BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  DECEMBER 10, 1996

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 10, 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. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 26, 1996 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Trudell and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 12) Community Mental Health Merger with Luce County and Item 13) KI Sawyer Tax Reverted Lands.

It was moved by Comm. Braamse, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 22, 1996, through December 5, 1996 in the amount of $858,228.55 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee accept and place on file a letter from Dean Nitz, Manager, Detroit Airport District Office, FAA, with notification that the KI Sawyer Airport has been included in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

* * * * *

The Committee considered the Professional Service Agreement for the Sawyer Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan Contract with URS Greiner (formerly Greiner, Inc.). Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the total cost of the work is $140,200. Staff recommends acceptance of the contract with URS Greiner and to waive policy No. 215 which requires bidding out the work. Administrator Powers believes the principals of efficiency, opportunity and competitiveness have been followed. URS Greiner will be able to start and complete the work within 180 days, whereas, another firm could not do this. This project will be 90% eligible for FAA funding. The Michigan Board of Aeronautics will pay 5% and a local share of 5% will be reimbursed from PFC revenues.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and further noted that under the AIP Program a Professional Service Agreement is not a competitive bid process. It is rather review of the proposals by consultants. One consultant is selected and then a contract is negotiated. Mr. Pawley contends URS Greiner is the best because they have knowledge of KI Sawyer and the County Airport from past work, they can begin work immediately, and the price negotiated by representatives of the FAA, the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics, and Mr. Pawley is satisfactory. These agencies will all review Greiner’s work in phases and Greiner will be paid in parts as the project proceeds. Mr. Pawley is confident they can complete the work within 180 days which includes agency reviews.

Mr. Pawley further noted that one item necessary in the Airport move is the relocation or replacement of the ILS System at an estimated cost of $600,000. Because of URS Greiner’s involvement there is a very good chance that the FAA will allow reverting to another system which would save $400,000. Greiner does an excellent job on aviation matters, however, all agencies including the County Board must be satisfied before final payment will be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Professional Services Agreement for the Sawyer Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan with URS Greiner. Total cost of the project $140,200 (FAA 90%, MBOA 5%, local PFC 5%).

* * * * *
The Committee considered an invitation from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to submit a full application for funding consideration. Marquette County will be applying for $200,000 to rehabilitate low income, owner occupied dwellings, infrastructure repairs, demolition, plus $36,000 for program administration. The County is not required to provide matching funds.

The recently adopted County Housing Plan identifies rehabilitation as a primary strategy to improve existing housing and make housing more affordable for low income residents. Program guidelines require a formal resolution be adopted by the County Board authorizing submission of the grant application.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the resolution authorizing submission of an application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for funding under the 1996 LAUNCH Program for a total of $236,000.

* * * * *

The Committee considered an agreement with the Family Independence Agency to fund medical support enforcement services in the Friend of the Court Office. The Family Independence Agency will reimburse Marquette County for up to $21,367. The funds will allow the Friend of the Court to enforce medical support obligations for custodial parents who are past or present recipients of AFDC, Foster Care, or Medicare Programs. The agreement has been reviewed by Civil Counsel, Risk Management, and the County Administrator.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve an agreement with the Family Independence Agency to fund medical support enforcement services in the Friend of the Court Office.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Commission on Aging for the adoption of an updated Constitution and Bylaws for the Marquette County Commission on Aging. David Thayer, Executive Director, Commission on Aging, was present and explained that the Bylaws require a five year review, the last one was done in 1990. Mr. Thayer reviewed the bylaw changes with Commissioners and answered questions.

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 of the Updated Marquette County Commission on Aging Constitution and Bylaws.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a review of the Updated County Emergency Management Resolution provided by Michael Zorza, County Emergency Program Manager. The primary purpose of the Local Emergency Management Resolution is to establish a necessary public policy, organization, and the general concepts of operation to effectively manage a major community crisis or a disaster situation. The current resolution was reviewed and evaluated by Emergency Services Division Staff as per the Annual Work Agreement. Existing policy has served the County well during local emergency situations and only minor changes have been recommended, primarily to reflect organizational changes and better clarify emergency responsibilities.

It was moved by Comm. Trudell, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the updated Marquette County Emergency Management Resolution as presented.

