The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 28, 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. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 14, 1996 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Minelli, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 10, 1996, through May 23, 1996 in the amount of $895,365.12 be approved.

* * * * * *

The Committee considered a Flood Plain Resolution and Intergovernmental Agreement for Ewing Township from Peter Van Steen, Senior Planner, CUPPAD Regional Commission. Ewing Township wishes to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, however, assurances need to be given to FEMA that structures located within a flood plain are built according to flood plain construction code requirements. Construction code enforcement in Ewing Township is maintained by Marquette County.

Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, pointed out that the Resolution and the Intergovernmental Agreement have been reviewed by Marquette County Resource Management Staff and are found to be acceptable.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and adopt the Flood Plain Management Resolution as requested.

* * * * * *

The Committee considered a resolution to establish prisoner room and board and medical charges and a policy and procedure for the administration of the program. Cpt. Ernie Grasso, Jail Administrator, was present along with Sheri Juchemich, the new Prison Reimbursement Officer, to explain the program and answer questions.

Mr. Grasso commended Ms. Juchemich for her work, she prepared the documents presented to the County Board along with the necessary forms in two weeks. Mr. Grasso pointed out that approximately 50% of inmates in the Marquette County Jail have some ability to pay. This program does not require action through the Court but the Jail will notify them directly and they will complete the necessary form. All inmates will be charged at the same rate, however, collection problems and indigency will be dealt with after. The Sheriff’s Department will provide quarterly reports on the Jail Reimbursement Program to the County Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Resolution establishing prisoner room and board and medical charges and the policy and procedures for the administration thereof as presented.

* * * * *
The Committee considered a recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, regarding the renovation of the restroom at Big Bay Harbor. Mr. Koshorek explained that the County has received $15,000 from the Michigan Waterways Commission to renovate the restrooms bringing them up to barrier free standards. Bids were taken for the project and the lowest bid is $7,700 more than the amount offered by the Waterways Commission. The bids were competitive, however, contractors generally want to hedge a little on bids for reconstruction. Also, the County’s estimates for the project were two years old when the original budget was adopted.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Trudell, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the restroom renovation at Big Bay Harbor, bid to be awarded to P & M Contractors of Ishpeming, excess funds of $8,000 to be provided from the PIF Fund.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a Resolution from Ontonagon County Supporting the video Taping and/or Teleconferencing of Training Seminars and Conferences.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a similar resolution.

* * * * *

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote to place on file an invitation to open house at the Marquette Branch Prison, Thursday, May 30, 1996, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

* * * * *

Chairperson Corkin read a resolution honoring Paul Argall who was recently selected the Michigan Small Business Person of the Year.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole send the resolution to the County Board meeting next week for its adoption and direct Chairperson Corkin to present a plaque with the resolution mounted on it at a special luncheon held on Paul Argall’s honor on Thursday, May 30th.

* * * * *

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Rapport reported on the Legislative Committee meeting held on Friday, May 24th. Mr. Don Ryan, representing Cleveland-Cliffs was present and discussion centered on why Minnesota tax structure is different from ours. Other topics discussed were the Mine Reclamation and Republic Mine appraisal. Comm. Rapport felt the meeting was a good beginning.

Civil Counsel David Payant, who also attended the meeting, pointed out that Mr. Ryan claimed taxes should be lower in Michigan because it costs more to mine iron ore in Michigan. The Mining Company has to dig much deeper for the ore body and remove much much over burden.

Chairperson Corkin reported that he testified in Escanaba against the Hoffman Bills which would in effect do away with road commissions. There was a strong showing of U.P. support. Representatives around the Upper Peninsula strongly believe the road commissions are doing a good job and they need more financial support.

Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, reported on the AMR Eagle negotiations. The parties involved which include Marquette County, NMU, and the Michigan Jobs Commission, are putting together their responses to AMR Eagle’s proposal. They met this morning and the County is also preparing a counter-proposal for the next meeting scheduled for Thursday morning.
The Committee considered a request for a Closed Session from Cyndi Beaudry, Risk Management Specialist, to discuss pending litigation, RE: a) Brandon vs. Walker and the County of Marquette, and b) Rochon vs. County of Marquette.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Angeli, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Rapport, Seppanen, Trudell, and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into Closed Session to discuss pending litigation: a) Brandon vs. Walker and the County of Marquette, and b) Rochon vs. County of Marquette.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear commission chambers at 6:36 p.m.

* * * * *

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 7:02 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Minelli, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appropriate $24,000 from Contingency to the Litigation Fund.

* * * * *

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Don Potvin, Front Street, Marquette, and a member of the Community Mental Health Board of Directors, was present. Mr. Potvin requested that members of the County Board support him at tomorrow night’s (May 29th) meeting of the Community Mental Health Board of Directors. When he first became a member of the CMH Board he was told that the average for the salaries being paid at CMH amounted to about $50,000. Since that time he has got different figures and the situation now is that the variance can be as high as $436,000.

Mr. Potvin further explained that what is being proposed by the CMH Board is a two tiered schedule where new hires will be on a new schedule and the old hires will continue along the old schedule and continue to receive overpay until they either quit or retire. The CMH Board is also proposing that the two tier schedules be merged over 10 years. Mr. Potvin believed 10 years is too long of a period and is going to attempt to get it down to a 7 year period and noting that 5 years has already passed.

Comm. Potvin also suggested that next time there are appointments to be made to the Mental Health Board that several County Commissioners be put on it.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that the County Board has made its wishes known to the Community Mental Health Board in the past. They would like to see the issue resolved fairly but really it is up to the CMH Board to resolve the matter. The County Board has appropriated approximately $250,000 a year to CMH for many years now.

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

* * * * *

The Committee considered the Administrator recruitment process with K. Ross Childs, Consultant. Mr. Childs pointed out that the five final applicants have yet to be decided and requested a Closed Session to determine the final five applicants.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Trudell, Angeli, Arsenault, Braamse, Joseph, Minelli, Rapport, Seppanen and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss the Administrator recruitment process and select the final five applicants.
Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 7:25 p.m. to clear commission chambers.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 8:10 p.m.
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 accept the final five applicants for County Administrator, the list to be revealed at the full Board meeting, and also that the interviews of the final five candidates be scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 14th and 15th, 1996.

* * * * *

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. Floodplane Resolution for Ewing Township from Peter Van Steen, Senior Planner, CUPPAD Regional Commission.

Resolution: Prison Room and Board Medical Charges from Sheriff Joseph Maino.

7. Recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Interim Administrator, regarding Restroom Renovation at Big Bay Harbor.

8. Ontonagon County Resolution Supporting the Video Taping or Teleconferencing of Training Seminars.

9. Invitation to an Open House at Marquette Branch Prison, Thursday, May 30th, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

10. CLOSED SESSION: to Discuss Pending Litigation
   a. Brandon vs. Walker and Marquette County
   b. Rochon vs. Marquette County


12. Resolution Honoring Paul Argall, Michigan Small Business Person of the Year (Resolution forthcoming at meeting).

13. PUBLIC COMMENT.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

15. ADJOURNMENT.