The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 27, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice that the minutes of the August 13, 1996 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public. Jay Scherbenske, EDC Director, was present and spoke briefly regarding activities last week on the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base project. He stated that the proposal has been submitted to the Economic Development Administration and is in their review process. He anticipates hearing something from the EDA within the week. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of item 13) a letter from the Sheriff Dept. Deputies Union; and item 14) Committee of the Whole Budget Work Session.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 9, 1996 thru August 22, 1996 in the amount of $2,495,493.83 be approved.

The Committee considered the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Governance Interlocal Agreement creating the planning and redevelopment entity known as the Central Upper Peninsula Sawyer Redevelopment Authority. Gary Walker, Prosecutor, was present and explained that he has been unable at this point to negotiate any changes in the agreement as it is proposed. He explained that the agreement is legal, but cautioned the Board that the agreement calls for the governance authority to take ownership of all of the base, including the airport, and for the County to lease the airport back from the governance authority. Mr. Walker further explained that he would add the caveat that the County is concerned that the governance agreement ties the County into the base redevelopment project and gives us the larger share of economic liability.

Commissioners, staff, and Denise Beauchamp, West Branch Township, engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding their concerns with the agreement, especially the liabilities of the County and the airport property.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct staff to continue to negotiate with the three townships to work out language regarding ownership of the airport property and its buildings, and also the obligation of the County regarding financing.

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The Committee considered a recommendation for the Jail Control Room Addition Project from George Wright, Facilities Manager. The Jail Control Room Addition Project was designed to improve the operation of the control room. This will be accomplished by increasing the working area of the existing overcrowded Control Room, improving the viewing area of the lobby and the visiting room entrance by relocating one window and by providing a secure pass through for staff to receive items from the public without contact or opening secured doors. This project would then allow the Jail staff to totally control the inmate visitation program and walk-in traffic.

This project was advertised and out for bids the week of August 19th. Three bids were received, which were all over the budgeted amount of $12,900. The three bids are: Clark Construction - $17,535; P & M Contractors - $19,860; and Weessen Builders - $20,246. The Jail staff believes that all parts of this project are needed and their recommendation is that the Committee of the Whole consider using the $5,000 amount of the funded 1996 Jail Garage Painting
Project to do this project. The Jail Garage Painting Project, which was estimated at $6,800 and funded at $5,000 would not be able to be completed as presently funded. The Jail Garage Painting Project would then be requested for funding during the 1988 Capital Funding Process. Another option would be to use $5,000 from the Contingency Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, for the Jail Control Room Addition Project using the $5,000 amount of the funded 1996 Jail Garage Painting Project, and award the project to the low bidder, Clark Construction in the amount of $17,535.

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The Committee considered a memo from the Resource Management/Development Department Staff for the Community Forestry Grant Program. The Forestry Commission approved application for grant funding under the Community Forestry Grant Program. This program provides federal money which is administered by the Forest Management Division of the Michigan DNR on a 50/50 match basis with local units of government. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Eligible projects under these grants include, among others, forest inventory and comprehensive forestry management planning. Both of these items are proposed in the work program and budget for 1997. Combined project costs are $35,400. Successful grant application would reduce county expense by $17,700. Staff is requesting support from the Marquette County Board for submittal of this application.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support submittal of the application for the Community Forestry Grant Program.

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The Committee considered a communication from Joseph Maino, Sheriff, regarding a letter of agreement between the Upper Peninsula Rural Health Project and the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department for Project MCTV to coordinate an Upper Peninsula-wide substance abuse prevention media campaign. The funds will allow the County to continue efforts which began approximately one year ago. Initial funds were provided by through the Eastern Upper Peninsula Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency, with private matching funds received from CCI, Wisconsin Electric, and the Partnership for a drug-free Manistique Area.

Subsequent to that, the current MCTV program has approximately $4,200 included for production and air time of youth alcohol public service announcements. Sue Girard-Jackson, the MCTV Project Coordinator, has been working with agencies and coalitions UP-wide to garner support for this on-going project which is intended to be consistent and continuous throughout our area.

This $5,000 contribution from the U.P. Rural Health Project will allow for production and air time of public service announcements. These funds are contributed as 100% funding for the project with no matching requirements from the County.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the letter of agreement between the Upper Peninsula Rural Health Project and the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department for Project MCTV to coordinate an Upper Peninsula-wide substance abuse prevention media campaign.

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The Committee considered a communication from Jeff Nelson, W.M. Montgomery & Associates, regarding relocation of the County’s central dispatch radio equipment from the “Suicide Hill” site owned by Range Communications to another suitable location. W.M. Montgomery & Associates submitted a proposal to look into alternative arrangements. This is a change order to their existing contract which would expand the scope of their engineering work to include the relocation. There is an estimated $11,000 professional fee, and $3,000 in expenses.
Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, explained that money for the project is available in the Central Dispatch budget line item for Consulting Services, however the County Board had budgeted this amount to do the final plans and specifications for acquiring the communications equipment. There is not enough money budgeted to do both projects. Mr. Koshorek stated that the Central Dispatch Board will have to come to the County Board in the future asking for more money. This is a priority item that must be acted upon quickly.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the request from W. M. Montgomery & Associates for relocation of the Central Dispatch radio equipment.

