BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MARQUETTE MARCH 11, 1997

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, March 11, 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. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 25, 1997 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Gary Goralzitz, U.P. Engineers & Architects, 915 S. Willow Road, Marquette, requested to speak under item 14) K.I.Sawyer Heating Conversion Bids. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes: Item 12) K.I.Sawyer Heating Conversion Design was deleted from the agenda because it will be considered with item 14) K.I.Sawyer Heating Conversion Bids; and item 19) OEA Grant Update was added to the agenda.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 21, 1997 through March 6, 1997 in the amount of $1,227,860.50 be approved.

The Committee considered a communication from Michael J. Anderegg, Probate Judge, regarding collection of funds for the Juvenile Division Restitution Account. During 1996 $6,000 was transferred from the Circuit Court restitution account to the Juvenile Court for use in making restitution to victims of juvenile crime. The fund has been used several times since it was established and it is a valuable resource. Judge Anderegg is seeking a way to replenish this fund. Because the probate court is a court of statutory jurisdiction, he cannot order the collection of any funds unless he has specific statutory authority. He has the authority to order a juvenile to reimburse the County for services and to make restitution to victims of his or her own crime. However, there is no authority to collect money that would go into a general restitution account to reimburse victims of perpetrators who cannot afford to make restitution.

Judge Anderegg is suggesting increasing the court costs in juvenile cases from $75 to $80. He would like the County to allocate $5 from each order back to the Juvenile Division Restitution Account. This would be a legal way to replenish the restitution account without any additional cost to the County.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends approval of the allocation. There is a balance in the Probate Court Victim Restitution Account of $5,080.

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 the allocation of the $5,000 increase in court costs to the Juvenile Restitution Account for those orders actually collected.

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The Committee considered a memo from Randell Girard, Director of Human Resources, regarding Elected Officials’ Compensation. Mr. Girard explained that during the FY’93 budget process the Board of Commissioners acted to establish a pay schedule for non-judicial elected officials for 1992 and 1993. That action was predicated on a recommendation from Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Potvin, who had been charged by the Board with review authority. Item #4 of the recommendation established re-evaluation of the Classification/Compensation System every five years as related to all elected officials, except the Board of Commissioners, Judiciary and
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Prosecuting Attorney. The FY’98 budget process will be the first five year review. He has conducted a survey of current FY’97 elected official pay in our labor market for Commissioners information. He explained that most labor market Counties pay on a fixed pay basis rather than a range as Marquette County does.

Comm. Seppanen pointed out that in 1992 the wages for County Commissioners, after a $1,000 increase, placed them approximately $2,500 below the labor market average. He suggested that the issue of Elected Officials’ Compensation also include the County Commissioners and the County Chair position.

Comm. Arsenault explained that he had asked for a meeting with himself, the Administrator, the Sheriff and Mr. Girard during the last review process and he felt then that there was a discrepancy in the Sheriff’s salary versus what the County does in keeping everyone at plus or minus 3% of the labor market. He explained that over the years the Sheriff has been slighted, including the hiring of the new Sheriff. He suggests the Board make an adjustment in the Sheriff’s salary during this review process.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and carried 9 ayes to 1 nay (Comm. Arsenault), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board place the Elected Officials’ Compensation on the agenda for the Strategic Planning Session in April to give Commissioners more time and information regarding this issue.

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The Committee considered a budget amendment regarding Perkins Park. Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management, explained that the County Board agreed to pay for the installation of water meters at Perkins Park last year. The arrangement with Powell Township was that the County would reimburse them for the cost associated with the project in two installments. The total charges were $13,188.66. Mr. Koshorek indicated that half of the amount was paid last year, but unfortunately the other half for FY 97 was not budgeted. He requested the County Board amend the Forest Recreation Fund budget to allow for the second installment. The Forestry Fund currently has a cash balance of $399,000 with liabilities of $40,000.

