The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 9, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the February 23, 1999 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: 16) Agreement with Lake Superior Community Partnership for Marketing & Promotion Services; 17) Continuation of Violence Against Women Grant; 18) Lease with Dr. Kroll for Sawyer Dental Clinic; and Closed Session: DeRocha V. Marquette County & Pellestar V. Marquette County.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 19, 1999 thru March 4, 1999 in the amount of $1,046,319.40 be approved.

The Committee considered a memo from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Marquette County Health Department, regarding changes in the Health Department Retirement Program. On February 24, 1999 the Marquette County Board of Health ratified a new 3-year labor agreement with the Health Department bargaining unit. The new agreement provides for several adjustments in retirement including:

1) Beginning January 1, 2001, the MERS defined benefit retirement program offered to existing AFSCME employees will be changed from the B-3 plan with the FAC-5 and F55/25 riders, and no employee contribution to the B-4 plan with the FAC-3, F50/25 and E-2 riders, and an employee contribution of 2% of gross wages.

2) All new AFSCME employees hired after March 1, 1999 will be enrolled in a MERS defined contribution retirement program with an employer contribution of 8% of gross wages and an employee contribution of 2% of gross wages. Employees in the defined contribution program will be fully vested after five years of service.

3) All existing AFSCME employees will have the option to either stay with the MERS defined benefit program or irrevocably elect to transfer to the MERS defined contribution program.

Dr. Randall Johnson explained that on February 24, 1999 the Board of Health also approved a recommendation to implement the MERS defined contribution retirement program for Health Department non-union employees and members of the Michigan Nurses Association bargaining unit. Dr. Johnson recommends approval of the resolutions implementing these changes.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenaault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 3-year labor agreement with the Health Department AFSCME bargaining unit and adopt the appropriate resolutions implementing the changes in retirement.

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The Committee considered a communication from Roger C. Crimmins, A. Lindberg & Sons, Inc., regarding Permitting Sand/Gravel Pits and Stockpiles. Mr. Crimmins believes the permitting of existing commercial stone/sand/gravel pits is exempt and should be grandfathered due to existing operations prior to the new MCCD soil erosion program. He also stated that the authority being utilized by MCCD is unnecessary in today's business environment and the business community is sensitive to environmental issues in today's
society. Mr. Crimmins explained that as a stone producer, they are continually being monitored by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and other state agencies. Also, stone producers are regarded by regulatory agencies as a mining operation. Mr. Crimmins stated that the duplication of agencies authority is clearly a waste of taxpayer monies in this county and state and excessive regulations will only cost the consumers of the state and county additional money to buy products.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote to refer the communication from Roger Crimmins, A. Lindberg & Sons, Inc. regarding permitting sand/gravel pits and stockpiles to Civil Counsel for review and investigation.

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The Committee considered a Service Agreement with Larry Bussone for Remonumation Services. Mr. Bussone has served as the County’s Representative for the remonumation program since 1992 through two three-year agreements. County policy requires that services be competitively bid or solicited. The remonumation management and coordination work is a service. Mr. Bussone is not an employee. Extending agreement through March 2000 will provide time for a request for proposals or bids to be prepared. Services provided by public funds should be bid periodically to ensure the County is receiving the best value.

The County Representative coordinates the remonumation of all original government corners, prepares reports, administers the remonumation contracts, and provides other services as described in the Remonumation Plan. The remonumation program is funded by state grants. The 1999 budget is $114,100.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board extend the Service Performance Agreement with Larry Bussone to March 31, 2000 for a monthly fee of $625.

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The Committee considered the 1999 IV-D CRP Contract (Family Support) with the Michigan Family Independence Agency. Family Support obtains child support orders for dependent children for whom support has not been ordered, modifies support orders, establishes paternity for dependent children born out of wedlock, and provides support services. 1999 objectives include expanding outreach to assist non Adult and Family Dependent Children (AFDC) clientele, and expand services through use of the internet, generate higher level of reimbursement for child support and child care costs, and pursue criminal prosecution for felony non-support cases.

The Family Support program includes three employees and is part of the Prosecutor’s Office. The contract provides $119,130 to fund the Family Support program. The 1999 budget amount for the state revenue is $124,590. The program budget is $167,911. No General Fund support is needed for the program.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Resolution Authorizing the Board Chair to sign the 1999 IV-D CRP Contract.

