The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 28, 1997 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. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 14, 1997 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: item 14) Skandia Township Floodplain Management Resolution; and item 15) Domestic Violence Grant Application.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 10, 1997 thru January 23, 1997, in the amount of $2,396,935.77 be approved.

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The Committee considered a letter from Robert Menard, P.E., Engineer-Manager, Marquette County Road Commission, regarding K.I.Sawyer. Mr. Menard was present and explained that the Road Commission has committed to moving its Gwinn and Skandia operations to a facility on K.I.Sawyer. Although the Road Commission was not included in the base redevelopment until the process was well under way, they were still able to reach certain understandings and were given certain assurances that were major factors they considered in the decision to move to the base. Mr. Menard and the Road Commission fear that understandings once reached and assurances once given may no longer be valid or may have become lost in the shuffle.

With the closing of K.I.Sawyer AFB, the Road Commission, as fully expected, was asked to assume jurisdiction of the roads on that facility. In the process of determining the feasibility of moving to the base, the Road Commission investigated the implications of such an arrangement. They have found that the majority of the roads on the base do not meet class A, all-season standards and there are serious deficiencies in the road drainage system. The Road Commission has emphasized that these problems would have to be corrected before they accept jurisdiction for the base roads. Their action to bring the roads into the County Road system at this time, in no way implies that they intend to incur any liability for the existing road problems, nor do they intend to correct them using their normal funding sources.

The Road Commission has indicated to the Base Conversion Authority that it will require more men and more equipment to maintain the roads on the base. As the Road Commission responsibilities grow on the base, they will have to increase staff and equipment. Mr. Menard stated that the Road Commission has no formal document saying so, but they have been led to believe that when the Caretaker Arrangement terminates, they will inherit the road maintenance equipment currently used. This expectation was a major factor in their decision to move to the base and take jurisdiction of the road system. They are asking the County Board to reassure the Road Commission that this will occur. They have been told that they should be able to move into Building #533 and the adjoining Building #530 Complex sometime late in February.

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 assure the Marquette County Road Commission that it is their intent, as far as they are able, to support them in any way they can to honor the terms of the agreement. The communication will be referred to the Administrator for dealing with the planning of K.I.Sawyer.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS        COUNTY OF MARQUETTE        JANUARY 28, 1997

The Committee considered a memo from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding establishment of a Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRBB), a public entity helping to diversify the economy, in Michigan. Public Act 381 of 1996 allows a municipality to create a Brownfield redevelopment zone funded by captured tax revenue and other sources of revenue or grants. The County can create a zone if approved by the village, city, or township. The zone authority would be a public body corporate that could sue and be sued.

Five public acts have been passed in 1996 in connection with the environmental cleanup package (Brownfield redevelopment), others are pending.

James Sodergren was present and explained that the Brownfield legislation is designed to capture monies from various sources to clean up lands that have been abandoned and the owners cannot be identified. It appears to him that most of these monies will have to come from federal, state, and local government. We have been mining in Marquette County for 150 years and there are a lot of old mining sites that need to be reclaimed and restored for future use.

Mr. Sodergren further stated that the legislative committee discussed these matters with Rep. Prusi a couple of months ago and a follow-up meeting was planned at that time. Mr. Sodergren suggests that the Committee contact Mr. Prusi so that these discussions can continue with emphasis on establishing and funding an Iron Range Resource and Rehabilitation Board (IRRBB), and appropriating money to the DNR so that they can administer the Mine Reclamation Act.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole refer this matter to Rep. Prusi asking the Marquette County Board of Commissioners Legislative Committee to schedule a meeting to discuss the issue.

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The Committee considered Commission on Aging Bylaw Changes. Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Tuominen attended a meeting today of the Commission on Aging and distributed to the Committee modifications to the Constitution of the Commission on Aging as a result of that meeting. There were changes from the draft that was distributed in Commissioners packets. Comm. Seppanen noted that several things need to be stressed in this document, in particular:

Item 2 - that the Marquette County Commission on Aging Board is the designated policymaking body charged with the duty of making policy for the administration of County Board of Commissioners' aging programs.

Item 3 - the addition of Hiring and dismissal of the Director is the duty of the Commission on Aging Board subject to final approval of the County Board of Commissioners. The Director shall keep the County Administrator informed of Commission activities, but not receive direction regarding policy implementation.

Item 5 - All Contracts and financial arrangements shall be executed according to approved policies of the Marquette County Commission on Aging. Said policies shall be submitted to the County Board of Commissioners for review.

It was moved by Comm. Chak, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the changes to the Commission on Aging Bylaws.

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The Committee considered appointment of a Emergency Services Coordinator. Joseph Maino, former Marquette County Sheriff, held the position from 1982 until it expired on January 1, 1997.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, to appoint Michael Loveless, Marquette County Sheriff, as the Marquette County Emergency Services Coordinator. Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, was present and explained that one of the changes made in the County Emergency Management Policy adopted by the Board of Commissioners was incorporating the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Services Coordinator into the Emergency Program Manager position. A single individual responsible to the Board and working under the supervision of the Sheriff. No action is required by the Committee and the motion was rescinded.

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The Committee considered a memo from Shana Harvala, AFSCME Staff Representative, regarding the "Opt Out" Provision of the new unsigned Collective Bargaining Agreement. Representatives of the Courthouse Employees' Chapter of Local #2914 recently met with Mr. Walker and Mr. Girard in an attempt to resolve the ongoing dispute regarding the "opt out" provision of the agreement.

Comm. Cihak stated that he requested a meeting regarding the "Opt Out" Provision between himself and the other new Commissioners. They were not part of the action that brought this to the Committee. He explained that earlier this evening they were briefed by Chief Negotiator, Gary Walker, and were told that he would deal with the issue. He felt no action was required.

