The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 7, 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 Annual Equalization Meeting held on April 2, 1996 and the Regular Board Meeting held on April 16, 1996 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Dwight S. Barry, President, AFSCME Local 2756, Deputies Union, was present and contended that the County Board has received inaccurate and incomplete data relative to the Deputies Union proposal and their position in the labor market study. Mr. Barry distributed a copy of the Deputies Union settlement offer with graphs showing current position in the labor market, and graphs ranking other County positions in the same labor market. These graphs show County positions to be on the high end of the labor market while the Sheriff’s Deputies are on the low end. Because of this Mr. Barry believes that the Deputies Union offer is a valid and reasonable proposal. Mr. Barry suggested that Commissioners after reviewing the information a County Commissioner ought to be part of the negotiating process. The Deputies Union have received only one proposal from the County negotiating team and await an official response from the County Commissioners.

Sue Rader, Representing AFSCME Local 2914, Health Department, noted in the County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of April 16th that the Board will not negotiate with the Health Department Union, that they must negotiate through the Health Department Negotiating Team, and further the County Board has set parameters for the Health Department Administration to negotiate within and has faith in their ability to negotiate a fair contract. Local 2914 has never asked that the Board of Commissioners negotiate with them, but all along has been negotiating with the Health Department Administrating Team. They also realize the Board of Commissioners sets the parameters, however, the present wages are far below the average established in the last Morley Study and obviously not considered within the parameters because the County Board thinks a new wage/benefits study is the answer, and that it can be accomplished in 120 days.

Ms. Rader questioned how much will the study cost? AFSCME is skeptical about a new study for which no parameters are set. Local 2914, in an effort to settle the contract made very serious concessions last evening only to have the Administrative Team reject the proposal and ask for more concessions. They cannot make any further concessions and have requested a mediation date to be set. What price do Health Department Employees have to pay to be public servants? If wage equity is the issue, why will the County Board only recognize a new wage study? Dr. Johnson, Health Department Director, was provided an 8% salary increase. The parameters set by the Board of Commissioners seems to be more flexible for him than the people employed under him.

Ms. Rader suggested the County Board do the wage benefit study but use it for negotiating the next labor contract. In the meantime, the Health Department Union will go back to informational picketing and media releases. They are serious about the contract and want to be treated fairly.

Matt Gallo, 135 W. Ohio, an employee at Simmons Airlines, requested that the County Board seriously consider allowing Simmons Airlines to relocate at K.I. Sawyer. Mr. Gallo distributed a copy of a news article in Air Transport World Magazine explaining how AMR’s four regional subsidiaries have more to do than just feed the parent airline. The employees of Simmons are capable of fixing many other types of aircraft besides those flown by Simmons. If this move takes place AMR Eagle will be able to expand their heavy maintenance facilities and nearly double the number of employees by locating at K.I. Sawyer.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  MAY 7, 1996

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

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions and changes: Late Addition 11a) A recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, to Set Up a Discussion with American Eagle Concerning Their Expansion Needs and further that this item be moved up ahead of Action Item 10a. 11b) A Request from Chairperson Corkin to be Allowed to Attend a Meeting on the EDC Grant in Washington D.C., and 11c) The Appointment of Comm. Seppanen as an Alternate to the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Committee.

PRIVILEGED COMMENT

Charles Prusi, Negaunee Township Supervisor, read the following letter:

May 1, 1996

Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Courthouse Complex
Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Members:

I must apologize for some misinformation I inadvertently gave the County Board in my statement under Public Comment Tuesday, April 23, 1996. I stated that the Marquette County Airport had 18,000+ operations in 1995 or about 23% of the capacity of 230,000 operations per year. The correct number of operations should have been 53,200 which still calculates out to the 23% of capacity which I stated.

I would like to see the KI Sawyer conversion Authority have success in converting KI into a thriving industrial community. They have an opportunity such as very few communities in the U.S. can every dream about. However, I don’t buy the argument that the Marquette County Airport is in any way key to their success in developing the base. Would KI Sawyer simply blossom if they pirated the County Airport out of Negaunee Township? I don’t believe the hype, half-truths and so-called potential they say KI Sawyer has. I feel there are a lot of realistic problems with this proposal.

