The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, June 2, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


A Salute to the Flag was given, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the May 19, 1998 Regular Board Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution and presented a plaque to "Sis" Prout on her retirement:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION**

**HONORING "SIS" (EOLIA) PROUT**

**ON HER RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, "Sis" Prout has dedicated 25 years of her life serving the citizens of Marquette County as Secretary with the Marquette County Health Department; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges its appreciation for the services of "Sis" Prout from February 5, 1973 through June 12, 1998; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that "Sis" Prout's conscientiousness, professionalism, pride, patience, and sense of humor have enabled her to serve the people of Marquette County in a most exemplary fashion.

Proclaimed this 2nd day of June, 1998
Gerald O. Corkin Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Frank Honkala, County Road 581, South of Ishpeming, was present and supported Item 10d, a recommendation to hire an additional Airport Assistant Manager. Mr. Honkala contended that the County needs this position because the present Airport Manager is not qualified. This was demonstrated during discussions of landing approaches to the County Airport and KI Sawyer. If the County hires an Assistant Manager who is qualified in aviation matters he could then direct the present manager.

Tom Casperson, a member of the logging-truck-task-force formed after the logging truck accident that occurred near Sagola. The logging-truck-task-force is concerned about safety on our highways, has been reviewing proposals, and has reached a point where their recommendations need legislative action. He is seeking help and support from local units of government.

It appears that crib trailers would provide the safety necessary for hauling logs, however, a loaded truck hauling logs crosswise is legal at 9 feet wide, but is legal only at 8 feet wide empty. Legislation is needed to allow the wider crib trailer on highways. The Logging Task Force met with a manufacturer and a crib trailer will cost $40,000. Use of such trailers would not be mandated but recommended once legal.

The Task Force is also recommending that more training be required for logging truck drivers before they be allowed to haul on the highways. This also requires legislative action.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Mr. Casperson for his comments and noted that the County Board will be glad to meet and work with them on safety issues and logging trucks.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  JUNE 2, 1998

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following changes: Remove Item 9b) and Late Additions 11a) Resignation of the Commission on Aging Director, and 11b) Update on the Powell Township meeting regarding County Road 550.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following informational items be accepted and placed on file:


b. MI Tax Tribunal Notice of Property Tax Appeal: Ameritech vs. Marquette Township.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10a, 10b, 10c, 10e, 10g, 10h, 10i, and 10j be approved as follows:

10a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the Early Start Letter from EDA and proceed with the advertisement of bids for the KI Sawyer Industrial Airport Development Project (Terminal Building).

10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation that the County Board approve of the Request for Proposal Document, the proposed review process (including formation of the Review Committee), and the project budget (including repayment of a $11,500 loan from the Delinquent Revolving Tax Fund) for the purchase of the Marquette County Airport Site plus improvements.

10c) Committee of the Whole Recommendation that the County Board concur with the Airport Board on the Lease Assignment to the Neguane Public School District for a 1.3 acre site at the County Airport, and further, that the County Board consider selling the 1.3 acre site to the Neguane Public Schools at a price determined by an appraiser selected by the County and the School District.

10e) Committee of the Whole Recommendation that the County Board approve of the exchange of Building 400 for Building 604 with the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians at Sawyer.

10g) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the purchase of a new telephone system for the DeFent Building through Lucent Technologies, budget amount not to exceed $31,000, project to be funded and depreciated through the copy/computer enterprise fund.

10h) Committee of the Whole Recommendation that the County Board adopt the Marquette County Commission on Aging Constitution and Bylaws as amended.

10i) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the bid award for two Resource Management/Development Fleet Vehicles to the low bidder, Hooper Stanaway Ford of Ishpeming in the amount of $22,000.

10j) Committee of the Whole Recommendation that the County Board support the effort to amend the Severance Tax Legislation so that a portion of the tax can be returned to local units of government, resolution as follows:
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
FOR
SEVERANCE TAXES RETURNED TO COUNTIES
EXperiencing OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT/EXPANSION

WHEREAS, a majority of Michigan Counties, specifically those in the lower peninsula, have or anticipate to experience continuing production or rapid gas and oil development; and

WHEREAS, significant environmental, infrastructure, public safety, quality of life, transportation and other impacts have occurred within the counties affected; and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan receives significant monetary revenues from sources relating to the purchase or exchange of land, acquisition of mineral rights or leasing of land for oil and gas development, royalty payments from oil and gas production, fee collections and a severance tax; and

WHEREAS, Counties that have been impacted from oil and gas development receive little or no value added locally; and

WHEREAS, other states with effective programs, such as Montana, Colorado, Wyoming and North Dakota do provide portions of severance or extraction taxes back to affected counties or communities to address local oil and gas concerns; and

WHEREAS, monetary resources are critically needed at the local level in affected Michigan counties to address the resultant impacts from oil and gas development and related local concerns.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners desires that the State of Michigan return, at minimum, at least 50% of the funds collected as severance taxes on oil/gas production back to the counties of origin from which the funds are being generated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor John Engler, State Representative Alan Lowe, State Representative Mike Pruski, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Adopted this 2nd day of June, 1998
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10d) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve of a contractual Sawyer Airport Development Manager Position. Comm. Cihak noted that he is concerned about the additional cost for the position and will vote against it.

Comm. Rapport noted that the present Airport Manager and Assistant Manager are stretched to the maximum in their responsibilities for the relocation of the Airport. The funding for the position will be available and the Assistant is needed.