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 request from Ron Koshorek, Resource Management Director, and amend the Forest Recreation Fund budget as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perkins Park</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>508-70-757.00</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$7,594</td>
<td>$2,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>933.00 Water &amp; Sewer</td>
<td>$ -0-</td>
<td>$2,594</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>767.50 Fund Equity</td>
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</tbody>
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The Committee considered a memo from Steve Powers, County Administrator, regarding Televising Committee of the Whole meetings. Mr. Powers explained that he has contacted Rex Buettgenbach, Bresnan Communications, and they can begin televising the Committee of the Whole meetings as a public service, upon request of the County Board, at no cost to the County.

Comm. Seppanen explained the County Board has always gone on record as trying to be as open as possible to make the public aware of what is happening at the County level. He has no problem giving Bresnan a request from the Board. He feels the County Board should try to accommodate the public as much as possible.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried 7 ayes to 3 nays (Comm. Cihak, Comm. Rapport, Comm. Seppanen) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board leave the decision up to Bresnan Communications if they want to televise the Committee of the Whole meetings.

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The Committee considered the 1997 DNR Recreation Grant Application. Steve Enright, Planner, was present and explained that the Planning Commission conducted two public hearings to discuss two applications for recreation grant funding currently being offered by the Michigan DNR. Projects selected can receive a grant for 75% of the project cost; applicants are responsible to provide the remaining 25%. The two proposed applications are the Perkins Park Development Project Phase II and Sugarloaf to Big Bay non-motorized pathway route identification.

The Perkins Park project application requests funding to construct two new restroom/shower facilities and renovation of the existing bathhouse. The estimated project cost is $304,105; $228,080 will be requested from the DNR while Marquette County’s share is $76,025. Staff recommends the County Board adopt a resolution committing the County to the project.

The Big Bay non-motorized pathway route identification project application will request grant funding to identify a non-motorized pathway route connecting Sugarloaf Mountain with Perkins Park in Big Bay. The Resource Management Department and Road Commission intend to perform such tasks as resource inventory, plan development, mapping, preliminary survey work, and ownership research in order to identify such route. The estimated project cost is $50,000 to complete. Marquette County’s share is $12,500. Staff recommends the County Board adopt a resolution committing the County to the project.

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 applications for recreation grant funding currently offered by the Michigan DNR and adopt the two resolutions committing the County to the projects; 1) the Perkins Park Development Project - authorizing $76,025 from the Land Acquisition Fund as the County’s 25% local match; and 2) the Sugarloaf to Big Bay non-motorized pathway route identification - authorizing $12,500 from the Land Acquisition Fund as the County’s 25% local match.

The Committee considered a communication from Norman Holmes, Chair, Marquette County Planning Commission, regarding the 1997 CDBG Housing Grant Application. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing to discuss a proposal to apply for CDBG housing funds currently being offered by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). Marquette County is eligible to apply for CDBG funding in the amount of $275,000 for housing improvement activities benefiting low and moderate income county residents. Marquette County has been awarded two similar grants in the past and has been used to fund the ongoing County Housing Rehabilitation Program.

Staff projects that approximately $1.4 million will be spent on housing rehabilitation in the County through 1998 using MSHDA’s three loan programs administered by the Resource Management Dept. Staff has also considered expanding the activities to include down payment assistance for first time homebuyers meeting income guidelines. Eligible homebuyers can receive up to $5,000 (as a deferred loan) to help pay for a portion of downpayment and closing costs, and could be used in special cases as a buydown of the purchase price. Since the County’s 1996 Housing Plan stresses promoting home ownership for low-income residents through activities such as the down payment assistance program, Staff feels this activity should be included in the 1997 CDBG application.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1997 Michigan CDBG Housing Program grant application by adopting the resolution authorizing submission of the application to seek Michigan State Housing Development Authority CDBG Funding, and in addition, authorize the Board Chair to sign attachments 2, 3, and 4. And further that the County Board approve the following activities funded by the 1997 block grant for the Marquette County Housing Rehabilitation Program: Rehabilitation - $173,000; Emergency Repairs - $27,500; Downpayment Assistance - $25,000; and Program Administration - $49,500.
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The Committee considered the K.I.Sawyer Heating System Replacement Funding. Steve Powers, County Administrator, stated that one of the items that was part of County’s original implementation plan for K.I.Sawyer was authorizing the heating conversion process. There are two significant parts to that process. One was continuing discussions with the Air Force regarding the funding that would be provided by the Air Force Base Conversion Authority for converting the industrial and commercial buildings to stand alone heating systems. The second was authorizing a request for bids for the engineering and design work. The memorandum of understanding is almost the same as the memorandum of understanding that was provided by the Air Force Base Conversion Authority to the Jobs Commission. This is the memorandum of understanding that will, if the Air Force agrees, to provide the $5 million in funding for the heat conversion. They have included $2.6 million. That money will be available as soon as the Caretaker funding is available. The caretaker will be the mechanism that will allow the Air Force Base Conversion Authority to provide the money for the heat conversion.

