BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  MAY 14, 1996

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 14, 1996 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on April 23, 1996 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Jim Cihak, Probation/Parole Department, was present and explained that he and Tal Lapins were present to discuss the late addition regarding the Victim Restitution/Probation Oversight Fund.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 16) A Resolution Opposing the Anti-Hunting Ballot Proposal, Item 17) The Victim Restitution/Probation Oversight Fund and Item 18) The FY 1996 State and Local Assistance Grant Agreement for the County Emergency Program.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 19, 1996, through May 9, 1996 in the amount of $2,209,163.84 be approved.

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The Committee considered a budget amendment providing the funds necessary to complete the recruitment process for County Administrator prepared by Randell Girard, Human Resources Director. The budget includes anticipated costs for consulting expenses, background investigation, and estimated interview expenses for the final candidate. Costs are estimated to be approximately $16,000 but Mr. Girard believes the administrator recruitment process will cost less.

The Board also reviewed a billing for services and expenses for KRC Consultants in the search of the new administrator for the period February 19, 1996 through April 1, 1996 in the amount of $2,427.21. These funds would be paid from the recommended administrator recruitment budget.

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 establish the Administrator Recruitment Budget in the amount of $16,000 by adopting the necessary budget amendment.

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The Committee considered a memo from Alan Feldhauser, Planner, regarding proposed revisions to the Solid Waste Management Act. Mr. Feldhauser was present and explained that draft legislation (HB 5830) would amend part 115 of PA 451 and provide for sweeping changes. Of greatest significance would be the elimination of solid waste planning at the State and County level; an increasing in licensing, permitting, and administration costs; and the elimination of flow control.

In addition to the elimination of County planning, the amendment would allow cities and townships to enact ordinances to regulate the collection and handling of solid waste within their own jurisdictions independently. This is contrary to everything that was accomplished previously by uniting the units of government. The two-year licensing fee would increase from $100 to $1,000 with increases in other permits as well. All landfills in the State would contribute towards a program administration fee of $1,040,000 per year, exact cost to Marquette County yet unknown.
Another concern is the elimination of flow control through these amendments. Currently the import of waste from outside the County would not be permitted without specific intergovernmental agreements which are provided for in the County Solid Waste Management Plan. Under the new legislation out-of-county as well as out-of-state solid waste could be accepted at any approved site within the County. Even more significant is the potential for export of waste from within the County. The most efficient and economical operation of our landfill relies upon maintaining sufficient volume which requires participation from all units.

Resource Management Staff recommends that this legislation be opposed.

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 oppose House Bill 5830 which would amend the Solid Waste Management Act and that Marquette County's concerns and questions be forwarded to Representative Susan Munsell's office (sponsor of the Bill) and to our Upper Peninsula State Legislators.

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The Committee considered contract for police services between the Marquette County Sheriff's Department and Tilden Township and the Charter Township of Marquette. Under Sheriff Michael Quayle was present to explain that the Tilden Township Contract provides for police protection at a rate of $27.82 per hour for 1996. The Township agrees to purchase a minimum of 20 hours per week during the contract period from January 1 to December 31, 1996.

Marquette Township also is purchasing police protection services at the rate of $27.82 per hour but agrees to purchase a minimum of 56 hours per week during the one year contract period.

Mr. Quayle pointed out that at this hourly rate the County comes out slightly ahead. Comm. Arsenault added that he spoke with representatives of Marquette Township and they are very pleased with the police services being provided by the Marquette County Sheriff's Department.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Braasm, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Contract for Police Services between the Marquette County Sheriff's Department and Tilden Township and Marquette Township as presented.

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The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, May 14, 1996, they considered a verbal recommendation from Civil Counsel David Payant regarding the appraisal of the Republic Mine Properties. Civil Counsel Payant explained that according to law the properly shall be assessed by the State Geologist. The County has no authority to contribute funding towards the assessment of the Republic Mine, it is up to the State of Michigan to do so.

Civil Counsel Payant recommends that the County Board send a letter to the State Geologist requesting action on the Republic Mine appraisal, should they refuse, then the County Board could consider litigation.