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

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The Committee considered the K.I.Sawyer Implementation Plan submitted by Steve Powers, County Administrator. During December, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners took preliminary steps toward being the lead agency in the reuse of K.I.Sawyer Air Force Base with the approval of 9 recommended actions by staff. Action item number six directed staff to prepare a Reuse Implementation Plan which could be used by the County Board in establishing its role as lead agency in the use of K.I.Sawyer. Accordingly, staff has prepared a Reuse Implementation Plan with three elements:

1) Mission and Vision Statements; 2) Land Use Plan; and 3) Implementation Strategy.

The Mission and Vision Statements emphasize development potential and the goal of eventual independence of K.I.Sawyer.

The Land Use Plan follows the current reuse plan’s recommendation to target aviation and light industrial uses. A significant change from the reuse plan is to keep the housing for rental and owner-occupied needs rather than demolishing the structures. The land use plan is consistent with the County Housing Plan.

The Implementation Strategy converts the state positions at the base to County positions. Economic Development services would continue to be a contracted service.

Commissioners discussed the Mission/Vision Statements and took the following action: 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 approve the Mission and Vision Statements as presented to staff.

Commissioners discussed the Land Use Plan and took the following action: 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 approve the Land Use Plan as recommended by Staff for the K.I.Sawyer Implementation Plan.

The Committee discussed the Implementation Strategy and took the following actions:

A. Organization/Structure - It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Section A. Organization/Structure as presented by Staff.

B. Economic Development - It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Section B. Economic Development as presented by Staff.

C. Personnel - It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Section C. Personnel with the following change: Beginning with the sentence, "Also, following the release of KISBCA/state staff from state employment, and the establishment of county job descriptions and wages, conversion of county employment will be governed by application . . . . . . (Changing the word should to will)."

The Committee discussed Lease Parameters/Housing Goals and took the following action: It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Lease Parameters/Housing as presented by Staff. There are five lease applications for review that will be brought to the February 11 Committee of the Whole meeting.
The Committee considered holding a Strategic Planning Session to establish long range goals. The Session is tentatively scheduled for Friday, March 14th & Saturday, March 15th, 1997, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Alternative dates being March 22nd and 23rd, 1997.

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The Committee considered an EDC Audit Update from Steven Powers, County Administrator. Mr. Powers briefly explained that the EDC Board has reviewed the preliminary findings of the audit for 1993. The preliminary report is being finalized for 1993. Some work remains yet for 1994 and 1995. There is a meeting Friday to discuss status and timeline. He anticipates the audit to be completed by March 31, 1997.

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The Committee considered the Skandia Township Floodplain Management Resolution. Skandia Township has requested the County adopt a flood insurance resolution and sign an intergovernmental agreement. The County has entered into such agreements and adopted resolutions with other townships and the City of Marquette in order for the municipalities to participate in the Federal Flood Insurance Program. Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource/Management Development, has drafted an alternative resolution than the one presented by Skandia Township. The resolution is the same as the one passed in Ewing and Ely Townships. The basic difference between what Skandia sent and this resolution is that the initial determination of whether or not a property is in a flood hazard area is determined by the township not the County. All the units of government who are in the flood insurance program currently do this as a matter of course in their zoning review.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Skandia Township Floodplain Management Resolution as recommended by Ron Koshorek.

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The Committee considered Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney’s Domestic Violence Grant Proposal from Gary Walker, Marquette County Prosecutor. Marquette County is recognized nationally as a rural jurisdiction that has taken a progressive approach to the problems of domestic violence. Marquette County is one of few jurisdictions nationally that has a law enforcement policy, training program and prosecution protocol that addresses domestic violence. As a result the Prosecutor’s Office has been invited to submit a grant proposal which would serve as a pilot project for the Office of Justice Programs, Violence Against Women Grants Office.

Mr. Walker further stated that domestic violence, stalking, and criminal sexual conduct crimes require a greater concentration of prosecutorial resources to be handled effectively. The victim of these types of crime needs to have contact with the "system" as soon as possible, and to receive assistance that the criminal justice system can offer them safety from this type of violence.

The Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office grant proposal would provide funding for two assistant prosecuting attorneys and a legal secretary who will specialize in domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking cases, and also assist persons seeking a personal protection order. The grant is for an 18 month period and does not require a local match. The grant is approximately $250,000 in federal seed money to develop a program to serve as a demonstration project which would be transferable to other jurisdictions. There is no requirement that Marquette County commit to continuation funding, although Mr. Walker would anticipate such a request if the project was successful.
The Prosecutor's Office will request formal Board action if the proposal is approved by Office of Justice Programs, Violence Against Women Grant Office. It is anticipated that the decision to fund this proposal will be made within 60 days of its submission. Mr. Walker anticipates that he will submit this proposal by February 1, 1997. He is asking the Board at this time for support.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the pilot project for the Office of Justice Programs, Violence Against Women Grants Office.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Brannam
Marquette Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, January 28, 1997, 6:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

County Road Commission Letter regarding KI Sawyer.

Memo from Jim Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding an IRRRB in Michigan.

Commission on Aging Bylaw Changes.

Appointment of Emergency Services Coordinator.

Memo from Shana Harvala, AFSCME Staff Representative, regarding the "Opt Out" Provision of the New Unsigned Collective Bargaining Agreement.

KI Sawyer Implementation Plan.

Strategic Planning.

EDC Audit Update from Steven Powers, County Administrator (no packet materials).

Skenda Floodplain Management Resolution

Domestic Violence Grant App. / Walker

PUBLIC COMMENT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.