The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 23, 1999 be approved with the following correction: Page 2, recommendation regarding the Charlie Lake Road, Third Paragraph, sentence Three should read "The Road Commission could benefit from eight gravel pits located throughout Marquette County."

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes: Item 12) Lutheran Social Services/MSU Cooperative Extension Program Agreements moved forward on the agenda to Item 6a and delete Item 22) Finance Committee Discussion.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Curto and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 19, 1999, through April 8, 1999 in the amount of $1,820,270.77 be approved.

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The Committee considered the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Plan Update. Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, was present and explained that the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee and the Marquette County Planning Commission completed work on updating the Solid Waste Plan. At their March 17, 1999 meeting the SWMPC unanimously approved and is recommending the adoption of the plan to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Feldhauser explained that Marquette County has a lower per capita waste generation than the average in the state and the nation. This is partially due to Marquette County’s recycling effort which recycles approximately 27% of the waste stream whereas the national average is 25%. This is particularly good in that nationally recycling is down and Marquette County is a large distance from recycling centers.

The Solid Waste Planning Committee, using population projection figures, can determine the solid waste needs for the next five to ten years. Several alternatives were considered including incineration, waste to energy, and landfilling. The plan must be consistent with state law and policy. After a thorough review the Solid Waste Planning Committee and the Planning Commission concluded that landfilling is still the best alternative. The Marquette County Landfill has 57 years left at its present site while most counties in Michigan are scrambling to find more landfill space. The Marquette County Landfill is also environmentally friendly due to our Household Hazardous Waste Program. The Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by all our municipalities guarantees a waste flow which will generate the necessary revenue to operate the landfill.

Marquette County’s tipping fee has been stable since 1992 at $38.43 per ton which is much lower than most counties in Michigan. Although reducing the waste volume is contrary to increasing revenues, it also lengthens the life of the landfill. The Solid Waste Management Plan being presented is consistent with previous recommendations. The initial Solid Waste Planning Committee (10 years ago) adopted an excellent plan which has proven to be cost effective and environmentally sound for Marquette County in the long run.

Comm. Tuominen noted that although the managers of solid waste in Marquette County will utilize "bailing" as the preferred technique until a superior alternative is developed, page III-20 indicates that when the bailer is unavailable it is permissible to place compacted loose waste into the landfill.

Al Feldhauser also noted that the Solid Waste Management Authority will continue its policy of no fly ash being disposed at the Marquette County Landfill. Although state policy allows fly ash disposal, Wisconsin Electric has a private landfill with a 6 or 7 year life span remaining in Marquette Township. They are currently working with the Township to expand their site for another 20 years.

Commissioners commended the Planning Staff, the Planning Commission, and the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee, especially Comm. Tuominen who acted as Chairperson for their efforts. Chairperson Corkin also commended the Solid Waste Authority’s Management and Board of Directors for the excellent operation at the Marquette County Landfill.
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It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Solid Waste Management Plan Update for its submission to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as required under 1994 PA 451 (as amended).

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The Committee considered an agreement with Michigan State University and with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc. to provide services to homeless individuals and families. Linda Rossberg, County Extension Director, and Martha Parks, Director of Lutheran Social Services, were present to explain the program and answer questions.

Lutheran Social Services has received a federal grant to educate homeless individuals and families as they transition into permanent living conditions. LSS, Michigan State University Extension, and the Women’s Center will employ case managers to provide educational information and counseling. MSU Extension will provide information and training on home management, budgeting, nutrition, parenting, and home buying. Lutheran Social Services has signed a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for $503,414 for three years. There is a possibility of renewal.

Marquette County is being asked to participate by acting as a pass-through agent. It is requested that Marquette County pay MSU for the positions salary. LSS would then pay the County 100% for the salary cost of the grant. By having the County pay MSU for the salary it would allow MSU Extension to pay all fringe benefits. The County is responsible for office furniture, space, supplies, and equipment, however, Linda Rossberg does not anticipate any increase in the County support to Extension services because the Case Managers will be housed and work through the Extension Office.