Comm. Joseph questioned if Staff has met with CCI officials regarding this matter? He urged that CCI be invited to participate in the appraisal process to perhaps avoid litigation.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Braasm, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to the State Geologist requesting an appraisal of the Republic Mine Property.

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The Committee considered a draft of the By-Laws of the Central Dispatch Authority.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that these By-Laws be forwarded to next week's County Board meeting without a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

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The Committee considered a Michigan Jobs Commission memorandum of May 1, 1996 from Jim Storey. The memorandum indicated that the Chicago Region of the EDA would receive an additional $8 to $10 million for allocation this year. Chairperson Corkin, through investigation with Congressman Stupak’s Office, found that Mr. Storey’s information is without merit.

The Committee also received a letter from David F. Witschi, Director, Economic Adjustment Division, Michigan Jobs Commission, which indicated that the May 1st memorandum from Mr. Storey contains serious misinformation regarding the potential availability of economic development administration funds.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communications on file.

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The Committee considered a request from William Malinowski, Greiner, Inc., for suggested reuse alternatives or a list of additional or substitute alternatives, for Greiner to review and continue working on the Marquette County Reuse Study.

Comm. Rapport contended that she was extremely disappointed in the Working Paper No. 1 and thought that putting the study on file was an appropriate action. It was clear that Commissioners didn’t like the prison proposal and thought a golf course to be very redundant.

Comm. Joseph noted, by placing this request on file Greiner will discontinue the study. They are waiting for some kind of answer from the County Board.

Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, agreed that the consultant is looking some type of response to his ideas, however, he thought that Greiner was going to test the market. He suggested that the County Board tell Greiner what they do not want the property appraised for.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board respond to William Malinowski’s request by suggesting that an appraisal be done on the County Airport property without considering a golf course or a prison as reuse alternatives, but rather look at other alternatives in the area of housing development, office space, recreation, etc.

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The Committee considered a memo from John Korhonen, Ishpeming City Manager regarding Senior Citizen Center funding. Mr. Korhonen’s memo was attached to a recommended policy for County Board consideration and a preliminary draft letter from Attorney James Steward written on behalf of the Senior Citizen Center’s Ad Hoc Committee. The materials relate to the County Health Department competing for grant funds which are currently going to senior centers through the Commission on Aging.

Comm. Rapport contended that these documents have some inaccurate statements and half truths and would like these materials referred to the Board of Health for review and response.

Dr. Randall Johnson, Health Department Director, was present and distributed a letter in response to Mr. Steward’s letter and answered questions from the County Board. Dr. Johnson pointed out that if the County Board of Health does not apply for these grants then Marquette County may lose these funds entirely.

Comm. Seppanen would like to see the issue solved because our senior citizens would be the ones to lose out. It appears to be a disagreement between the Health Department and the Commission on Aging because there is an overlap in funding. The two departments must get together and work this matter out and there is a meeting scheduled for May 20th.

Comm. Arsenault pointed out that this is a smaller part of a bigger issue which is that State and Federal funds are shrinking and that competition is increasing. In Marquette County we have done things a little bit different than other counties and have used Senior Centers to provide services rather than service providers. There is disagreement between UPCAP and the Marquette County Board but Comm. Arsenault agrees that we must work this issue out or it will continue to return. He believes the County Board must also support their senior centers which have provided 20 years of service in Marquette County.
It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the preliminary draft letter and Dr. Johnson’s response be forwarded to the Health Department and the Commission on Aging for their consideration and review.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director, to expand the Health Department parking lot. Dr. Johnson was present and explained that as part of the 1996 budget development process they submitted a capital outlay request for expansion of the parking lot. The project was not included among those projects funded for 1996. However, as part of the plan for increased Health Department autonomy and financial self-sufficiency, the County Board did approve of a proposal to assign the “Service Center” building to the Health Department with the understanding that the Health Department would assume responsibility for all routine building related maintenance. At a meeting on December 1, 1995, attended by Administrator Dennis Alois, Gary Yoder, Don Aho, and himself, it was agreed that the needed expansion of the parking lot could be funded out of the “Services Center Fund.” Ron Koshorek, interim Administrator, has reviewed the project and explained that this project has been an ongoing capital need for several years. The design of the project has been completed and meets staff approval. The project cost is estimated to be $36,000. The Service Center Fund contains approximately $200,000 of uncommitted dollars.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the proposed expansion of the Health Department parking lot.

