The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, July 16, 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. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the July 2, 1996 Regular Board Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Kris Hough, 276 Suncliffe, Ishpeming, Michigan, was present and explained that eight homes in the Suncliffe Subdivision have experienced major water damage. The drainage tiles are not functioning properly because of construction code violations. These homes are new, built in the last 18 months and all residents were given occupancy permits by the County Building Codes Department. Ms. Hough wondered if there were any funds available or if anything could be done by the County regarding the matter.
Chairperson Corkin requested that Civil Counsel and the Administrator look into the matter.

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

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 addition: Item 11a) Letter from Rev. Louis Coppo, Chairman, Lake Superior Jobs Coalition, regarding the AMR Eagle Proposal and K.I. Sawyer Governance.

PRIVILEGED COMMENT

Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Director, Health Department, was present and distributed a packet of information regarding the Marquette County Health Department Home Care Programs. Dr. Johnson explained that the Home Health Program in Marquette County was State certified in 1967. Initially the nursing staff consisting of four registered nurses, one licensed practical nurse, and one clerk who were responsible for providing all the nursing services, both in the clinic, and in client homes. The Health Department was in "home health" long before private agencies got involved in our community. In the first fourteen years of existence the Marquette County Health Department was the only service provider. In June of 1995 the Health Department began providing private duty care as a direct response to patient needs. Patients and other residents in the County were requesting a more affordable service. The care that is offered through private duty is usually paid for by the client or the client's family, or occasionally an insurance company will reimburse for these services, however, all services are provided regardless of client's ability to pay. Any profits resulting from the services are used to leverage grants, for example, in 1995 the Health Department applied for and was awarded a federal grant of $106,000 to establish Americorps.

From December until May of 1996 the program has provided over 4,000 hours of services to over 70 clients. The Americorp members are doing a variety of tasks such as housekeeping, personal care, transportation, and chore services. They are also doing minor home repair, setting up adaptive equipment in homes and have built three handicap ramps and a ramp/deck combination.

Dr. Johnson further noted that the fees for home health or private duty services provided by the Health Department are equal to or less than those provided by private agencies. Several benefits of the Health Department Home Care Programs include 1) The Health Department Home Care Programs are community owned and operated under public policies, 2) Since 1967 is the only provider that guarantees services, regardless of ability to pay and 3) Residents need a choice of providers. We cannot allow only one or two private agencies to have a monopoly on home health care. This is not a commodity to just be bought and sold by the private sector which also may receive payment by state and federal government. The Marquette County Health Department makes sure that such residential services are available to all of its citizens.
INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following informational items be accepted and placed on file:

b. Court Reform Summary from the Michigan Association of County Clerks.
d. Response from Representative David Anthony regarding Staffing Ratios for Nursing Homes.
e. Communication from the Governor’s Office regarding Consideration of Joe Pietro for Reappointment to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.
f. Detroit Newspaper Article regarding Michigan Jobs Commission.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, and 10f be approved as follows:

10a) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the County Community Service and Facilities Plan and the County Land Use/Value/Ownership Plan as policy documents and make them part of the County’s Comprehensive Plan.

10b) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to reschedule the August 6, 1996 Regular Board meeting to July 30th, 1996.

10c) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to appoint Randell Girard, Human Resources Director, as Employer MERS Delegate with Finance Manager, Gary Yoder, as the Employer Alternate Delegate and also the delegate designation form will be prepared for signature after the August 16th election of the Employee Delegate.

10d) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to send a letter to the Marquette County EDC requesting they have a compliance audit done on CDBG funds.

10f) The County Board approved an amendment to the Remonumentation Agreement with Engineering Consultants, Inc. allowing the removal of the requirement for professional liability insurance.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10e) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Community Corrections Advisory Board regarding a local law enforcement block grant. Lyn Nelson, Community Corrections Coordinator, was present and explained that the Community Corrections Advisory Board reviewed the Sheriff’s Department application for a multipurpose vehicle at their July 11, 1996 meeting. A written proposal from the Probate Judge Juvenile Division was not available at that meeting. The Community Corrections Advisory Board is willing to oversee the local law enforcement block grant program, however, does not possess the ability to provide the local match of $1,828. Ms. Nelson turned the meeting over to Undersheriff Michael Quayle.

Undersheriff Michael Quayle was present to explain the Sheriff’s Department proposal to proceed with an application to the U.S. Department of Justice for the purchase of a multipurpose vehicle (van) for the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department. The grant would provide $16,456 and the Sheriff’s Department would provide the local match of $1,828 out of funds left over from the annual vehicle purchases.
It is unusual for a grant to allow for the purchase of equipment. Normally grants provide for staff time and administration. For several years the Sheriff’s Department has supported Community Corrections with use of Sheriff Department vehicles. A van could be used by the Sheriff’s Department and Community Corrections for such purposes, to check on inmates in the Tether Program, inmates on work passes, inmates transported to hospitals or downstate, and many times more than one inmate is involved in transportation procedures. The van is envisioned as a multipurpose vehicle and this grant would provide the opportunity for its purchase.

Joe Levandoski, Bailiff, Barry Sullivan, Juvenile Division, on behalf of Probate Court, were present and explained that the State Court Administrator’s Office has indicated that this grant is allowable for courts as well. The Judicial Council endorses a grant proposal from Judge Anderegg whose purpose is to reduce crime and improve public safety in Marquette County. The grant is a total grant of $13,200 which includes a $1,200 local match. The grant budget provides for a project administrator (.33 FTE) with law enforcement experience and training in grant administration to be selected by the Advisory Board, $1,000 for administrative support including clerical office space, telephone expense and supplies, and the provision of parent prevention services at a cost of $2,200. This proposal would improve the tracking of juveniles into the adult criminal court system, including federal court. It would expand the availability of resources for Native American juveniles or young adults who are referred to federal court. It would develop the availability of parent training for parents of young children who have shown aggressive behavior, who are acting out in school. Recent research by the Rand Corporation suggests such programs are low cost and highly effective in preventing future juvenile delinquency.

Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, explained that these proposals are competing uses for the same entitlement funds. Both projects have merit, however, the County Board must decide which project for which to apply. Whatever project is decided upon Mr. Koshorek pointed out that we cannot guarantee its perpetuity. He recommends the Probate Court project because it provides for the direct intervention of potential juvenile delinquents. The van for the Sheriff’s Department could be considered through Capital Improvements.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and carried by voice vote 4 Ayes (Comm. Rapport, Arsenault, Minelli and Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Braamse, Trudell) that the County Board approve of the $12,000 local law enforcement block grant proposal with a $1,200 local match through the Probate Court.

LATE ADDITIONS

The County Board considered a letter from Rev. Louis Coppo, Chairman, Lake Superior Jobs Coalition, urging the Marquette County Board to move forward aggressively on three issues: 1) To reach an agreement with AMR to expand their maintenance operations and relocate at K.I. Sawyer, 2) That the County take the necessary action to relocate the Marquette County Airport to K.I. Sawyer and 3) That Marquette County become a part of the local governance for K.I. Sawyer.

Comm. Arsenault pointed out that the County Board has been somewhat conservative on these issues because they have the taxpayers trust. All the Commissioners sincerely want to retain the AMR jobs but could not jump into the situation without thoroughly reviewing it. The County Board must look to the community for assistance in this matter.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 7 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Minelli, Rapport, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board direct the negotiating team to close on the agreement with AMR Eagle and to send a copy of this motion to all agencies involved.

Comm. Arsenault further explained that last year the County Board voted nine to one to relocate the County Airport to K.I. Sawyer if it is financially feasible. The County has yet to receive the final numbers on the relocation. The FAA wants a plan for the reuse of the Marquette County Airport and the needed information was promised in May, then in July, and now supposedly by August 1st. This Board stands ready to act provided we get the necessary information but a decision should be forthcoming in the near future. AMR Eagle has not asked that the relocation of the Airport be part of its maintenance facility proposal.
In regards to the governance the Committee of the Whole last week reviewed the document and accepted the governance document in concept which is being given legal and administrative review by staff.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board accept the invitation by the Townships of Forsyth, Sands and West Branch to become part of the governance of K.I. Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Rex Buettgenbach, Lake Superior Jobs Commission, commended the County Board for the action it took this evening. He pointed out that U.S. Senator Carl Levin last Sunday indicated that the Federal Government needs an unencumbered decision, without any contingencies, in order for federal dollars to flow to K.I. Sawyer. He commended the County Board for their proactive approach.

Sam Elder, 2425 W. Gray, Marquette, was present and commended the County Board for its action tonight. The governance of K.I. Sawyer is a first priority and secondly the AMR Eagle Maintenance Facility is very important, but the third step is to take action to move the County Airport. This is a three legged stool. It will become economically feasible with the Sawyer Lumber and now AMR Eagle as anchor businesses. No one expects the County Board to revitalize K.I. Sawyer all by themselves, however, by committing to moving the funding and support from federal, state, and community will come.

Kevin Koch, Negaweek, and the Attorney who assisted the Townships in drafting the governance agreement for K.I. Sawyer, on behalf of the Townships, thanked the County Board.

Donna Oliver, West Branch Township, and a member on the Governance Committee, explained that without the County being involved in the governance of K.I. Sawyer the Office of Economic Adjustment would not release any funding, but now that will change.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that a dozen motions could be made but until the funding is available the Airport won’t be able to move.

Comm. Rapport noted that the County Board has responded to the request from American Eagle Employees for help. The County Board has tried its best to help and hopes that AMR will accept the proposal. The County Board rose to the challenge on behalf of the community. If AMR decides not to relocate to K.I. Sawyer we can say that we gave it our best effort. It would be unfair to criticize the County Board.

Comm. Braamse pointed out that for the past three years she has been on record supporting moving the County Airport to K.I. Sawyer. She believes that K.I. Sawyer will not only become a regional airport someday, but potentially an international airport.

Comm. Bergdahl pointed out that in a communication dated January 10, 1996 from the FAA it is noted that the first action that must be done by the County Board is to decide to move or not to move the Airport. The second is a request for a release for FAA grant funding to move to K.I. Sawyer and third is developing a financial and reinvestment plan. The FAA will not approve funding for moving the Airport if it is not feasible.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 2, 1996.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
   a. Update from Dr. Randall Johnson, Health Department Director, on Marquette County Health Department Home Care Programs.
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   b. Court Reform Summary from the Michigan Association of County Clerks.
   d. Response from Representative David Anthony regarding Staffing Ratios for Nursing Homes.
   e. Communication from the Governor’s Office regarding Consideration of Joe Pietro for Reappointment to the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.
   f. Detroit Newspaper Article regarding Michigan Jobs Commission.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Adopt the County Community Services and Facilities Plan and the County Land Use/Value/Ownership Plan as Policy Documents.
    b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Reschedule the August 6, 1996 Regular Board Meeting to July 30, 1996.
    c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation for Appointment of Employer Delegate to the Annual MERS Meeting.
    d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Send a Letter to the Marquette County EDC Requesting They have a Compliance Audit Done on CDBG Funds.
    e. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Allow the Community Corrections Advisory Board to Come Directly to the County Board with a Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Proposal.
    f. An Amendment to Remonumentation Agreement with Engineering Consultants Inc.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a. [Handwritten note: proposal, agreement, letter]
    b. [Note: blank]
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.