The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 26, 1999 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 October 12, 1999 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Patrick J. Coleman, AICP, Senior Associate, Planning Division Manager, U.P. Engineers & Architects, was present to provide his experience with the Renaissance Zone development in the Western Upper Peninsula. Two years ago three counties, Gogebic, Ontonagon, and Houghton, applied for a Renaissance Zone. Some development has occurred but because of the Renaissance Zone designation funding grants have been secured for infrastructure improvements. Should Commissioners have any questions he would be happy to share his experience on Renaissance Zones with them.

Mike Skytta, Co-Chair, Lake Superior Community Partnership EDC Committee, noted that the LSCP has not taken a formal position on the Renaissance Zone. He is not here to convince Commissioners about the pros and cons of Renaissance Zones but does believe the State of Michigan has provided a good economic development model with proof of success. He urged the Commissioners to remain open to an expanded Renaissance Zone Application for Sawyer.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 21) Bid Award with Pearson Asbestos Abatement for Building 726 at Sawyer, Item 22) Additional Sidewalk Work Needed Around Courthouse Complex, and Item 23) Renaissance Zone Application for Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Curto and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 8, 1999, through October 21, 1999 in the amount of $720,094.44 be approved.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Legal Counsel regarding the termination of leases at the former County Airport and an update of the close of sale scheduled for November 1st at 8:30 a.m.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, has been working on the lease termination agreement for the Duck Stop property. Attorney Dennis Girard has reached verbal agreements on the termination of three other property leases as follows:

a) The Tenants’ Partnership. O’Dovero Development will receive a credit of $24,678.14 towards the purchase price of the building. The Tenants’ Partnership will execute a full release form all future claims related to the airport relocation.

b) Ed Midgley. O’Dovero Development and Ed Midgley have reached a tentative agreement and no credit required for O’Dovero Development.

c) Northern Michigan Aviation. This lease termination would require a credit to O’Dovero Development of $9,000 towards the purchase of the building making up the difference between asking price and the purchase price.

Dennis Girard noted that the Sales Agreement provides that if the leases are not terminated by November 1st the purchase price to O’Dovero Development would be reduced by up to $50,000. The recommendation is for O’Dovero Development to receive $33,678 in credit to terminate the two leases, monies credited from the purchase price reduction.
Attorney Dennis Girard also noted an EDA Grant requirement should the Airport be sold before 2005 some loan monies would have to be paid back, however, the EDA has waived these requirements. They forwarded the wrong documents. The title company has requested they be "held harmless" by the County for some unknown reason the correct waiver documents not arrive. There should be no problem.

Chairperson Corkin noted that the close of sale will be held on November 1st at 8:30 a.m. The County of Marquette will receive $1,350,000 plus an additional $16,000 saved by the termination of leases. On behalf of the Board he thanked Attorney Dennis Girard for his excellent work.

Dennis Girard then thanked the county Staff for its support, including Steve Powers, Jim Kippola, Hal Pawley, and Harley Andrews. He noted this was the most complex "close of sale" he has ever handled but is confident it will be finalized on November 1st.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee if the Whole recommend that the County Board authorize the Chairperson to execute all documents necessary for the execution of the terminal of leases.

It was further moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Chair to sign the documents necessary to hold harmless the Title Company regarding the forthcoming EDA waiver for repayment of loan dollars.

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The Committee considered a grant application under the COPS MORE Program for the funding of seven laptop computers and one PC. Jim Bjorne, Undersheriff, was present and explained that the COPS MORE is designed to assist law enforcement with technology so officers can spend more time involved in the field with community policing. Under present conditions a deputy could investigate a complaint in Michigamme and then have to return to the Sheriff’s Department to complete the paperwork. The laptop computers would allow deputies to do their paperwork in the field rather than wasting travel time.

On June 11, 1999 the Sheriff’s Department submitted the grant application which was approved on a 75% federal and 25% local match for seven laptop computers at $4,721 each and one PC at $2,950 for a total of $35,997. The federally funded portion amounts to $26,998 and the local match of $8,991 is budgeted in the 1999 Computer Enterprise Fund.

Commissioners questioned the high cost of the laptop computers at over $4,700 each. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted Panasonic laptops provided to police officers are made out of high strength materials plus will require mounting in the patrol car. This is an estimated cost. The project will have to be bid however the costs are based on past experience with other police departments. Chairperson Corkin noted that the Committee of the Whole can recommend accepting the grant and then review specifications before the project is bid.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the COPS MORE Grant for the seven laptops and one PC.

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The Committee considered a resolution for adopting MERS benefits for the Sheriff’s Department AFSCME Employees. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that in 1996 a retirement improvement was negotiated with the County Board to take effect January 1, 1999 however the appropriate resolution was not adopted in 1996. The costs are budgeted for 1999 and the resolution is now before the Board for its consideration.

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 the resolution adopting MERS benefits for the Sheriff’s Department AFSCME Employees, effective date January 1, 1999.

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The Committee considered a Community Corrections Agreement with Great Lakes Recovery for probation residential services to provide suitable housing and counseling services for offenders referred to the program. Steve Powers, County Administrator, pointed out that this is a continuation contract in an amount not to exceed $31,476.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Agreement for Community Corrections Services with Great Lakes Recovery.