Mr. Joe Pietro made a fairly big issue of the fact that KI had been licensed for two years by the FAA to operate as a General Aviation Airport. Fine and dandy. Mr. Jack Roemer of the FAA has said that KI Sawyer could take care of commercial cargo needs with the licensing they already have. The fact that the air travelers of Marquette County would have to travel to KI Sawyer for flights would not be of any benefit to the KI people in promoting the base. It would be a disadvantage to the people of Marquette County.

I would also like to point out some omissions in the first two Griener feasibility studies which will present a different light on the potential of the present Marquette County Airport. There is a 40-acre industrial or air park shown on the Airport Building Area Plan (exhibit 11-8) Master Plan Report of 1986. Included in the park are 11 undeveloped lots, five of which front on the future apron area. The south side of the airport area show four 100’x 100’ future hangers plus two 60’x210’ future "T" hangars. The present terminal has two (2) loading gates, only one (1) of which is being used. There is also rental office space available in the terminal.
Mr. Malinsowski's master plan report of 1986 forecasts the airport growth would reach 63,386 operations by the year 2005 based on the following projected growth:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>OPERATIONS</th>
<th>GROWTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985-1990</td>
<td>43,288</td>
<td>11.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990-1995</td>
<td>49,472</td>
<td>11.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995-2000</td>
<td>55,656</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2005</td>
<td>63,386</td>
<td>12.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considering actual growth in the county is not approaching these figures, the Airport should have room to expand for years to come. (NOTE: 1995 total operations were only 53,200)

Mr. DeJulianne's letter to the Mining Journal stated "additional spending at this airport of limited space would be a very poor investment for the County." My reply is simply that he doesn't know the potential for expansion are available here.

I believe it was a disservice to the people of Marquette County and the Marquette County Board for the Griener Consulting Team to present such a one-sided report and call it a feasibility study.

I will be the first to admit my agenda is that of the welfare of Negaunee Township. Moving the airport would do to Negaunee Township what the closing of KI Sawyer did to the Sawyer area. Moving the airport and the people that go with it to KI Sawyer would be a very expensive experiment with no economic benefits to Marquette County of Negaunee Township. The taxpayers would be saddled with the cost of this mistake and loss of jobs and revenues for years to come.

As for the third Griener report which I reviewed last week, their ideas for the reuse of the Marquette County Airport are nothing more than the same proposals they couldn't sell at KI Sawyer. It might be time to take into account the economic picture of Marquette County as a whole. If the Sawyer people can't convince industries to move onto the base with all the advantages they already have, perhaps they need to step back and take a realistic second look. Move the industries around in Marquette County is not the answer.

It does not make any sense to move an airport that is operating at less than 25% of its capacity to an area almost four times its present size. It doesn't make sense to move the airport to a larger area when you have space at the County Airport to expand for aviation and industry for many years to come. It doesn't make sense to move the airport from the populations centers, (Marquette, Negaunee, Ishpeming) to an area where perhaps someday there might be a viable center of business and industrial activity.

It doesn't make sense to move the Airport off the only 4-lane highway in Marquette County to an area on a 2-lane highway ten or twelve miles farther from the population centers.

It doesn't make sense to be so concerned about companies (who remain nameless) that will "probably" locate to KI Sawyer. We should consider the economic impact of the companies currently doing business at the present airport location.

It doesn't make sense to duplicate facilities you already have. The present airport facilities are in excellent condition despite what Larry Coehoorn and Joe DeJulianne say. These facilities are not decrepit and in need of repair. The Marquette County Airport Board should refocus on operating and maintaining the facilities we now have. There have never been questions about the safety or capacity until the Sawyer proponents concocted them.

