a job well done on this project.
10b) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole recommendation to request that the Rural Development Council of Michigan Adopt Reuse of K.I.Sawyer as its Special Project.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice that the County Board approve the request that the Executive Committee of the RDCM adopt the K.I.Sawyer Reuse Project as a special project for the coming year.

10c) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to approve the 1996 Micro-Computer Bids. Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, was present and stated that at the June 25th session of the Committee of the Whole, he was unable to complete the recommendation on all of the equipment bids. The remaining equipment includes the County's network file server and the file server tape unit. He recommends purchasing the Digital File Server from NorthLAN Computers of Escanaba for a total cost of $14,000, and the purchase of the Tape Backup Unit W/Software from Sundberg Carlsons & Associates, for a total cost of $2,064.71.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the Committee of the Whole recommendation for the 1996 Micro-Computer purchase, with the addition of the purchase of the network file server and the file server tape unit.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered the Employment Agreement for the County Administrator position. Randell Girard, Personnel Director, explained that Mr. Steven D. Powers, Fairmont, Minnesota, has accepted the position with a 1996 annual base salary of $58,190. He has signed and returned the employment agreement for execution by the Board Chair. Mr. Powers will start as County Administrator on September 3, 1996.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board accept the employment agreement of Mr. Steven D. Powers and authorize execution of the agreement by the Board Chair.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Russell-Parks again addressed the County Board. He stated that he resents subsidizing an agency that is being supported through tax subsidies to compete against private sector service providers. He also stated that he hopes in the future the County Board begins to consider some of the words that were heard and expressed tonight regarding the AMR Project.

Joe Pietro thanked the County Board for their positive approach regarding the AMR Eagle Project.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, July 2, 1996 at 7:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   b. Acknowledgement of County Board Resolution regarding Teleconferencing from Timothy McGuire, Executive Director, MAC.
   c. Acknowledgement of County Board Efforts regarding Court Restructuring Legislation from Timothy McGuire, Executive Director, MAC.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
   a. AMR Eagle Proposal.
   b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Request that the Rural Development Council of Michigan Adopt Reuse of K.I. Sawyer as its Special Project.
   c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the 1996 Micro-Computer Bids.
   d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Sheriff's Department Grant Application for Overtime Law Enforcement (MCTV).
   e. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Adopt a Resolution in Support of State and Local Partnerships for Ground Water Pollution Prevention.
   f. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Write a Letter to All County Employees Encouraging them to Use Parking Spaces in a More Efficient Manner.
   g. Committee of the Whole Recommendation Authorizing Community Mental Health to Enter Into a Lease Agreement with O'Dovero Development for Office Space.
   h. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a Request by CUPPAD to Amend the CAEDP Grant.
   i. Committee of the Whole Recommendation that County Board Chairperson Corkin make Appointments to the CUPPAD Regional Commission.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
   a. [Signature]
   b. [Signature]
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!