The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on
Tuesday, January 14, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette,
Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the Meeting to order. Present: Comm. Angel, Comm. Arsenault,

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried
by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on December 10, 1996
be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
George LaBlonde, Marquette Township Manager, and Max Muelle, Marquette Township
Supervisor, were present and indicated they would like to speak during Item 6.
There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the
meeting.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried
by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period December 6, 1996, through January 9,
1997 in the amount of $2,028,997.42 be approved.

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The Committee considered a request from Marquette Township for a grant in the amount not
to exceed $70,000 to assist in providing essential public infrastructure improvements to enable the
relocation of a Menards Super Store in the Township.

George LaBlonde, Marquette Township Manager, was present and gave an overview of the
project. Menards wants to double the items available in their store and needs a site along the US-
41/M-28 corridor of approximately 12 to 13 acres with 600 feet of frontage. Marquette Township
has several sites available. Menards also wanted some tax breaks but the Township indicated they
have no authority to give tax breaks but did promise Menards to assist them to locate their Super
Store. A Notice of Intent for a grant in the amount of $300,000 to the Community Development
Block Grant Program for relocation of the Northwoods Road and the associated utilities was
submitted. The 10% local matching funds of $30,000 was obtained by three commitments:
Marquette Township committed $10,000, the Marquette County Road Commission committed the
equivalent of $10,000 in services, and property owners Ed Scott and Clark Lambros committed
$5,000 each towards to the cost of the infrastructure project.

The grant application from the U.S. Economic Development Agency was unsuccessful. The
next window of opportunity is during August 1 through September 30, 1997 but it is too late. Mr.
LaBlonde approached Gary Colby, Menards’ Senior Project Manager, for financial assistance and
was advised that Menards, Inc. will reimburse Marquette Township for the construction and related
cost of relocation of the Northwoods Road in the amount equal to 75% of the actual cost but not
to exceed $200,000. The estimated shortfall for funding of the project is now reduced to
$70,000, which is the amount of this request.

Mr. LaBlonde further explained that the DDA TIF District will expire in 2001 and the
Township has no plans on continuing it. In fact, TIF Districts are now a dead issue because of
Proposal A. The total value of the Menards Super Store and personal property will be in the
neighborhood of $6 to $7 million, would be placed on the tax rolls at an assessment of
approximately $3.5 million. Mr. LaBlonde contended that if the County Board would help now with
a $70,000 grant, in the next few years they would more than recapture their funds. The Super
Store would employ 190 full and part-time employees by retaining 114 present jobs and creating
76 new jobs, besides the construction labor for the project.
Max Muelle, Marquette Township Supervisor, was also present and urged the County Board to seriously consider this request.

Comm. Arsenault noted that the EDC Finance Committee met last night and will be recommending a possible way to provide the funding. A $70,000 investment by the County to create 76 new jobs averages only $961 per job, which is a bargain.

Comm. Bergdahl reported that the Revolving Loan Fund has $281,000 in it, however, $200,00 of this is earmarked for the AMR Project. This leaves $81,000 for a grant to assist in the infrastructure project for the Menards Super Store.

Comm. Joseph believed that most EDC members would rather loan RLF dollars and get them back with interest rather than just sinking the money into the ground in a grant.

Jay Scherbenske, EDC Director, was present and indicated that a Notice of Intent must be filed regardless of whether the $70,000 would be a revolving loan or a grant.