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The Committee considered Purchase of Municipal Management Application Software. The County’s accounting, budget, and payroll software is antiquated and needs to be replaced. Most importantly, the payroll and accounting system is not Y2K compliant. Over 300 payroll checks will have to be hand calculated and typed every two weeks after January 1 if the system is not replaced. The financial and budgeting system is cumbersome and requires manual steps and processes that add time to the budget and financial management functions.

Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, and Gary Yoder, Finance and Human Resources Manager, have led the County’s review effort by investigating over a dozen vendors whose applications were specifically written for governmental entities and who fit both our needs and our budget. The K.I.Sawyer Development Department and County Treasurer also had input. The selection criteria used in selecting the recommended software include: Cost; Capacity; Payroll features; On-line budgets and financial reports; and Data consolidation. The Creative Computer Solutions (CCS) software provides program managers, department directors, elected officials and the board of commissioners with the capability for management reports and analysis.
The 1999 budget includes $110,000 for the purchase of software. The cost of the CCS software, training and implementation is $103,364. The County is required to purchase a server, licenses, and printers for an additional $30,000. The recommended total project is $135,000. The $25,000 difference is available in the copy/computer fund, a fund established for the purpose of purchasing computer and photocopying equipment. The cost of the server, printers and software will be charged back to departments according to established policy and the estimated life of the equipment and software. The County's current financial software is over twenty years old.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the purchase of Municipal Management Application Software from Creative Computer Solutions (CCS) and authorize contract.

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The Committee considered the Purchase of Resource Management Fleet Vehicles. Three bids were received for the delivery of two small pick-up trucks to be used in the Construction Code Division of the Resource Management/Development Department. Crown Motors - $19,486; Frei Chevrolet, Inc. - $26,119.30 & $24,331.70; and Nelson Chevy-Olds - $23,620.70. The bid price includes a trade-in of two County vehicles. This was an approved 1999 Capital Project funded at $24,000.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Purchase of Resource Management Fleet Vehicles to the low bidder, Crown Motors of Marquette in the amount of $19,486.

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The Committee considered the Coastal Management Grant Applications—Coastal Townships GIS Data Creation Project. Marquette County has many layers of GIS data that can be used for coastal management. However, there are two important layers, which are identified in the draft of the GIS Implementation Plan, that need to be developed. These are a layer showing land parcels with ownership and a layer that represents the zoning districts of the parcels. By using these layers with existing ones, such as land use and soils, better management of coastal areas with the County can be achieved. These layers can also serve the purpose of being used towards larger scale GIS data development in the future. Staff proposes using County and Coastal Management grants fund to develop both the zoning and parcel GIS data layers for the Coastal Townships and associated Lake Superior drainage basins in Marquette County.

Staff estimates that the creation of these GIS data layers for the coastal townships and Lake Superior drainage basins will cost $66,000. The application requests $33,000 from the Coastal Management Program; Marquette County would contribute $33,000 as its 50% match. The County’s project match would be appropriated from the 2000 Public Improvement Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution supporting the application and committing matching funds; appropriate funds from the Public Improvement Fund; authorize the Administrator to sign the application; and authorize the Board Chair to sign all documents if awarded the grant.

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The Committee considered a Recreation Grant Application - Perkins Park Development Project Phase II. Marquette County has the opportunity to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for a recreation grant to facilitate Phase II of the Perkins Park Development Project. Funding is available from the Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Clean Michigan Initiative-Recreation Bond Program. A single application makes the County eligible under both programs.

Phase II improvements include construction of two restroom/shower facilities, demolition of an exiting restroom, and conversion of the existing bathhouse to incorporate a pavilion. Total project costs are estimated at $333,343. Both grants require a minimum 25% local match. Ranking criteria utilized by the State award "preference points" for local entities which exceed the minimum percentage. The Planning Commission suggests a 74% / 26% cost allocation resulting in a local match amount of $86,670.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Resource Management/Development Department Staff to submit a notice of intent; adopt a resolution supporting the application and committing matching funds; appropriate matching funds from the Forest Recreation Fund; authorize the Administrator to sign the applications; and authorize the Board Chair to sign all documents if awarded the grant.
The Committee considered Custodial Services for the K.I. Sawyer Development Department. Custodial services are included in the K.I. Sawyer Development Department budget. Bidders were required to provide both a lump sum monthly price and a price to clean carpeting twice per year. The RFP stated that the total carpet cleaning cost would be averaged over a twelve month period and added to the monthly lump sum price to determine the low bidder. Bids were received from three companies/individuals. K & K Cleaning, Tony's Cleaning, and Tracy's Cleaning. K & K Cleaning and Tony's Cleaning both provided the required references, Tracy’s Cleaning did not. Accordingly Tracy’s Cleaning bid was considered non-responsive. K & K Cleaning is the low, responsive bid. Ed Baily, Director of Operations, K.I. Sawyer Development Department recommends the County award the contract to K & K Cleaning.

