The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 8, 1998 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 November 24, 1998 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Tom Ryan, 800 Deer Lake Road, Ishpeming, a pilot and an aircraft owner, spoke regarding general aviation and the airport move to KI Sawyer. Mr. Ryan contended there seems to be a lack of concern about general aviation at KI Sawyer. He has requested information regarding general aviation services that would be available at Sawyer but so far has received no responses.
Mr. Ryan felt that this lack of concern, with no serious effort underway at Sawyer regarding general aviation, assumes that general aviation activities at the present airport will just pack up and move to Sawyer. There are other options however, Munising oddly enough is attempting to attract general aviation to their airport. He recommends that the County Board not ignore general aviation but develop plans and policies to promote general aviation so aircraft owners have a reason to move to Sawyer.

Jim Sodergren, Cooper Lake Road, Ishpeming Township, has received notice of a public meeting regarding Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company closure of the Republic Mine. The meeting is to be held in Republic Township on December 15 at 7:00 P.M. at the High School. He recommended that the County Board send a member of the Planning Department because the County should have input on any reclamation plan being discussed.

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

Commissioners asked Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, to respond to public comments by Tom Ryan regarding general aviation. Mr. Pawley explained there is a plan and it is part of the Airport Layout Plan which includes 20-32 T-Hangars for general aviation. The T-Hangars are to be funded in the 1999 MAP Program, however, Congress has not yet provided the funds.

Larry Coelhoorne, Administrator Powers, and himself have discussed other options because of this delay in funding. All hangar space will not be in place by the time we move the Airport, however, staff is looking at an interim plan for funding approximately 10 T-Hangars. There is a plan, we are working towards it, but cannot move ahead as quickly as hoped because of the funding delay.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, also noted that Staff will have a recommendation at the first Committee of the Whole Meeting in January, 1999 regarding a detailed plan for general aviation.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 14) Scope of Services Proposal from Attorney David Knisley.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 20, 1998, through December 4, 1998 in the amount of $882,960.02 be approved.

The Committee considered bids from seven potential vendors for the replacement of three Sheriff’s Department Patrol Vehicles, funded in the 1999 Capital Improvement Budget.
Sheriff Michael Lovelace was present and explained that two separate specifications were drafted and submitted to vendors for proposals. A list of the vendors and their submissions was distributed to Commissioners. Sheriff Lovelace recommends that a low bid from Crown Motors of Marquette in the amount of $42,778.20 for two Ford full size Crown Victoria vehicles be accepted. Sheriff Lovelace further recommends that the higher of the two bids for a large two wheel drive Chevrolet Tahoe 4-door Sports Utility Vehicle from Frei Chevrolet, Inc. of Marquette in the amount of $27,761.69 be accepted. Sheriff Lovelace
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS    COUNTY OF MARQUETTE    DECEMBER 8, 1998

explained even though the Frei Chevrolet bid was $355.69 higher than Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing, Michigan, a County employee would have to make a special trip to Lansing to pick up the vehicle. The cost of such a trip would more than offset the difference in the bid. Sheriff Lovelace further explained that the 2-wheel drive Tahoe replaces a Chevrolet Caprice Patrol Car. The Sheriff’s Department will be experimenting by replacing a patrol car with the Tahoe Sport Utility type vehicle. They contended that patrolman have better vision, more safety, and more comfort. The Tahoe has higher clearance, more durability, and is rebuildable.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted there is $78,000 in the 1999 CIP budget for these vehicles. The cost of the three vehicles comes to approximately $72,000, but there will be additional expenses for light bars and decals, however, total cost will be under budget.

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 the purchase of two Ford Crown Victoria full size four door police patrol vehicles from Crown Motors of Marquette at a cost of $42,778.20, and one large two wheel drive four door Chevrolet Tahoe police sport utility vehicle from Frei Chevrolet, Inc. of Marquette at a cost of $27,761.69.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a Community Corrections Substance Abuse Contract for FY 1998/99 with Great Lakes Recovery. Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that the Contract with Great Lake Recovery is basically the same as previous years with a reduction of overall funding to $43,800, no local match required. The funding reduction is because of fewer clients utilizing this service. The Contract has received Risk Management and Legal review.

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 approve of the Substance Abuse Agreement Contract No. 98086 for FY 1998/99 with Great Lakes Recovery.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a request from Chief Circuit Court Judge John R. Weber for the purchase of a new Meridian CD Tower for the computerized law library and also Circuit Court needs its own private FAX machine.

Steve Powers, County Administrator pointed out that the Computer CD Tower is a very important purchase. When the present CD Tower crashes it jeopardizes the whole network with 90 computer stations. Brent Nault, Information Services Manager, concurs with the purchase of the new CD tower. The Meridian CD Tower cost is $3,700 and the FAX machine cost is $750 for a total of $4,450. Funds are available in the 1998 Law Library Budget.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the purchase of the Circuit Court Meridian CD Tower and FAX machine at a cost of $4,450 as requested.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a memo from James Sodergren, County Treasurer with an attached Prosecutor’s Opinion indicating that Specific Iron Ore Tax must be based on the value of a Flux Pellet.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept the communication for file and have Staff analyze it.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a lease with the State of Michigan for office space at the Health Department Service Center in Neguane Township. The Lease will provide additional revenue for the Health Department to operate the Service Center. The County Board has delegated management responsibilities for the Service Center Building to the Board of Health and Health Department.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, further explained that the Lease will provide 170 sq. ft. to the State Offices of Services to the Aging. The Lease Agreement is for three years, with a three year extension. Lease rates are $1,870 for 1999, $1,926 for the year 2000, and $1,984 for the year 2001.