Comm. Cihak noted that should the Menards Super Store become a reality, it will be a good project but on the downside it would affect other lumber yards like 41 Lumber and Wickes nearby. He cannot imagine the present Menards Store leaving Marquette should the Super Store Project not come about. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners’ commitment to economic development can in no way be challenged in light of it support of developments at KI Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Angeli, Arsenault, Roberts, Rapport, Seppanen, Tuominen and Corkin) to 2 Nays (Comm. Cihak and Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct the EDC to provide a grant up to $70,000 for the infrastructure improvement necessary in Marquette Township for the Menards Super Store Project, provided it meets all the State and Federal regulations and guidelines.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Gerald Peterson, Chair, Lake Superior Jobs Coalition on Economic Development, to create a coordinated economic development organization for Marquette County. They invited Marquette County to name an individual to participate on its behalf during its review process. Ultimately it is the intent of the Lake Superior Jobs Coalition to make a recommendation to the County Board for the development of an Umbrella Organization for Economic Development.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, pointed out that there are several reasons why a review of County-wide economic development may be needed: 1) The perceived dissatisfaction with current efforts and programs, 2) The conclusions of the Economic Development Audit, and 3) The potential of KI Sawyer and its current separation from other economic development issues.

Mr. Powers further indicated several reasons why Marquette County should participate in the review process: 1) The County’s involving lead role in KI Sawyer redevelopment, 2) The County Board’s obvious County-wide policy focus, and 3) The County’s financial involvement with economic development. Administrator Powers recommended that the County Board request that the Jobs Coalition send Mr. Peterson’s letter to the Economic Development Corporation so that the EDC has an opportunity to comment, and to appoint the County Administrator to participate in the Jobs Coalition review process.

Several Commissioners expressed displeasure that the letter from the Lake Superior Jobs Coalition was not sent to the present Marquette County EDC for their review. They felt that any County-wide economic development efforts that left out the present EDC could only be counter productive.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Roberts, Angeli, Cihak, Rapport, Seppanen, and Corkin) to 4 Nays (Comm. Arsenault, Bergdahl, Joseph, and Tuominen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Administrator’s recommendation regarding participation in the potential development of an umbrella organization for the economic development of Marquette County.

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Shana Harvala, Staff Representative, Michigan AFSCME Council 25, on behalf of the Courthouse Chapter Local 2914, distributed a letter to the Committee of the Whole requesting the County Board reconsider the "Opt-out" provision in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Comm. Ciak requested this item be tabled until the next Committee of the Whole meeting so the new Commissioners would have an opportunity to receive the necessary background information regarding the matter.

It was moved by Comm. Ciak, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote to refer Shana Harvala’s letter to the January 28, 1997 Committee of the Whole meeting.

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The Committee considered the annual agreement between Marquette County and the State Family Independence Agency for reimbursement of the Friend of the Court Expenses, Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement and also the purchase of two personal computers. One computer is reimbursable while the second personal computer is ineligible for reimbursement, but is still justified. The Friend of the Court will use the computer to access other County departments such as the County Clerk and District Court. The funds are available in the Friend of the Court fund balance for this purchase.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends approval of the resolution authorizing the Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement to approve the necessary budget amendment including the purchase of the two personal computers.

Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, was present to discuss the agreement and computer purchase and answer questions.

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 of the Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement with the Family Independence Agency in the amount of $387,211 and the necessary budget amendment for the purchase of two personal computers.

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The Committee considered a Michigan Department of Natural Resources announcement of the 1997 Recreation Grant Application information. Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, noted that the only dollars available for grant application will be available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. Funding for the recreation bond and land and water conservation fund programs will not be available due to the depletion of the $70 million recreation bond money and the Legislature not appropriating the LWCF monies.

Mr. Koshorek explained that the Planning Staff will apply again through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for funding of phases of the Perkins Park development. These grants do require a 25% local match which would be paid from the County’s Land Acquisition Fund. The deadline for application is April and Planning Staff will bring the applications to the County Board for their review prior to submitting them.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to refer the 1997 Recreation Grant Application information to the Resource Management Department.