Comm. Joseph questioned the difference in the three bids. He feels that when the County receives a bid and there is a large difference there should be an explanation and a list of client references.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and carried on a roll call vote 8 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award Custodial Services for K.I. Sawyer Development Department to K & K Cleaning.

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The Committee considered a Proposal to Market and Promote Sawyer Airport. In December 1998 approximately 40 United States and Canadian firms that market aviation companies and airports were solicited to market the Sawyer Airport. Additionally, an advertisement was placed in the American Association of Airport Executives publication. A pre-selection meeting was held on January 15 to tour Sawyer and ask questions on the RFP. Marketing and promotion of the Sawyer Airport was initiated before other components of the marketing plan for K.I. Sawyer because of the importance of aviation to the County’s goals for Sawyer and because the County will be the primary and lead entity for the airport.

Hal Pawley and Larry Coehoorn, County of Marquette, and Herb Parson, Lake Superior Community Partnership individually and separately scored the five proposals that were received: JBF Associates Inc., Washington, DC - 243.5 points; Sypher:Mueller International Inc., Ottawa, Canada - 178 points; Aviation Resource Group, Aurora, Colorado - 143 points; Creative Force, Teterboro, New Jersey - 140.5 points; and Vesta Rae & Associates LLC, Houston, TX - 124 points. Mr. Pawley, Mr. Coehoorn and Mr. Parson recommend seeking JBF Associates Inc. as the marketing firm for Sawyer Airport.

The marketing and promotion work will be funded by the County’s $700,000 Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant and local funds. Local funds will be used for expenses ineligible for federal reimbursement. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the EDA has approved awarding the contract.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the proposal from JBF Associates, Inc. and authorize an eighteen-month contract for an amount not to exceed $165,000.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with Lake Superior Community Partnership for marketing and promotion services for the County of Marquette. The Economic Development Administration has indicated approval of a county-wide approach to marketing. A outline was distributed which provides the goals, and limitations to using the LSCP. A committee, including the County, will coordinate the marketing effort. The K.I. Sawyer Marketing Plan and other completed plans and studies will guide and help prioritize the program.

The services to be provided by the LSCP will be funded by the $700,000 Economic Development Administration Grant and the LSCP. Members of the LSCP may fund specific products, services, or other items. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the financial portion of this proposal is limited to the EDA funds. The partnership did not include any overhead or administrative charges in their proposal to the County to administer the marketing and promotion effort. The County will be hiring a marketing coordinator, as was included in the County’s Economic Development Administration grant. That person will be assigned to the partnership. The budget that was included in the EDA application is $75,000 for two years, salary, fringe benefits and taxes. This was based upon an analysis of the job description of the tasks and responsibilities that staff believed were necessary for this position. Also there was approximately $15,000-$20,000 of indirect charges included in the EDA grant. Some of that money may eventually end up with the partnership. Mr. Powers further explained that the largest single component of the $700,000 grant is aviation, second manufacturing, third tourism, and fourth a contingency category. These components will be tied back to the economic development strategy and would in turn determine the specific products that would be paid for through the federal dollars.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  MARCH 9, 1999

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the agreement with Lake Superior Community Partnership for marketing and promotion services for the County of Marquette.

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The Committee considered Continuation of Violence Against Women Grant. Gary Walker, Prosecutor, was present and explained that he has received notice that the Justice Department is renewing the grant for another 18 months in the amount of $260,000. Funding is now available through the year 2000. Mr. Walker recommends approval of a resolution authorizing Administrator Powers to sign the agreement after review by Civil Counsel.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize Administrator Powers to sign the Continuation of Violence Against Women Grant in the amount of $260,000 after review by Civil Counsel.

