The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, January 19, 1999 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. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the January 5, 1999 Organizational Meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Informational Item 9j) Notice from MAC that Comm. Roberts has been appointed a Voting Member of the MAC Taxation Committee, and Late Addition Item 11a) AMVET Request for County Board Support in Opposing the Loss of Inpatient Beds at the Iron Mountain Veterans Administration Hospital.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place the following informational items on file:

a. Thank You from Ellwood Mattson for the County’s Participation in His 80th Birthday Celebration.

b. Announcement that Bay de Noc Community College will receive a $2.3 Million Michigan Technical Education Center Grant.

c. Notice from Tim McGuire, Executive Director, MAC, that Comm. Harvey Wallace has been Nominated for Appointment to the MPHI Local Public Health Accreditation Commission.


f. Upper Peninsula Road Builders’ Association Annual Winter Meeting, February 9th and 10th, Marquette Ramada Inn.

g. Reminder from Bob Larson, UPRC&D Chairman, to Appoint a RC&D Representative.

h. Letter from Mark F. Adelmann, Director of Operations, Northern Natural Gas, regarding Pipeline “Caution Markers” and Safety Concerns.

i. Marquette County EDC 1999 Meeting Schedule.

Chairperson Corkin commended Comm. Wallace on his nomination for appointment to the MPHI Local Public Health Accreditation Commission and Comm. Roberts on his appointment to the MAC Taxation Committee.

Chairperson Corkin noted with pleasure that Bay de Noc Community College is one of eight Community Colleges chosen in Michigan to receive the Michigan Technical Education Center Grant. Himself and Comm. Arsenault sit on the Six County Administrative Board (Comm. Arsenault is Chair) and commended their efforts and all Upper Peninsula Counties.

Comm. Arsenault also expressed his pleasure with the Upper Peninsula getting one of the new technical training centers. Bay de Noc Community College will work with industry, NMU, LSSU, and MTU to help train skilled workers. The technical training will be for jobs that already exist.

**ACTION ITEMS**

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10a, 10b, 10c, and 10e be approved as follows:

10a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation that the County Board authorize giving notice to Ramrod U.P., Inc. of termination of the March 1, 1996 Sublease as of February 28, 1999, and offer a new Sublease based upon the rate of $1.75 per sq. ft. per year for the first five years with increases of 3% for each of the next five years.
10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a Contract between the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department and Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District for Substance Abuse Prevention Services, Contract Amount $22,033.

10c) A letter from Chairperson Corkin to John Marshall, III, Kresge Foundation, requesting their Support for the Marquette County YMCA Building Project.

10e) The appointment of Dr. Robin Cook as a Deputy Medical Examiner for Marquette County; and appointment of Dt/Sgt. Steven Snowaert, Marquette City Police and Sgt. Gary Heinzelman, Chocolay Township Police, as Medical Examiner Investigators for Marquette County.

**ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**

10d) The County Board considered a renewal agreement with the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Inc. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the present agreement expired on December 31, 1998 and he is recommending a two year extension. The LSCP aids in the implementation of economic development policies and directives, develops and provides reports, data analysis, follow up on leads, acts as initial contact with prospects, and networks with other community development agencies. On October 27, 1998 LSCP Officers provided a report to the County Board on their accomplishments. From the beginning it was felt that three years would be needed for the LSCP to completely jell as an organization but the first year has been a good indicator. County funding for 1999 is budgeted at $63,475. The LSCP 1999 total budget amounts to $439,000 which includes $130,000 in government dues. With over 80 members, including the Cities of Marquette, Ishpeming, and Negaunee, the LSCP has achieved the Board’s goal of sharing the costs and effort of economic development with the private sector and other units of government. The LSCP 1998 budget amounted to approximately $190,000.

Comm. Rapport contended that the LSCP has proven itself and has had good success it its first year. Representatives of business from all over the County are working together with government for economic development.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board renew the Agreement with Lake Superior Community Partnership, Inc. through December 31, 2000.