Comm. Seppanen noted that the position is only for a limited contract of 18 months, with a possible extension of up to six months with County Board approval.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport seconded by Comm. Seppanen and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Cihak) that the County Board approve of the contractual Sawyer Airport Development Manager position, anticipated salary range $37,000 to $47,500 (negotiable) with specific duties and responsibilities under the limited direction and supervision of the Airport Manager, responsible for assisting with development of Sawyer Airport. Funding for the position from the Airport Fund and the EDA II Grant.

10f) The County Board considered a recommendation from the Committee of the Whole to support the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in their effort of acquiring conveyance for Buildings 421 and 422 at KL Sawyer. Steve Powers, County Administrator, distributed a memo recommending that as part of the County Board’s support of the Tribe’s conveyance the County expectations regarding aviation use of the hangars be communicated to the Tribe. The County Airport Board and the FAA have rules, regulations, and policies to insure safe, orderly, and financially solvent operations of the Airport. If the Tribe uses the hangars for aviation purposes, the County should expect, and require the Tribe to comply with Airport regulations, policies and procedures.
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It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board proceed with acquiring hangars 662 and 663 and support the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in their efforts of acquiring conveyance for hangars 421 and 422 at Sawyer, and further, that as part of the County Board's support for the Tribe's conveyance, the County's expectations regarding aviation use of the hangars be communicated to the Tribe.

10k) The County Board considered nominations to a mid-year vacancy on the Marquette County Planning Commission for a term to end on December 31, 2000. County Clerk Dave Roberts reported there are presently five applications on file and recommended that they be placed into nomination and that the application time be left open until the County Board's regular meeting of June 16, 1998, at which time the Board makes the final appointment.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following individuals be placed in nomination for a vacancy on the Marquette County Planning Commission with the nomination time period remaining open until June 16th:

Thomas D. Budgick, Chocolay Township
Randell E. Girard, Marquette
Gary Moe, Forsyth Township
Joe Pietro, Forsyth Township
Patty Stevens, Marquette

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that David Thayer, Commission on Aging Director, has submitted his resignation effective June 4, 1998. Mr. Thayer has requested some terms attached to his resignation and Staff is recommending the following: Compensation for the months of June and July, 1998; insurance benefits for up to 12 months; and a letter of recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board accept the resignation of David Thayer, Commission on Aging Director, as per the terms recommended by Administrator Powers.

11b) Chairperson Corkin attended a public meeting in Powell Township regarding improvements to County Road 550. Powell Township officials hosted the meeting which was attended by State Representative Prusi, the County Sheriff, the Road Commission, and Chairperson Corkin. Major improvements are scheduled for County Road 550 for the year 2000, however, the Road Commission feels the improvements must be moved forward on the schedule. They are working on ways to acquire the necessary funding. Approximately 20 miles of County Road 550 needs work. The meeting lasted 2-1/2 hours and provided constructive comment. The Road Commission will be holding its June monthly meeting in Powell Township. Also, a Citizen's Committee has been started to review the matter.

Comm. Roberts noted he recently attended a townhall meeting in Ishpeming where State Senator Don Koivisto and State Representative Mike Prusi were present. Over 90% of the meeting discussion was about roads and transportation.

Comm. Rapport expressed her appreciation to the logging truck drivers for their efforts to improve the safety of the logging truck industry, especially trying to increase training for drivers but necessary legislative amendments will take time. Logging trucks are a major part of the Upper Peninsula's business community so Comm. Rapport urged drivers to watch before they pull out in front of a logging truck.

Comm. Rapport also offered her personal congratulations to Sis Prout. She is a part of the County Health Department history serving as secretary for 25 years and will be missed.
It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Cihak, Joseph, Rapport, Roberts, Seppanen, Tuominen, and Corkin, to 0 Nays that the County Board go into closed session to discuss pending litigation: Northern Michigan Aviation vs. Marquette County et al. and also the acquisition of real property for the Sawyer Rail Spur.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 7:30 p.m. to clear commission chambers for the closed session. Also Comm. Angel arrived during the closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Board came back into open session at 8:15 p.m. The following action was forthcoming as a result of the closed session:

14a) It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize legal counsel to proceed as per the recommendations made in closed session regarding the litigation: Northern Michigan Aviation vs. Marquette County et al.

14b) It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board proceed with the acquisition of real property for the Sawyer Rail Spur as per the recommendations made in closed session, contingent on review by the Marquette County Planning Commission.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARBETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, June 2, 1998 at 7:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
   a. Resolution Honoring "Sis" (Eolia) Prout on Her Retirement.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   c. MI Tax Tribunal Notice of Property Tax Appeal: Ameritech vs. Marquette Township.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Early Start Letter from the EDA and Proceed with Advertising Bids for the Sawyer Industrial Airport Development Project.
    c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Concur with the Lease Assignment to the Negaunee Public Schools for 1.3 Acres at the County Airport.
    d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve of a Sawyer Airport Development Manager Position.
    f. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Proceed with Acquiring Hangars 662 and 663 and Support the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians for Conveyance of Buildings 421 and 422 and KI Sawyer.
    g. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a Telephone System Upgrade for the DeFant Building through Lu cent Technologies.
    h. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Adopt the Marquette County Commission on Aging Constitution and Bylaws.
    i. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Award the Bid for Two Resource Management/Development Fleet Vehicles to Hooper Stanaway Ford.
    j. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Support the Effort to Amend the Severance Tax Legislation in Counties Who Produce Oil and Gas.
    k. Mid-Year Vacancies to Various County Boards and Commissions.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a. 
    b. 
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. CLOSED SESSION:
    a. Pending Litigation - Northern Michigan Aviation vs. Marquette County et al.
    b. Acquisition of Real Property for Sawyer Rail Spur.
15. ADJOURNMENT.