Martha Parks indicated that grant funding should be timely and provide no cash flow problems to the County. This is a much needed service in Marquette County.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that Civil Counsel and the Risk Manager will review the agreements. The indemnification clause still needs some work otherwise this is a very creative cooperative effort to address a serious need.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole pass the agreements with Michigan State University and with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan onto the next County Board meeting without a recommendation.

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The Committee considered the selection of a qualified survey firm for County Remonumentation. A memo from Larry Bussone, County Surveyor and Remonumentation Representative, and James Kippola, Manager of Planning, indicated that Public Act 345 of 1990 created the State Survey and Remonumentation Commission which provides for the remonumentation of government land office corners in all counties of the State. A $4 fee on recorded documents in the Register of Deeds Office provides the funding for the remonumentation of these corners. The Act specifies that the County use a "qualifications based selection process" in selecting a survey firm.

James Kippola, Manager of Planning, explained they solicited qualification statements from survey firms and ranked four of the responses. In their judgment Sundberg, Carlson & Associates, Inc. is the firm most qualified to perform the survey work under the County’s Remonumentation Program. They are recommending that the County authorize the County Representative to prepare a three-year contract in the amount of $90,500 for the 1999 remonumentation work with Sundberg, Carlson & Associates, Inc. Mr. Kippola further explained that each year the contract will be renegotiated based upon the grant funding that is available. The $90,500 is available for the 1999 remonumentation work. Marquette County started remonumentating six years ago and is biggest county in Michigan. Although the remonumentation effort is a 20-year program, Marquette County will most likely not be completed within that time frame.

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 of the selection of Sundberg, Carlson & Associates, Inc. as the survey firm for a three-year contract; the 1999 remonumentation work is in the amount of $90,500.

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The Committee considered the Marquette County GIS Implementation Plan. Ken Kaiser, County Planner, was present and noted that since the summer of 1998 the Marquette County Planning Commission and Resource Management/Development Staff have worked to create a Geographical Informational System Implementation Plan. In the process of creating this Plan input from County Departments, Municipalities, and the private sector were solicited. The Plan notes that nearly every County department and agency could utilize some aspect of GIS information should the plan be fully developed. The plan recommends applying to grant programs such as the Coastal Zone Management, EDA, and MIRA, as possible funding sources.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, further explained that adoption of the plan will not commit to any particular funding level, however by adopting the plan, it will give County Staff direction to seek financial support. The GIS Implementation Plan will then be subject to funding dollars that become available. By implementing a GIS Plan the County will be able to provide a higher level of customer services and improve efficiency in many offices utilizing technology to reduce staff time towards completing tasks that contain data associated with a geographical component.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Geographic Information Systems Implementation Plan.

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The Committee considered the Seasonal Mooring Fees for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge. There is currently 120 feet of seawall set aside for seasonal rental. Demand has been erratic over the years and has produced little revenue because of the remoteness of the facility and the short season. In 1998 the facility was full with a waiting list of local boat owners. Last year’s revenue from seasonal mooring was $2,128. Raising the rate 2% over last year is commensurate with the State increase and should not adversely affect mooring at Big Bay by recreational or commercial boaters. Marquette County rates would still be much lower (approximately 60% of the proposed state rate).

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request the State to allow Marquette County to maintain its current fee structure, with a 2% increase for 1999 in seasonal mooring fees at the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge.

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The Committee considered the Transient Mooring Fees for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge. For Transient Mooring Fees the County must adopt the State’s 1999 Mooring Fee Schedule because of the Grant-in-aid Agreement with the Waterways Commission. In the past Marquette County has adopted the State schedule which is the same for all harbor sites on the south shore of Lake Superior. The proposed 1999 State rates are 2% over last year’s rates. In 1998 the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge Transient Mooring Fees generated $2,599. Boaters traveling the Great Lakes expect uniform fees and find services at the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge comparable to other harbors.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the 1999 Transient Mooring Fee Schedule for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge as presented.