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The Committee considered a Lease with Dr. Kroll for the Sawyer Dental Clinic. On December 1, 1998 the Board approved a lease agreement between the Marquette County Health Department (lessee) and Catherine A. Kroll, D.O., P.C. (lessor). Dr. Kroll will be leasing space to the Health Department for a dental clinic to serve the southern portion of the County. The five-year lease is for 1,440 feet. The building was determined by Dr. Johnson, Dr. Heyward, Children’s Dental Clinic Director, and the Board of Health to be the best available space.

The lease requires Dr. Kroll to renovate the space (plumbing, air handling) and to fund the improvements through a loan from the Sawyer Intermediary Relending Program. Dr. Kroll would repay the loan through the lease payments from the Health Department. The lease payment would be set once the renovation costs were determined. No loan inquiry or application was made, pending receiving bids on the renovation work.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that once an inquiry was made, the federal Department of Agriculture advised the K.I. Sawyer Development Department that the County (the Health Department) could not benefit from the loan and could not loan to itself. (K.I. Sawyer Development Department to the Health Department). Mr. Powers further explained that the challenge is made more difficult by the timing. Bids were received and are good for a certain period of time. The choices available to the Board include: 1) Discontinue the Sawyer Dental Clinic; 2) Continue the lease with Dr. Kroll that requires the lessor to renovate the space and the health department to pay for the renovation over the term of the lease; 3) Loan funds from Delinquent Tax Fund to Health Department Fund for the renovation; and 4) County borrow funds for the renovation. Each of the choices will require changing the lease. If the decision is not to proceed, the lease will terminate. If the board decides to proceed the lease will be changed to delete references to the IRP. Mr. Powers recommends that Dr. Kroll attempt to borrow the funds and that the County repay her through the lease payments as was originally planned in the lease agreement. If Dr. Kroll is unable to secure funding in the time needed for the project to continue, the Board should consider loaning funds from the Delinquent Tax Fund to the Health Department.

A lengthy discussion followed. Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, explained that he has concerns with the County spending money to make repairs on a building that Dr. Kroll has an option to purchase. This is not a County-owned building, it may be when the County gets title to it from the conveyance, but there is a purchase option in favor of Dr. Kroll.


It was then moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that Staff again contact the federal Department of Agriculture and request they allow the County to borrow the funds, and if this fails the County loan the money to the Health Department from the Delinquent Tax Fund at a rate to be determined by the upcoming sale of the 1999 notes, and further that the lease be reviewed by Civil Counsel.

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


Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear Commission Chambers at 7:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee of the Whole came back into Open Session at 7:45 p.m. No action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

Comm. Roberts announced that he attended the MAC Taxation Committee meeting on March 5, 1999 and the issue of personal property tax (Senate Bill 102) has been introduced. The Bill is targeted specifically for Lansing and will probably pass.

Comm. Rapport announced that the initial plan has begun for the Terminal Opening at K.I.Sawyer. The date is Saturday, September 18, 1999.

Comm. Joseph announced that the Stand Up For Steel Rally is Sunday, March 14, 1999, 1:00 p.m. at the Negaunee Lakeview School Gymnasium.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Brnam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, March 9, 1999, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

ROLL CALL.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 23, 1999.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
Review of Claims and Accounts.
Memo from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Marquette County Health Department,
regarding Changes in Health Department Retirement Program.
Communication from Roger C. Crimmins, A. Lindberg & Sons, Inc., regarding
Permitting Sand/Gravel Pits and Stockpiles.
Service Agreement with Larry Bussone for Remonumentation Services.
1999 IV-D CRP Contract (Family Support) with Michigan Family Independence
Agency.
Purchase of Municipal Management Application Software.
Purchase of Resource Management Fleet Vehicles.
Coastal Management Grant Applications, Coastal Townships GIS Data Creation
Project.
Recreation Grant Application - Perkins Park Development Project Phase II.
Custodial Services for KI Sawyer Development Department.
Proposal to Market and Promote Sawyer Airport.
Agreement with Partnership for Marketing and Promotion Services
Continuation of Violence Against Women Grant - NPM
Lease of Dr. Kroll for Sawyer Dental Clinic

PUBLIC COMMENT.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.