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The Committee considered the purchase of two small pickup trucks to be used for the Resource Management Department primarily for building code enforcement activity. Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, was present and explained that these purchases were approved for the 1997 Capital Projects and funded at $25,000. He is recommending awarding the bid to Frei Chevrolet of Marquette, the low bidder, in the amount of $19,615.58. Price includes trade-in of the two old County vehicles.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the bid for two Resource Management pickups to Frei Chevrolet in the amount of $19,650.58.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, regarding establishing the 1997 Rate Schedule for Seasonal Mooring Fees at the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge. Mr. Koshorek explained that Marquette County currently has 120 feet the sea wall for seasonal rental. Demand has been small over the years and has produced little revenue. Staff recommends requesting the State allow Marquette County to maintain its current fee structure but implementing the State’s policy of doubling the rate for charter fishing vessels.

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 of the Seasonal Mooring Fees as recommended by Staff.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, regarding the 1997 Transient Mooring Fees for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge. Mr. Koshorek distributed the fee schedule from the Michigan Waterways Commission for Transient Mooring at Harbors of Refuge. Marquette County is obligated by their grant agreement to adopt these or request permission to vary the rates. In the past Marquette County has adopted the Transient Schedule which is the same for all harbors.

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 1997 Transient Mooring Fees for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge as recommended by Staff.

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The Committee considered a draft request for proposals for the KI Sawyer heating conversion project. An RFP should be used for obtaining the services of an architect/engineer to do the plans for converting buildings from the Central Heating Plan at KI Sawyer.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that this item has been held up between the State of Michigan and the Base Conversion Authority. He recommends that the County Board authorize the RFP with contingencies: First, the RFP doesn’t commit Marquette County to a specific amount of funding; Second, the County becomes the Local Reuse Authority; and Third, the RFP includes a statement that there are contingencies that exist with the project.

Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Manager, explained that the RFP is not intended to proceed without the list of buildings to be converted. Staff is in the process of developing a list that would go into the actual bid package. It is his assumption that the funds to pay for the architectural/engineering services will be coming from the Air Force. Marquette County currently has no funds budgeted in 1997 for this purpose. Mr. Koshorek believed it to be good that the County Board proceed with the RFP process for KI Sawyer heating conversion, because at least 4 weeks must be allowed for responses and contract award, 8 weeks for design leading to the construction, hopefully well in advance of the 1997/1998 heating season.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the draft RFP for the KI Sawyer Heating Conversion Project and that it include the contingencies recommended by the Administrator.

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The Committee considered sending representatives to the Natural Resources Commission Meeting to be held February 6, 1997 in Grand Rapids, MI. It is at this meeting that the Natural Resources Commission will consider the granting of tax reverted lands. Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that there will be a public comment period on Wednesday, February 5th at 4:30 P.M. Those wishing to make comment will be allowed five minutes. There will be public comment allowed at the actual Natural Resources Commission meeting held Thursday, February 6th. Administrator Powers felt it is important that Marquette County be represented at this meeting.
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It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize a representative of the County Board and one Staff Member to attend the public comment on Wednesday, February 5th and the Natural Resources Commission Meeting on Thursday, February 6th in Grand Rapids, and further that State Representative Prusi and State Senator Koivisto be invited to attend the meeting.

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The Committee considered a communication from Richard Reed, Attorney-at-law, who provided a bound copy of the settlement among the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, Marquette Iron Mining Partnership, Republic Township, and Humboldt Township: RE: The Republic Mine.

Civil Counsel David Payant explained that the settlement was never signed, however, the mine is now back on the Ad Valorem Tax Roll for approximately the same amount as per the agreement. The County is still waiting for an AG Opinion as to whether or not the Department of Natural Resources must do the Republic Mine appraisal.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee considered the Commission Committee Appointments for 1997. Chairperson Corkin distributed a list of the various County Boards and Commissions and the liaisons from 1996. Chairperson Corkin will be making appointments during the next week and requested Commissioners convey to him their interests.

Comm. Seppanen also distributed a memo from Dennis Aloia, former County Administrator, dated December 28, 1994 with his suggestions for possible reorganization of the County Board Committee system. Comm. Seppanen felt that the County’s Committee system should be reviewed during the strategic planning process with any possible changes to be implemented for 1998.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communications on file for further study during the Strategic Planning Session.