10f) The County Board considered appointments to various County Boards and Commissions. Comm. "Wallace will be moving into the Commissioner slot on the Marquette County Board of Health replacing Comm. Seppanen. This leaves an opening for a 1-year partial term on the Board of Health expiring 12/31/99. Also, the City of Marquette and the City of Negaunee have submitted two nominees for MarqTran as the County Board requested. The following appointments were made by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners:

**Marquette County Board of Health** Partial term expiring 12/31/99

Todd Ray, Marquette

MarqTran City of Marquette Representative, 3-year term ending 12/31/01

Tony Tollefson

MarqTran City of Negaunee Representative, 3-year term ending 12/31/01

Richard Wills

**LATE ADDITIONS**

The County Board was presented with background materials regarding a proposal to reduce the number of inpatient beds at the Iron Mountain VA Hospital. Making the presentation were James M. Smith, Commander, AMVET Post 122, and Joe Petry, AMVET Member.
Mr. Smith reported that the federal government proposes to cut $10 million from the Veteran's Administration budget of which $1 million would go to the Iron Mountain Veteran's Hospital. There are presently 24 beds in the hospital but the 17 inpatient beds would be eliminated, leaving only 7 stabilizing beds to handle all the Veterans in the area. The VA Hospital in Iron Mountain provides service to all of the Upper Peninsula and 11 counties in Northern Wisconsin. Seven beds is not enough.

The AMVETS are opposed to the extra 220 miles of travel for Veterans and their families to go to a VA Hospital in Milwaukee. The AMVETS request support from the County Board by way of a letter to U.S. Senators Carl Levin, Spencer Abraham, and Congressman Bart Stupak.

Joe Petry thanked the County Board for allowing them to be a Late Addition on the agenda and for their support.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board send a strong letter to our U.S. Legislators in support of keeping 27 beds open at the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin read a letter with good news: Superior Extrusion, Inc. at KI Sawyer has announced that their new aluminum extruder is fully operational. SEI is located in Building No. 740 with 45,890 sq. ft. of plant space and five adjoining acres. SEI has a highly skilled and trained workforce which will provide quality aluminum extruded products on time at a reasonable cost. There are presently 14 employees (8 plant workers) and SEI hopes to have 60 to 65 workers on three shifts in three years.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Bergdahl, Curto, Rapport, Roberts, Seppanen, Tuominen, Wallace, and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go into closed session to discuss pending litigation: Sheldon vs. Marquette County.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 7:25 P.M. to clear commission chambers.

The County Board came back into open session at 7:56 P.M.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Curto and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize Staff to proceed as per the recommendation made during closed session.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
4. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   a. Thank You from Ellwood Mattson for the County’s Participation in His 80th Birthday Celebration.
   b. Announcement that Bay de Noc Community College will receive a $2.3 Million Michigan Technical Education Center Grant.
   c. Notice from Tim McGuire, Executive Director, MAC, that Comm. Harvey Wallace has been Nominated for Appointment to the MPHI Local Public Health Accreditation Commission.
   f. Upper Peninsula Road Builders’ Association Annual Winter Meeting, February 9th and 10th, Marquette Ramada Inn.
   g. Reminder from Bob Larson, UPRC&D Chairman, to Appoint a RC&D Representative.
   h. Letter from Mark F. Adelmann, Director of Operations, Northern Natural Gas, regarding Pipeline "Caution Markers" and Safety Concerns.
   i. Marquette County EDC 1999 Meeting Schedule.
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    c. Letter from Chairperson Corkin to John Marshall, III, Kresge Foundation, requesting their Support for the Marquette County YMCA Building Project.
    d. Renewal Agreement with the Lake Superior Community Partnership.
    e. Request from Randall E. Smith, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, for the Appointment of Dr. Robin Cook as a Deputy Medical Examiner, Dt/Sgt. Steven Snowaert, Marquette City Police, and Sgt. Gary Heinzelman, Chocolay Township Police, as Medical Examiner Investigators for Marquette County.
    f. Continuation of Appointments to Various County Boards and Commissions.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a.
    b.
    c.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. CLOSED SESSION: Pending Litigation Re: Sheldon vs. Marquette County.
15. ADJOURNMENT.