We should be more concerned about companies like Federal Express, UPS and others. They have indicated to me that in spite of low lease rates being offered at KI Sawyer, a move would cost them money. It's understandable that if they have to log an additional 15 or more miles with an empty truck it would be more expensive. Also, the fact that they do about 85% of their business in Marquette, Ishpeming and Negaunee, why wouldn't they want to be centrally located?
The cost of moving the airport (about $8.12.5 million) plus the millage that Mr. Grashoff (Sands Township attorney) says it needed to operate at KI Sawyer makes this an expense the County cannot afford. If the grant money they seek was in the bank tomorrow, it still wouldn’t make sense to move.

The Marquette County Airport should not be moved. The conversion Authority should look elsewhere to make their project feasible.

Sincerely,

Charles Prusi
Supervisor

* * * *

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   a. Letter from the Marquette County Townships Association Urging County Board Support of Powell Township in their Tax Litigation Against the Huron Mountain Club.
   b. Information regarding the Annual Big Bay Relay Race, Saturday, May 11, 1996 from Pam Clark, Race Director.
   d. Memo from David Payant, Civil Counsel, regarding Environment Impact Statement for Cataract Project on the Escanaba River.
   e. Court Reform Update.
   f. EMA Reimbursement Request Report from Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager.
   g. Road Commission for the Month of March 1996.
   h. Article from the Detroit Free Press: Conservative Think Tank Calls for Axing Jobs Commission.

ACTION ITEMS

11a) The County Board considered a recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Interim County Administrator, regarding an AMR Eagle proposal which was presented to a group of County Representatives on May 2, 1996. AMR is unveiling this proposition, coincidental to their announcement of discontinuing their airline service to the Marquette County Airport. AMR’s proposal is seeking County assistance, financial and otherwise, to local an expanded heavy maintenance facility at K.I. Sawyer. They wish to enter into negotiations with the community and accomplish a commitment in 60 days for a project that would be completed in six months.

Mr. Koshorek pointed out that the loss of existing American Eagle staff would be a blow to the County’s economy, however, losing an opportunity to expand from the current employment base would be equally significant. The AMR proposal contains some significant guarantees to be absorbed by the County. He recommends that the County enter into discussions with AMR requesting more details from them, and that these discussions with the County be represented by Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, David Payant, Civil Counsel, Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, and Mr. Koshorek, Administrator.

Comm. Rapport believed this proposal to expand the Heavy Maintenance Facility speaks well for the labor force in Marquette County and gave the labor force credit for this opportunity. This project will need the help of the whole community, including local government, financial institutions, business, and Northern Michigan University. We all stand to gain but must share in the risk.
Comm. Seppanen also felt this is good news regarding K.I. Sawyer and hopes it has a positive outcome. He believes it to be obvious the County Board consensus is to meet the 60 day deadline.

Comm. Joseph thought that the Administrator’s recommendation should also include two County Commissioners for discussions with AMR.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that Ron Koshorek worked hard and solved the Holli Lumber Mill difficulties in a couple of weeks. If you asked Dave Holli the truth about who cooperated with his lumber project he would tell you that it was the County of Marquette but that was never reported that way in the newspaper. Chairperson Corkin is proud of the things that the County Board strives to do and will continue to strive to do. If this project is feasible he is confident a commitment can be reached within 60 days. The County will do its part but six out of the eight items involved require approval by the Base Conversion Authority and the Michigan Jobs Commission. Another major factor is the proposed EDA Grant.

Comm. Bergdahl spoke with Senator Don Koivisto who pledged to help with the project. Skandia Township is behind it. There are at least 20 people who live in the West Branch/Skandia area who work for AMR Eagle must drive to the present County Airport. So it should be no problem for anyone from Ishpeming or Negaunee to drive to K.I. Sawyer to go to work. Mr. Bergdahl contends that now is the time to act. We must think positive. There are 23 other Air Force Bases looking at this project. We have 60 days not 61 days to make a commitment. He urged that we roll up our sleeves and get busy and get the project going and work out any problems later.