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The Committee considered a March 24, 1999 final inspection report of the Marquette County Jail by the Michigan Department of Corrections. The inspection of the jail is done annually to insure compliance with administrative rules for jails and lockups and conformance to applicable statutes for housing inmates in County jails. The report documents areas of noncompliance and provides for followup and resolution with written response.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request that the Sheriff’s Department keep the County Board informed of its continuing efforts and responses to the Michigan Department of Corrections Jail Inspection Report.

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The Committee considered a Compensation Plan for Non-Union Employees. Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends that the County Board approve of a 2-year compensation plan which includes: a) Adopt the Job Classification and Compensation Plan for implementation in 1999, b) approve the Blue Cross/Blue Shield and MERS Changes, c) the deletion of the Columbus Day Holiday, d) adopt the vacation buy back policy effective January 1, 2000, and convert the longevity pay to employment recommendation program by July 1, 2000.

Administrator Powers explained that the plan for non-union employee compensation is within the parameters of the 1999 County budget and anticipated that the cost is also within an estimated increase in revenues for the year 2000.

During Committee discussion Commissioners thought that the conversion of the longevity plan to an employee recognition plan should be deleted at this time. When the County Administrator is ready with the implementation details then the longevity conversion plan should be presented separately.

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 of the 2-year Compensation Plan for Regular Non-Union Employees as presented with the deletion of the conversion of the longevity pay to an employee recognition program.

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The Committee considered the appointment of Jacqueline Boxer-Silta to the position of Director of the Commission on Aging. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that according to the constitution and by-laws of the Commission on Aging the hiring of the Director falls to the Commission on Aging Board of Directors, however, final approval must be given by the County Board of Commissioners. Jacqueline Boxer-Silta and the Commission on Aging have reached an agreement. This appointment, pending Board approval, was made with the understanding that Ms. Boxer-Silta would serve the Commission on Aging as an "at- will" employee with a probationary period of six months.

Ms. Boxer-Silta has been serving as an Interim Manager since June of 1998, a position she has been asked to fill on two other occasions. Prior to her service as Interim Manager, Ms. Boxer-Silta has held the position of Administrative Assistant and has worked for the Commission on Aging for over 16 years. Chairperson Corkin worked with Ms. Boxer-Silta 15 years ago when a member of the Commission on Aging and indicated her to be an excellent choice for Director.

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 of the appointment of Jacqueline Boxer-Silta to the position of Director for the Commission on Aging.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from JBF Associates, Inc. to name the new Marquette County Airport at KI Sawyer the "Lake Superior International Airport". A letter from John Fallon, President, JBF, noted that Lake Superior International dovetails nicely in with the Lake Superior Community Partnership which is successfully integrating the Ishpeming, Negaunee, Marquette economic development activities.

Larry Coehoorn, KI Sawyer Development Manager, was present and explained the process at arriving at the recommendation for the Lake Superior International Airport name. From a national and overseas marketing perspective there is little doubt that Lake Superior is a recognizable location to almost anyone outside the Upper Peninsula whereas the name Sawyer or Marquette County would be more difficult to identify. Mr. Coehoorn did note however that "SAW" is the baggage code for the new County Airport, and will be regardless of what the new airport is nameD.

Dan Bengstrom, Chairperson, Marquette County Airport Commission, supported the name of Sawyer International Airport. He contended that nearly everyone in the aviation industry, because 9 out of 10 commercial pilots have previous military training, will know where KI Sawyer is located.

Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion each in turn expressing their opinion regarding naming the new County Airport.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Roberts, Arsenault, Curto, Rapport, Seppanen, and Corkin) to 4 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Joseph, Tuominen, and Wallace), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board name the new Marquette County Airport the "Sawyer International Airport."