* * * * *
The Committee considered an agreement to merge the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board with the Superior Behavioral Health Board of Luce County in order to form the Superior Behavioral Health Board. Dr. William Birch, Executive Director, Community Mental Health, was present and distributed copies of the agreement. Dr. Birch noted that many mergers are taking place throughout Michigan which is being encouraged by the Michigan Mental Health Code. Such mergers will provide for economies of scale, that is continued high quality of service with the efficient use of dollars. Dr. Birch noted that the number of members on the new Superior Behavioral Health Board will be 23 with Luce County having 11 members. This will be scaled down to 12 members over a three year period. This compromise was reached so that those Board Members in Luce County who have been committed to providing quality mental health services for many years can be assured that those services will continue, and that staff changes will be done fairly. The final Superior Behavioral Health Board will be made up of 10 Marquette County Members, 1 Alger County Member, and 1 Luce County Member. Marquette County’s financial commitment remains the same.

Rudolph Kempainen, Chairperson, Marquette Community Mental Health Board, was present and noted that this agreement will provide high quality services with efficient use of taxpayer dollars in order to meet intense competition. The Michigan Department of Mental Health encourages networking and merging which will strengthen Community Mental Health Centers when bids are let out and the out-of-town managed care businesses arrive. This merger is in the public interest and will release dollars from administrative costs to provide for a larger share of client services. Mr. Kempainen applauded the Marquette County Board for their cooperation and as chair of Community Mental Health he pledged to continue to maintain good communication.

Don Potvin, CMH Board Member, also expressed his appreciation for the County Board’s support of the merger. Community Mental Health Staff is very dedicated in its effort to provide the best of services. The County Board will still have the authority to step in should it so desire.

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 of the agreement to merge the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board with the Superior Behavioral Health Board of Luce County and form the Superior Behavioral Health Board.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a letter to be sent to the Director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources urging that the State owned tax reverted lands at KI Sawyer be given to the County of Marquette in order to keep all the lands together. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the recent DNR Staff Meeting recommendation was that Sands Township receive the base golf course and that the Department of Natural Resources retain part of Sections 23 and 26, T46N-R25W for forestry purposes. Marquette County has also requested these same parcels.

The County Board of Commissioner’s concern is not a matter of politics but rather an effort to make the redevelopment and establishment of the County Airport at KI Sawyer successful. The County of Marquette must have all the State owned tax reverted lands in order to maximize potential for expansion and reuse of KI Sawyer without being inhibited by surrounding developments and conflicting land ownerships. Keeping the golf course as a single undivided entity would allow the County to control the approaches of a future cross wind runway which best serves the public interest of the people of Michigan, and far outweighs the public good by giving the land to Sand Township. Further, the proposed cross wind runway for KI Sawyer goes right through the middle of the land the DNR proposes to retain for forestry purposes. The County needs these lands in order to expand the runway in the future.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Braamse, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to the members of the Michigan Natural Resources Commission clearly stating that Marquette County needs all State owned tax reverted lands at KI Sawyer Air Force Base in order to best serve the public interest for the future development and reuse of KI Sawyer and relocating the Marquette County Airport.

* * * * *
Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Lois Paquet, Chairperson, Commission on Aging Board of Directors and also on the Executive Committee, pointed out that there have been some problems at the Commission on Aging but the Board and Staff are working through them. The Executive Committee does not receive information any earlier than regular board members, however, does not always have access to the information necessary. The Executive Committee is also working on some personnel problems. There will be a meeting tomorrow which includes Civil Counsel, the Human Resource Manager, Commission on Aging Staff, a the County Board Liaison.

Larry Coehoorn, from the Base Conversion Authority Office, commended the Board for taking a step to keep the Airport land together. Mr. Coehoorn pointed out that while it is good that all the State land be kept together, the County should eventually consider taking all the federal lands. Having the State land is only one-half the answer.

COMMISSION COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Trudell emphasized that whenever possible members of the County Board of Commissioners should be appointed as members to various boards and commissions to improve communication.

Comm. Joseph announced that the EDC audit is almost complete for 1992. The years 1993 and 1994 will be no problem but 1995 may require more work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, December 10, 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.
6. The Notice that K.I.Sawyer is now included in the National Plan of Integrated Airports System (NPIAS).
7. R Professional Services Agreement for Sawyer Master Plan and Airport Layout Plan, from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager.
9. R Agreement with Family Independence Agency to fund Medical Support Enforcement Services in the Friend of the Court Office.
10. R Marquette County Commission on Aging Constitution and Bylaws.
12. RCMH Merger

13. RKI Sawyer Tax revenue funds

14.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.