Comm. Minelli added that this is an opportunity for Simmons to provide maintenance for planes bigger than the ATR’s. Hopefully Simmons will make a commitment to invest in Marquette County for years to come and as a result many more business could result.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board immediately enter into discussions with AMR regarding their proposal to locate and expanded heavy maintenance facility at K.I. Sawyer and that the County Board be represented in its discussions by Hal Pawley, Airport Manger, David Payant, Civil Counsel, Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, and two County Commissioners.

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

10a) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the State Remonumentation Grant Contracts, Professional Services Agreement, with Engineering Consultants in the amount of $20,490 and another contract with Sundberg & Carlson in the amount of $97,000.

10b) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the reinstatement of the $30 per diem to the County Road Commission along with the salary already approved during last year’s budget process.

10c) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to support the Marquette Township DDA/TIF Boundary Development Plan changes.

10d) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt a resolution endorsing and supporting the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body as follows:
RESOLUTION
ALGER-MARQUETTE HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING BODY

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is committed to the coordination of human services for children and families; and

WHEREAS, the commitment is demonstrated by the collaborative efforts made by the human service systems within the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the State is recommending that each community will have a single multipurpose collaborative body capable of responding to a rapidly changing environment for decision-making, local collaborative planning and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, Alger and Marquette Counties share a number of human service agencies and organizations including Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health, Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District, Alger Marquette Community Action Board, Six County Employment Alliance and others; and

WHEREAS, these agencies and organizations have cooperated with other, county-specific human services agencies and organizations to organize a body serving the Alger and Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body; and

WHEREAS, the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body has been designated by the State of Michigan as the multi-purpose collaborative body serving Alger and Marquette Counties.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners does hereby endorse and recognize the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body as the local, multi-purpose collaborative organization for state sponsored interagency initiatives, joint planning for state human services system reform and development of local human services reform on behalf of children and families.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 1996
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

10e) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the resolution supporting the Commission on Aging request for a waiver for consideration by the full board of the UPAAA as follows:

RESOLUTION
MARQUETTE COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette is committed to the coordination of human services to its senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Aging, the County’s Department for Aging Affairs, has developed a unique service delivery system that allows all seniors in the County access to services, especially rural and isolated seniors; and

WHEREAS, dollars generated by the Commission on Aging are distributed to its four service districts on a formula basis using population and geographic size as key factors assuring equal distribution of services countywide; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging’s (UPAAA) system for granting funds through an open and competitive process provides the safeguards required by the Office of Services to the Aging; and
WHEREAS, the Commission on Aging defines the uniqueness of its service delivery system for in-home and personal services in its application submitted for consideration in UPAAA’s selection process; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Aging has requested a waiver to subcontract directly with the in-county multipurpose senior centers for the direct provision of service if its proposal is selected through the open and competitive process by UPAAA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County board of Commissioners does hereby support the Commission on Aging’s request for waiver and asks for reconsideration of this request by the full board of UPAAA.

Adopted this 7th day of May, 1996
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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LATE ADDITIONS

11b) Chairperson Corkin requested permission from the County Board to attend a meeting in Washington D.C. with U.S. Senator Carl Levin, Senator Spencer Abraham, and Congressman Bart Stupak. The meeting is regarding the $12.8 million EDA Grant which must be acted on before October 1st. Representatives from the three Townships and also Comm. Bergdahl on behalf of the EDC will also be going to this meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Aresnault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize Chairperson Corkin to attend the meeting in Washington D.C. regarding the EDA Grant.

11c) It was moved by Comm. Aresnault, seconded by Comm. Minelli and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board appoint Comm. Seppanen as an alternate on the Alger-Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Honkala, Co. Rd. 581, South of Ishpeming, supported comments made by Negaunee Township Supervisor Prusi. He sympathizes with the Simmons workers but pointed out we must look at a much larger issue than just the move of Simmons to the Airport. He supports having two Commissioners on the Committee meeting with Simmons and hopes that that Committee will consider the costs in moving and operating the Airport. There appears to be no firm commitment from AMR Eagle on exactly what they want. It is possible that estimated costs to run K.I. Sawyer could double and if the County must go to the taxpayers for additional millage it will have trouble passing.