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The Committee considered a resolution opposing the 1996 Anti-Hunting Ballot Proposal by the Fund for Animals, CUB, and other anti-hunting organizations. Comm. Joseph questioned why the County Board should even consider such an issue. He believes hunting to be a matter of personal choice.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that hunting is a very popular activity in the Upper Peninsula and sportsman’s groups are opposed to this anti-hunting ballot proposal. He believed it is appropriate for the County Board to show the public where they stand on the issue.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Trudell, Arsenault, Minelli, Rapport, Seppanen, and Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Braamse, and Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the resolution opposing the Anti-Hunting Ballot Proposal.

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The Committee considered a proposal to change the distribution of the Victim Restitution/Probation Oversight funds. Tal Lapins, Marquette County Probation and Parole Director, was present and explained that the Michigan Office of Community Corrections has now been incorporated into the Michigan Department of Corrections. By virtue of this action, their office along with the 25th Circuit Court is recommending that the procedure for requesting funds from Victim Restitution/Probation Oversight Fund be changed. Both the 96th District Court and the Probate Court in Marquette County do not have the luxury of Victim Restitution Funds. Members of the Probation/Parole Department along with Circuit Court Judges Edward A. Quinnell and John R. Weber support the following recommendations:

1. All requests for disbursement from the Marquette County Victim Restitution/Probation Oversight Fund will be initially reviewed by the Field Supervisor of the Probation/Parole Office, then forwarded to the Circuit Judge for final approval.
2. The Marquette County Probation/Parole Office, along with Judge Quinnell, recommend that a disbursement of $6,000 from the Victim Restitution/Probation Oversight Fund be distributed as follows: $3,000 to the 96th District Court and $3,000 to the Marquette County Probate Court.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole refer the proposal to the next meeting of the Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board for their review and recommendation.

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* The Committee of the Whole considered the FY 1996 State and Local Assistance Grant Program from Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager. The State and Local Assistance Program reimburses Marquette County in an amount of up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefits for the County Emergency Program Manager. The tentative allocation for 1996 is $28,000.

Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, explained that this grant has been budgeted as revenue and authorized as salary for the Emergency Management Program.

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 of the FY 1996 State and Local Assistance Grant Agreement for the County Emergency Program and that the Chairperson be authorized to sign the agreement.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that on Friday, May 24, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. the Legislative Committee will meet in the Administrator’s Office. The Committee consists of Commissioners Joseph, Minelli, Rapport, and Corkin.

Chairperson Corkin reminded Commissioners that he and Comm. Bergdahl, a representing the EDC, will be going to Washington D.C. on Thursday with a meeting with our Federal Officials regarding the EDA Grant.

Comm. Joseph reported that there has been two meetings with the Committee that is meeting with AMR Eagle. The Michigan Jobs Commission has been at both meetings. They are making progress but many decisions are forthcoming.

Randell Girard, Human Services Director, announced that he needs perspective dates from Commissioners for interviews of Administrator candidates. Interviews will hopefully be conducted the last two weeks of May.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Braamse and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Rapport, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Seppanen, Trudell and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss pending litigation with the Airport Commission: Northern Michigan Aviation vs. Marquette County.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 6:58 p.m. to clear commission chambers.
The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 7:30 P.M. No action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Trudell, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Rapport, Seppanen, and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss labor negotiations:

A. Health Department
B. Sheriff’s Deputies

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear commission chambers at 7:32 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 8:06 p.m. No action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 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. Contract for Police Services Between Tilden Township and the Marquette County Sheriff's Department.
9. Contract for Police Services Between Marquette Township and the Marquette County Sheriff's Department.
10. Republic Mine Appraisal Recommendation from Civil Counsel (Information Forthcoming at Meeting).
13. Marquette County Airport Reuse Alternatives.
14. Policy For Senior Citizen Center Funding.
16. 
17. 
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. CLOSED SESSION: Labor Negotiations
   a. Health Department
   b. Sheriff's Deputies
22. ADJOURNMENT.