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Chairperson Corkin declared a recess at 7:13 P.M. so the County Board could conduct its Annual Equalization Meeting.

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 7:24 P.M.

The Committee reviewed a communication from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding the FY 1999 MAP Program Phase I. Hal Pawley recently learned from Jim Opatny, FAA/Detroit ADO, that the North Access Road Project and the T-Hangar Project would not be available during the Phase I MAP Funding. It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

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The Committee considered a recommendation to approve the transfer of $450,000 from the Delinquent Tax Fund for construction of fifteen T-hangars at Sawyer Airport. Larry Coehoorn, KI Sawyer Development Manager, presented a map of the "Winter 99 Hangar Plan" noting the location of the present hangars and the proposed newly constructed hangars. Mr. Coehoorn expressed pleasant surprise at the demand for hangar space which at present amounts to 54 planes including planes from AMR, Mesaba, NMU, DNR, and others.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the funding for the financing of the hangars has minimal risk involved. The primary plan would be to pay off the balance of the principal as a reinvestment of revenue when the current airport is sold. This can be accomplished anytime during the next 20 years. The current rate aircraft owners pay at the County Airport today is $130 per month and they anticipate charging the same rate at the Sawyer Airport. Also, MAP funding is expected to provide for 20 additional T-hangars, however, a delay in this funding results in the need for local financing to accomplish the goal of having hangar space for all aircraft this winter. As per the policy question of allowing privately owned hangars, the recommendation is to reconsider the policy in September. By September FAA funding and priorities will be known. If the County is unable to provide additional T-hangars there would be sufficient time for individuals or businesses to construct hangars for 2,000/2001.

Commissioners thanked Hal Pawley and Larry Coehoorn for their efforts in addressing the general aviation hangar concerns, they did a good job.

Chairperson Corkin noted that the Marquette County Board has been very prudent over the years in the use of the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund. Many counties have over used their fund and as a result have financial problems. We have several sources of revenue to cover the cost of the T-hangars and repay the tax fund, the $1.8 million from the sale of the present County Airport, MAP funding, and the leases.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the transfer of $450,000 from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund for construction of 15 T-hangars at Sawyer Airport to accomplish the goal of hangar space for all aircraft this winter. Funding from the Delinquent Tax Fund transfer will be repaid with interest from MAP funds, Marquette County Airport sale proceeds, and/or lease revenues.

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The Committee considered a request from the Michigan DNR to build a hangar. Larry Coehoorn, Sawyer Development Manager, was present and noted that an effort has been made to provide, as best as possible, hangar space at Sawyer Airport, however, they do not have the right size hangar for the needs of the DNR. The DNR needs hangar space to house two aircraft and has examined all existing hangar alternatives. The size hangar they require is larger than the T-hangars being planned and smaller than the existing hangars. The Michigan DNR has the funding available to build the facility they need. The request is that the Board approve a lease for land to the Michigan DNR and approval for them to construct a hangar.

Chairperson Corkin noted that such requests for private hangars will have to be dealt with on a case by case basis. Common sense must be utilized. In this case, if the County does not grant the DNR request they will construct their hangar at a different airport.

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 leasing to the Michigan DNR land for them to construct a hangar, and further recommend approval for Staff to negotiate lease terms and conditions which must go through a State agency process. The final lease will be returned to the County Board for approval.

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The Committee considered a contract with Smith Paving, Inc. to construct a parking lot at Sawyer Airport. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the Bureau of Aeronautics opened the bids on February 5th. After bid tabulation they recommend the bid be awarded to Smith Paving, Inc. Smith Paving is the low bidder well under the engineer’s estimate. The Bureau of Aeronautics is the contract administrator for this project and other federally funded projects, however, URS Greiner and Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, will provide on site inspection.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Contract with Smith Paving, Inc. in the amount of $159,040 for parking lot construction at Sawyer Airport.