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 of the Lease with the State of Michigan Office of Services to the Aging for office space at the Health Department Service Center Building located a 184 U.S. Highway 41, Neguane Township, and authorize its Chairperson and County Clerk to sign.

* * * * *

2
The Committee considered a License Agreement between the County of Marquette and SENC0, Inc. to lease storage space in Sawyer Building No. 725. SENC0, Inc. has contracted with Menards for 916 green houses. If this order can be completed in time they expect another order for 1,000 greenhouses. As a result SENC0 is hiring 10 more people to fill these orders. Payment to the County will be $200 per month, on a month by month basis commencing December 1, 1998 until May 31, 1999. These lease payments will help to cover utility costs for unused portions of Building No. 725 for the winter months.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a License Agreement with SENC0, Inc. to lease storage space in Sawyer Building No. 725.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, that the County Board request 2% gaming payments from the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Council and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. Administrator Powers explained that the first unified request for 2% gaming revenues made last year and in response, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community provided $143,000 and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe provided $2,400 in 1998. Since 1994, the two Tribes have made payments of $427,000 to the County of Marquette.

For 1999 departments were asked to suggest County programs that were consistent with the guidelines and the Tribe’s past support of public safety and programs that benefit children. The 1999 recommendation is for the following unified request:

DARE - $90,000 The DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program educates grade school children and middle school children on the hazards of drug abuse and teaches positive alternatives to drug use. During the 1997/98 school year 605 students received training. It is estimated that the number of fifth through eighth grade students to receive training in 1999 would be 825.

Dental Clinic - $50,000 The Marquette County Dental Clinic started in 1992 to serve children unable to financially access dental care. The clinic sees children 2 to 20 years of age. Since the clinic started, over 2,800 children have received preventative and restorative dental services. The gaming revenues would fund renovations costs needed to start a clinic at Sawyer.

Native American Youth Coordinator - $35,000 The Marquette County Juvenile Department of the Family Division of the Circuit Court is legally responsible for Native American youth who commit delinquent offenses off reservation property. The Court places Native American youth in foster homes. Currently there are no Native American foster parents. This Coordinator would work with the Juvenile Department to provide probation services to Native American youth, recruit Native American foster parents, and work with Native American families referred to diversion.

Administrator Powers further recommended that the request for these program be asked of both tribes which can only increase the County’s chances of receiving funding. The Native American Youth Coordinator position would be funded on a year to year basis and treated like a grant position. If funds are not available then the position would be eliminated.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board forward a request for 2% gaming payments from both the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, with the request totaling $175,000 from each tribe.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole refer a communication from the CUPPAD Regional Commission regarding the Delta County Solid Waste Management Plan to the Marquette County Solid Waste Planning Committee for their review and comment.
The Committee considered a Scope of Services Proposal from Attorney David S. Knisley. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that during the last 12 months, Civil Counsel Harley Andrews, Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, and himself, have discussed and identified the need for outside legal counsel. Attorney David Knisley was present at a recent meeting with Mr. Carr from the Air Force Base Conversion Authority. Mr. Knisley’s experience and knowledge regarding military base closures is impressive. Administrator Powers recommends that the County Board waive its normal bidding or RFP process and authorize an agreement with Attorney David S. Knisley for his Scope of Services Proposal for a sum not to exceed $32,000 in fees plus reimbursement for direct costs. Funds from lease revenues at Sawyer have been budgeted for this purpose.

Civil Counsel Harley Andrews further explained that military base closures has developed into a booming industry for consultants, contractors, and lawyers. This is a very specialized type of work. David Knisley has had experience with many military base closures all over the United States. At a meeting in Marquette on November 24, 1998 he demonstrated an instant grasp and familiarity with the issues that Marquette County is facing with Sawyer. He has a history of working directly with the legal staff at the AFBCA headquarters in Arlington. He can provide invaluable services and advise on such matters as environmental issues and financial drawdowns. Marquette County is approaching a critical juncture in the economic development conveyance and the public benefit transfer process. Mr. Knisley’s fee estimates for various tasks are based on an hourly rate of $150 plus direct expenses. His fees are very reasonable considering his experience and expertise.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize an agreement with Attorney Davis S. Knisley for his services as specified in his Scope of Services Proposal, for a sum not to exceed $32,000 in fees, plus reimbursement for direct costs, funds to come from lease revenues at Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

County Commissioner Elect Harvey Wallace, 1806 Mildred Avenue, Marquette, expressed his appreciation for the recent tour of KI Sawyer. He had the opportunity to spend three hours with Hal Pawley and Tom Rumora as they provided a very informative overview of KI Sawyer development.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Cihak and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Curto, Arsenault, Cihak, Joseph, Rapport, Roberts, Seppanen, Tuominen, and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee go into closed session to discuss pending litigation RE: Norther Michigan Aviation vs. Marquette County.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 6:41 P.M. to clear commission chambers.

________________________________________
CLOSED SESSION

Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 7:27 P.M.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee concur with the recommendation of legal counsel made during the Closed Session and give its authorization to proceed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Sheriff's Department Patrol Vehicles Bid Recommendation.

Community Corrections Substance Abuse Agreement with Great Lakes Recovery.

Request for Law Library CD Tower and Circuit Court Fax Machine.

Prosecutor Opinion Stating Specific Iron Ore Tax Must Be Based on Value of the Flux Pellet.

Lease for the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Services to the Aging, Located at 184 U.S. 41 East, Negaunee.

License Agreement between Marquette County and SENCO, Inc. to Lease Space in Sawyer Building 725.

Recommendation to Request 2% Gaming Payments from Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

Review and Comment on Delta County Solid Waste Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CLOSED SESSION RE: Pending Litigation, Northern Michigan Aviation vs. Marquette County.

ADJOURNMENT.