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The Committee considered the KI Sawyer Airport Budget from Steve Powers, County Administrator. Mr. Powers explained that an appropriation for the KI Sawyer Airport Budget was adopted by the Board on October 8, 1996, however, further consideration and approval is recommended. Since October revenue and expenditure estimates have been revised.

The line item expenditure categories are shown in the budget report. Personnel services includes part-time clerical help and contracting with caretaker staff for snow removal and grass cutting. Operating and maintenance costs are for providing air field services as required in the Agreement with AMR and repairs to the airfield area.

Revenues include a fuel flowage fee, AMR and Transient Landing Fees, hangar rentals to AMR, and Boreal, and lease revenues from buildings occupied within the Airport boundary.

AIP/Capital Outlay includes design and construction costs for 1997 capital projects totaling $653,300. Most of the local share of Capital Outlay projects will be funded through passenger facility charges ($487,000).

The KI Sawyer Airport budget requires two actions by the County Board: 1) An interfund transfer of $143,760 and 2) A cash flow advance of $166,300. The recommended source of funding for both the transfer and the advance is the Tax Delinquent Revolving Fund.

The interfund transfer is an appropriation needed to balance operating revenues with expenditures. The cash flow advance is needed to A) Fund the difference between available passenger facility charges and the 1997 local share costs ($115,000), B) Provide funding so projects can begin before the State tax reverted land is required, and C) Provide funding so projects can begin before FAA approval of the use of passenger facility charges.
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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the recommendations of Steve Powers, County Administrator, and adopt the 1997 KI Sawyer Airport Budget.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Rapport reported that Joni Brandon has indicated to Cyndi Beaudry, Risk Management, that she will file an appeal in her lawsuit against the Prosecutor.

Comm. Cihak, noting that Prosecutor Walker was present, requested an update on the recent resignation of Peter Plummer as Chief Assistant Prosecutor.

Prosecutor Gary Walker announced that Civil Council David Payant has been appointed as the Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. Mr. Walker is currently in discussion with two local attorneys regarding the Civil Counsel position. He will fill this position as soon as possible. In the meantime, the County Board of Commissioners can be assured that they will not go without a Civil Counsel. Services will be provided by Mr. Walker himself or a member of his staff.

Chairperson Corkin reported that at the Base Conversion Authority Meeting today Larry Coelhoorn announced that Marquette County has been selected to be the Local Reuse Agency.

Comm. Roberts reported that Congressman Bart Stupak is in the process of writing legislation for snow disaster assistance and noted that if the heavy snows continue in Marquette County we may have to ask for help.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 10 Ayes (Comm. Seppanen, Angeli, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Cihak, Joseph, Roberts, Rapport, Tuominen and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go into closed session for the discussion of pending litigation: Northern Michigan Aviation vs. County of Marquette.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear Commission chambers at 8:07 P.M.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee 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 8:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, January 14, 1997, 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 DECEMBER 10, 1996.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Request from Marquette Township to the Marquette County EDC for a $70,000
   Infrastructure Improvement Grant for the Location of a Menards Super Store.
8. Shana Harvala, Staff Representative, Michigan AFSCME Council 25, on Behalf of
   Courthouse Local 2914.
10. 1997 Recreation Grant Application Information from the Michigan DNR.
12. Seasonal Mooring Fees - Big Bay Harbor.
13. Transient Mooring Fees - Big Bay Harbor.
15. Natural Resources Commission Meeting 9:00 a.m., February 6, 1997, Crowne
    Plaza, Grand Rapids.
17. Board of Commissioners Committee Appointments and Committee Structure.
18. KI Sawyer Airport Budget (Materials Forthcoming).

20.

21. CLOSED SESSION: Discussion of Pending Litigation
    Northern Michigan Aviation vs. County of Marquette
22. PUBLIC COMMENT.
23. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
24. ADJOURNMENT.