Dick Pierson, Lakewood Lane, Harvey, has been a 12 year employee at AMR. He thanked the County Board for their support and appreciates their understanding. Simmons employees are not necessarily looking to move the Airport although they do need a runway and navigational aids but do not need a tower. This move will be a catalyst for many spin off businesses. We will no longer be Simmons Airlines but part of AMR Eagle and we want to bring in additional aircraft from other airlines to be serviced at K.I. Sawyer.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that moving the Airport is a separate issue from expanding the AMR Maintenance Facilities and are not necessarily connected to each other.

Chairperson Corkin also read a letter from Dave Stolberg, Director of Heavy Maintenance at Simmons, thanking the County Board for its support and inviting Commissioners to tour the Simmons Maintenance Facility from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, no appointment needed.

Comm. Seppanen contended that he sees a connection between the move of the Airport and the expansion of the Simmons Maintenance Facility. This would play a positive part in the overall move for him.

Comm. Bergdahl pointed out that the ground maintenance crew of Simmons Airlines can manufacture just about anything for the Airline industry. The 60 day deadline for a commitment is realistic.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenaault and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Rapport, Arsenaault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Seppanen, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go into closed session to discuss the Courthouse Union Contract.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear commission chambers at 7:41 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Board came back into open session at 7:45 P.M. Jacki Lykins, Chapter Chairperson, AFSCME Courthouse Local 2914, was present and explained that she does not intend to sign the collective bargaining agreement. It has come to her attention that the County Board of Commissioners recently allowed the non-union employees at the County Health Department to retain their "opt out" for health insurance. This issue was a very sensitive issue to the Courthouse Employees and was discussed repeatedly during their negotiating session. It was made very clear to the Courthouse Union that the "opt out" for health insurance was gone for all County Employees whether they be union, non-union, or elected officials.

She now feels the Union's negotiating team was mislead during the final negotiating session. The employers assurance in regard to the insurance issue was a key determining factor in the Union's decision to reach an agreement. Until the issue is resolved in a fashion acceptable to the Courthouse Chapter 2914 she in all good conscience cannot sign the labor agreement.

Comm. Arsenaault pointed out that the County Board also took all the cuts in the health proposal.

Chairperson Corkin further explained that the County Board was informed that it would save money by continuing the "opt out" for the Non-union Health Department issue because they were dealing with only six people. They were not knowingly trying to undermine the labor agreement bargained for with the Courthouse Union.

Ms. Lykins added that she has found it very hard to explain to Courthouse employees that the "opt out" did not save money at the Courthouse.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Braamse, Arsenaault, Bergdahl, Joseph, Minelli, Rapport, Seppanen, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go back into closed session to discuss the Courthouse Union Labor Contract.
Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear Commission Chambers at 8:08 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Board came back into open session. No action was forthcoming as a result of the closed session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, May 7, 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:
   a. Charles Prusi, Supervisor, Negaunee Township, regarding Marquette County Airport.
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   a. Letter from the Marquette County Townships Association Urging County Board Support of Powell Township in their Tax Litigation Against the Huron Mountain Club.
   b. Information regarding the Annual Big Bay Relay Race, Saturday, May 11, 1996 from Pam Clark, Race Director.
   d. Memo from David Payant, Civil Counsel, regarding Environment Impact Statement for Cataract Project on the Escanaba River.
   e. Court Reform Update.
   f. EMA Reimbursement Request Report from Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager.
   g. Road Commission for the Month of March 1996.
   h. Article from the Detroit Free Press: Conservative Think Tank Calls for Axing Jobs Commission.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Remonumentation Grant Contracts.
    b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Reimplement Per Diem to the Road Commission Along With Salary.
    c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation Supporting Marquette Township DDA/TIF Boundary Development Plan Changes.
    d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation Endorsing the Alger/Marquette Human Services Coordinating Body.
    e. Committee of the Whole Recommendation Supporting the Commission on Aging's Waiver Request for Grant Application to the UPAAA.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a. 
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. CLOSED SESSION: To Discuss Labor Negotiations - Courthouse Union Contract.
15. ADJOURNMENT.