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The Committee considered a resolution of support for the Holli Project. Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator has received a request from David Holli asking for a resolution from the County accepting the terms of the lease with a pledge to continue it after and if the Conversion Authority is dissolved. Legislation is in place which states the County is the successor agency to the Michigan Jobs Commission in the K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base Conversion activity, therefore Mr. Holli’s lease with the Conversion Authority would automatically come to the County Board. Sawyer Lumber Company wishes to obtain a leasehold interest in properties under the control of the Michigan Jobs Commission. Mr. Koshorek recommends the County Board approve a resolution of support in concept in continuation of the lease with the Sawyer Mill Project.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the resolution of support in concept to support the Sawyer Lumber Company in its activities on the former K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base and agrees to honor the terms of any lease entered into which the County is a successor.

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The Committee considered a communication from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding a Grant Agreement for the AIP Project for the purchase of Snow Removal Equipment. There are three sets of documents requiring approval and execution by the County Board. The first document is the FAA grant agreement between Marquette County and the FAA for the purpose of obtaining federal aid for the development of the Marquette County Airport, in the amount of $382,406 and applicable resolution. The second document is the contract agreement with MDOP for providing $12,500 of State grant funds and administration of the project. The third set of documents is the Agreement for Transfer of Entitlement funds.

The local share of the project costs will be paid from $32,500 of PFC funds authorized by FAA for this project. There is $488,099 of FY94 federal entitlement funds, which have to be obligated by the end of September 1996 or returned to the Treasury. As indicated in the FAA grant agreement, $382,406 of these funds will be used for our snow removal equipment project. There is not a project ready to use the remaining $105,693 of the entitlement funds by then. The FAA and the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics have requested we agree to transfer of these remaining funds to Ironwood for a portion of the cost of snow removal equipment for their airport. Mr. Pawley recommends approval of transferring these funds to Ironwood.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the following: the Grant Agreement for the AIP Project for Purchase of Snow Removal Equipment in the amount of $382,406; the Contract Agreement with MDOT for $12,500 of State grant funds and administration of the project; and the Agreement for Transfer of Entitlement Funds to Ironwood for a portion of the cost of snow removal equipment for their airport in the amount of $105,693.

The Committee considered a letter received from the Sheriff’s Department Deputies Union regarding negotiations. A similar letter was received in May, and Randall Girard, Human Resources Director, was directed to respond indicating the availability of the negotiating team. Chairperson Corkin stated that the Board is always available to negotiate.
It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct staff to send another letter to the deputies stating that the negotiating team is ready to meet whenever they are.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Frank Honkala, Co. Rd. 581, Ishpeming, addressed the Committee regarding the vote that the County Board took last Thursday moving the Airport to K.I. Sawyer. He stated there has been past action indicating that movement of the Airport would be based on a feasibility study. To his knowledge, there has been no feasibility study as of yet. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

Chairperson Corkin announced that Mr. Steven Powers, newly hired Marquette County Administrator, will begin employment with Marquette County on September 3, 1996.

Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, explained that he is willing to give an orientation to Mr. Powers, beginning with Randell Girard, Human Resources Director, his staff, and other departments. Mr. Powers has already indicated that he would like to meet early on with all Department Heads, including Elected Officials. Chairperson Corkin thanked Ron Koshorek for his dedication and hard work the past five months as Interim County Administrator.

Chairperson Corkin briefly reported on the Michigan Association of Counties Conference which he and Comm. Braamse attended.

7:12 p.m. - Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess before beginning the Committee of the Whole Budget Work Session.

The Committee commenced its Budget Work Session for the 1997 budget at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Chairperson Corkin explained that four departments requested budget hearings. The Marquette County Airport requested the County Board to reconsider reducing the Airport Fund by $40,000 from their requested amount; the County Clerk’s Office requested that a half-time position be reinstated to full-time; Capital Outlay needs for District Court, including a fax machine, security plexi-glass, and miscellaneous office furniture; and the Marquette County Health Department requested a total appropriation of $550,000. ($450,000 in new money, plus $38,000 in cigarette tax money, and hopefully $100,000 will be a fund balance for next years budget).

The Committee discussed security for all courts. A memo was distributed from Edward A. Quinnell, Circuit Judge, regarding a Security Staff Person. One aspect of the 21st Century Commission Project has to do with security in the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex. The 21st Century Commission is not making any specific budgetary requests for this year, but wanted to alert the Board that there will be a request for some funds so that a security officer can be provided for these two buildings. Judge Quinnell asked that the Board keep this request in mind when approving the budget.

Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, pointed out that Mr. Powers, County Administrator, requested $10,000 in the budget for strategic planning.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve FY 1997 Recommended General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund Budget as presented by Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, at the Annual Meeting to be held on October 8, 1996.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branan
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, August 27, 1996, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
   MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 13, 1996.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. KI Sawyer Air Force Base Governance Agreement.
7. Recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, to Award Bid of Jail
   Control Room Remodeling Project.
8. Memo from Resource Management/Development Department regarding the
   Community Forestry Grant Program.
9. Communication from Sheriff Joseph Maino regarding an Agreement Between the
   Upper Peninsula Rural Health Project and the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department
   for Project MCTV to Coordinate an Upper Peninsula-Wide Substance Abuse
   Prevention Media Campaign.
10. Communication regarding Relocation of the County’s Central Dispatch Radio
    Equipment from the Suicide Hill Site to Another Suitable Location.
12. Grant Agreement for AIP Project for Purchase of Snow Removal Equipment.
13. [Signature]
14. [Signature]
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.