Mr. Powers recommends the County Board sign the Memorandum of Understanding. He feels that this will require the Air Force to start showing some good faith in turn for the good faith that Marquette County has shown toward making the conversion of K.I.Sawyer a successful project. There is the possibility that they will not sign because of the change in the Memorandum of Understanding, that is that $5 million will be provided. The previous language stated $5 million may be provided. It also includes a change that says the money for the design and engineering will be reimbursed if the County has to proceed with the heating conversion design and engineering before the caretaker funding is provided.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board sign the Memorandum of Understanding as outlined by the County Administrator regarding the replacement funding for the K.I.Sawyer Heating System.

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The Committee considered a memo from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management, regarding the K.I.Sawyer Heating Conversion Bids. He presented a tabulation of the bids received for the project. Sundberg Carlson and Associates (in connection with Cummins and Barnard, Inc.) is the low bidder by a substantial amount. Mr. Koshorek has spoken with Sundberg Carlson and they say that they are comfortable with their bid and can perform the work as specified for that price. He recommends awarding the bid to Sundberg, Carlson & Assoc.

Gary Gorsalitz, U.P. Engineers & Arch., the second lowest bidder, was present and expressed his concerns regarding the potential recommendation of the low bidder, Sundberg Carlson & Assoc., for the design of the heating conversion at K.I.Sawyer.

Administrator Powers distributed a project schedule that outlines the process to be used for the heating conversion with a completion date of September 26, 1997.

Commissioner consensus was that the County has had good luck with Sundberg Carlson & Assoc. in the past. They feel Mr. Koshorek has done an excellent job in reviewing the bids and giving recommendations that have always worked out.

Comm. Cihak thanked Mr. Gorsalitz for his time and supports U.P. Engineers & Architects.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and carried on a voice vote 9 ayes to 1 nay (Comm. Cihak) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the K.I.Sawyer Heating Conversion Design project to the low bidder Sundberg Carlson & Associates in the amount of $149,531.

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The Committee considered the 1997 EDA Grant. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the County Board in previous action earlier this year authorized the preparation of the 1997 EDA Grant. Left unanswered was the question what agency should take the lead on preparing the application. Much of the work has been done, specifically the list of capital improvements. The application itself still needs to be prepared. The Board in August had authorized the EDC to be the County’s lead entity for the 1996 application. Mr. Powers recommends the County Board authorize the EDC to prepare the application, but not authorize the EDC to be the grant administrator.
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It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Economic Development Corporation to prepare the 1997 Economic Development Administration grant application, and to work with CUPPAD, County Staff, and other agencies as appropriate to prepare that application.

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The Committee took under consideration the EDC Audit Update by Steve Powers, County Administration. Mr. Powers stated that the Board has requested periodic updates on the 1992-1995 audit of the Economic Development Corporation. The status as of March 4:

By March 14: Preliminary 1994 Audit Report
By March 28: Preliminary 1995 Audit Report

The EDC Board will be holding special or emergency meetings to review and respond to preliminary findings.

Mr. Powers recommends that the EDC Board be asked to present the audits for 1992-95 to the Board of Commissioners at the April 8 Committee of the Whole meeting, and that the EDC Board request the auditor to also be present. The presentation should include a report on findings and the changes made to correct any deficiencies.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request the EDC audits for 1992-95 be presented to the County Board at the April 8, 1997 Committee of the Whole meeting by the auditor and that the EDC Board also be present.