The Committee considered the grant offer from the FAA for $363,664 of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) Funds. This amount of entitlement funds is authorized to date is for the following projects: 1) Environmental assessment for the north access road, preliminary engineering to determine location alignment, and environmental assessment for proposed crosswind runway 12/30. 2) Rehabilitate passenger terminal apron, construction and removal of fuel covers protruding above the ramp surface. 3) Rehabilitation runway 1/19 by repairing and sealing cracks and joints.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, further noted that there are no special conditions associated with the grant. The local match for the grant will be through passenger facility charges and recommends acceptance of the grant.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the FAA Entitlement Funds in the amount of $363,664 and authorize the Board Chairman to execute the grant agreement.

The Committee considered the Bureau of Aeronautics Agreement for the FY 1999 AIP Project. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that this is a standard Bureau of Aeronautics Agreement like the County has accepted many times before. Our local share of the project cost will be subsequently reimbursed from passenger facility charges. This agreement is required because the Bureau of Aeronautics is the administrator of the AIP Entitlement Fund Grant.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Bureau of Aeronautics Agreement by adopting the appropriate resolution and authorizing the Chairperson to sign the agreement.

The Committee considered an Airport Zoning Grant Application. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that one of the needed items for the Sawyer Airport is an update zoning ordinance to protect against encroachments in the flight paths and approaches, restrict development within clear areas, and insure compatible uses in the area surrounding the airport. Funding was requested from the State Bureau of Aeronautics to accomplish this task and the Bureau has agreed to fund 50% of the cost. The anticipated County share will amount to $3,000 to $5,000 which is available in the Sawyer Airport Budget.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Airport Zoning Grant from the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics.

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

Chairperson Corkin reported that himself along with Commissioners Rapport, Tuominen, and Roberts met with State Rep. Prusi. Issues discussed included the personal property tax, DNR transferring snowmobile law enforcement to counties, Friend of the Court issues, the call center at KI Sawyer, and the Charlie Lakes Road by Poplar Creek. It was a productive meeting.

Comm. Rapport noted that the federal government might put sanctions against the State of Michigan but the Friend of the Court noted that they are to be held harmless because they can only work with whatever funding is provided by the State of Michigan.
Chairperson Corkin reported that himself, Administrator Steve Powers, and Sheriff Lovelace will be attending a meeting in Lansing Thursday and Friday of this week regarding community policing.

Comm. Roberts requested that the ORV Ordinance be placed on the May 11th Committee of the Whole agenda.

Comm. Curto suggested that Commissioners read the Family Court Annual Report and a letter from Ruth Solinski regarding the Cook at the present Marquette County Airport Restaurant. He will provide a Pathways update at a later meeting.

There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, April 14, 1999
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 23, 1999.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Solid Waste Plan (Previously Distributed).
7. Selection of Qualified Survey Firm for County Remonumentation.
8. Adoption of Marquette County GIS Implementation Plan.
9. Big Bay Harbor Seasonal Mooring Fees.
10. Big Bay Harbor Transient Mooring Fees.
11. Marquette County Jail Inspection Report from Michigan Department of Corrections.
   a. MSU Grant for Employee Benefits.
   b. LSS Grant for Employee Salary.
15. Name and Logo for New County Airport.
16. Update on FY 1999 Sawyer MAP Funding.
17. Sawyer T-Hangar Recommendation.
18. DNR Request to Build Hangar at Sawyer.
20. a. 1999 FAA Entitlement Funding Grant Agreement.
   b. Agreement with Bureau of Aeronautics to Administer FAA Grant.
22. Finance Committee Discussion.
23. 
24. 
25. 
26. PUBLIC COMMENT.
27. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
28. ADJOURNMENT.

**Committee May Have to Recess at 7:00 P.M. for Annual Equalization Meeting and Reconvene Afterward.