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The Committee took under consideration a communication from Steve Powers, County Administrator, regarding the K.I.Sawyer Update. Mr. Powers explained that the implementation plan approved by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, and the many subsequent action items, include a multitude of administrative details. The expected duties and responsibilities have been analyzed, the County job descriptions and preliminary classification placements have been established for all positions at the base. For positions appropriate for representation, discussions are underway regarding representation by the Marquette County Courts and Courthouse Employees’ Chapter of Local #2914, Affiliated with Michigan Council #25 AFSCME, AFL-CIO. He anticipates posting the positions on March 12, 1997. The three management and two supervisor positions who are not in the bargaining unit are not being posted at this time. There are approximately 30 positions being represented by the bargaining unit.

Commissioners discussed concerns regarding staffing, state employees becoming County employees, salaries, bumping procedures and terms of employment, unemployment compensation, and health insurance.

Randell Girard, Human Resources Director, explained that the posting process that the County is required to follow under the Collection Bargaining Agreement opens the positions to current bargaining unit members first. The individuals at K.I.Sawyer will not be considered for positions until April 1, 1997. They are still State employees through March 31, 1997. They have been notified by the State that they will no longer be employees as of the end of business on March 31, 1997. The County assumes the positions on April 1, 1997. The positions are being posted now to get the posting and bidding process completed so the County will know which of those positions will be filled by current employees bidding within the bargaining unit.

Mr. Powers further stated that part of the unknown is the unique characteristics of K.I.Sawyer. While the County’s involvement at K.I.Sawyer is anticipated to be longer than the temporary definition that we have in our County policies and union contracts, which is six months, there is still the period of time, the three to five year time line, that has been discussed. This will cause concern with some employees moving out to K.I.Sawyer. Some of the positions may provide a promotional opportunity for our current employees, but there are only a few.
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Comm. Arsenault explained that he has been in contact with the consultant that is working for the Jobs Commission in writing the regulations on the revolving loan fund and a final draft will be available for Commissioners to review tomorrow.

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

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The Committee considered the Strategic Planning Update from Steve Powers, County Administrator. Mr. Powers distributed a rough outline for strategic planning. The dates planned are April 25-26, 1997. Location to be determined.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the dates of April 25-26, 1997 for the Strategic Planning Session, and invite all Committees of Marquette County and any interest person from the public sector to attend and offer their input.

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The Committee took under consideration the Application for Funding to the U.S. Dept. of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management. Mr. Koshorek explained that as of 4:00 p.m. today exchanges have been made and an agreement approved with OEA Staff and will be recommended by their technical review committee. It’s considerably less money than reported last time. The total of all the projects is approximately $1.6 million, with $1.2 million being requested from OEA. Although they did not have much of a problem with the staffing levels and the assistance that was asked for, they did delete from the study projects. $112,000 from the utility study, used primarily used for the televised viewing of all sewer lines; and $570,000 from the survey work, used primarily used to survey road rights of ways, utility corridors, and some property line work. Staff believes that of those reductions the least desirable is the survey work.

The total project request is $973,810.00, of which $692,000 would come from OEA. The County’s participation remains in-kind with contributions estimated at $124,000. The State of Michigan’s contribution to this project is $157,600. Mr. Koshorek recommends the County Board authorize the Board Chair to submit the grant request.

Mr. Powers recommends submitting the grant request with the caveat that the County Board direct County Staff to continue to negotiate additional money for the surveying work. He asks for the County Board’s flexibility in having County Staff use their judgement without jeopardizing the timelines.

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 submit the Application for Funding to the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment as presented and direct County Staff to continue to negotiate additional money for the surveying work.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Cihak expressed his appreciation to Staff for still having the time to work on other projects besides K.I.Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin reported that the final K.I.Sawyer Conversion Authority meeting was held today.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Collection of Funds for the Juvenile Restitution Account.

Elected Officials’ Compensation.

Budget Amendment regarding Perkins Park.

Memo from Steve Powers, County Administrator, regarding Televising Committee of the Whole Meetings.

1997 DNR Recreation Grant Application.

1997 CDBG Housing Grant Application.

KI Sawyer Heating Conversion Design.

KI Sawyer Heating System Replacement Funding.

KI Sawyer Heating Conversion Bids (materials forthcoming).

EDA Grant (no packet materials).

EDC Audit Update.

KI Sawyer Update.

Strategic Planning Update.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.