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The Committee considered a model resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners regarding Public Act 51 of 1951 as amended. The law governs the distribution of State collected road revenues from the Michigan Transportation Fund. Chairperson Corkin noted that in September, 2000 Public Act 51 sunsets. The resolution calls for the conduction of a roads needs study in Michigan prior to the legislature making any determination impacting the distribution of State collected road funds. This is a critical issue, especially in the Upper Peninsula. Adequate funding is necessary to meet statutory mandates and to provide reasonably safe and convenient roads.

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 a similar resolution regarding Public Act 51 State Collected Road Revenues.

The Committee considered a resolution from Rick A. Minkin, Great Lakes Rural Mental Health Association, in support of Counties having the right of "first opportunity" for the bidding of mental health services. Comm. Curto, County Board Member of Pathways, noted that the first RFP's for bidding out mental health services may occur in the year 2001. The County right of "first opportunity" means that the community mental health and substance abuse coordinating agency boards bid would be opened first. If their bid met all of the necessary specifications, then no other bids would be opened. By 2001 the Upper Peninsula will become a single Community Mental Health District. Comm. Curto expressed doubts that the right of "first opportunity" will become the Michigan Department of Community Mental Health policy, he contends there is no harm in passing the resolution.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution in support of the County's right of "first opportunity" alternative for the bidding out of mental health services.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 6:45 P.M. in order to hold the Special County Board Meeting.

RECESS

The Committee of the Whole came back into session at 6:49 P.M.

The Committee considered the FY 2000 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for the Marquette County Friend of the Court. Chairperson Corkin read a memo from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, which noted even though the contract utilizes the full amount allotted to Marquette County for FOC services, it does not provide the County with sufficient monies to completely cover our custody and parenting time services due to the termination of federal reimbursement for these services. The federal government is not going to approve the State's request for a one year continuation of funding, therefore, the funding of these statutory mandated custody and parenting time services will fall to the County. For this fiscal year the FOC fund monies will be used to cover the shortfall, however it will not be sufficient in upcoming years to continue to meet the shortfall of State/Federal reimbursements. The issue will have to be addressed during next year's budget process for FY 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 FY 2000 Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for the Marquette County Friend of the Court.

The Committee considered a Contract Amendment with U.P. Engineers & Architects for design work at KI Sawyer. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that on July 21, 1998 the County Board selected U.P. Engineers & Architects to design modifications to Building 661, 725, and 727 at KI Sawyer. These buildings were included in the first EDA Grant. The project has been delayed pending acquisition by the County of controlling property interest which is a stipulation in the EDA Grant. Controlling interest satisfactory to the EDA was obtained in February 1999 through lease terminations and an acceptable environmental review. The length of time needed to require this controlling interest was not anticipated when the contract was awarded to U.P. Engineers & Architects.
Administrator Powers further explained that the current contract of $23,000 has been in effect for over a year, however company costs have increased and the scope of the project has changed. The recommended agreement calls for $2,187 for additional work and $2,776 for increased costs. Total contract amendment amounts to $4,963. The KI Sawyer Development Staff recommends the Contract Amendment and U.P. Engineers & Architects will finish the design work by February, 2000.

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 a Contract Amendment in the amount of $4,963 with U.P. Engineers & Architects for design work at KI Sawyer.

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The Committee considered an extension of the Resource Protection Contract with American National Management Corporation (ANMC). Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the County Board recently extended the contract for 30 days which was to allow the County to consider some alternate ways to provide caretaker funded resource protection service at KI Sawyer. Discussion between the Caretaker Staff and Airport Staff has resulted in a conceptual proposal to establish a Caretaker Public Works Laborer Position that would provide resource protection per Air Force specifications. The significant qualification for this position would be fire/crash rescue certification. The establishment of such a position would create significant productivity gains, however a conference meeting must be held with both the Teamsters and AFSCMFE labor unions. The extension of an additional 60 days will provide time for issues to be sorted out.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide an additional 60 days extension to the Caretaker funded Resources Protection Service provided by ANMC.

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The Committee considered a budget amendment of $136,000 for the implementation of computerized ownership maps (GIS System). The County of Marquette has received two grants to help fund the development of a parcel-based geographic information system. The Coastal Township Grant requires a County expenditure of $33,000 to purchase hardware and software. Funds are available in the Copier/Computer Fund. The Coastal Grant is providing $35,000 to prepare a parcel layer and the budget amendment includes the GIS Technician to prepare the parcel layer funded by the Coastal Grant.

A second grant from the Michigan Council of Local Governments amounts to $180,000 which includes a $60,000 community match. The County’s share of the community match is $30,000 and is available in the Central Dispatch, Sawyer Development, Forestry, and General Funds. The budget amendment includes an additional $30,000 received from twenty schools, townships, cities, and other agencies participating in the GIS Project.

Chairperson Corkin noted that Marquette County is only one of two counties (the other being Montcalm County) to receive the Michigan Council of Local of Governments (LIAA) Grant.

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 approve of the budget amendment of $136,000 for the implementation of the computerized ownership maps.

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The Committee considered a T-hangar Lease Agreement for use at Sawyer International Airport. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present an explained that the 15 T-hangars are nearly complete which were funded by the County’s Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund. The County did not receive 1999 MAPS funding as requested but another Grant Application is in for 2000 and we are hopeful to receive it. Most of the T-hangars are complete and everyone that wants their aircraft inside this winter, space is available for them.

The first year monthly lease rate for a T-hangar is $130. This rate may be adjusted annually and the revenue will be used to support the airport and also to repay the Delinquent Tax Fund advance.

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 the Lease Agreement and authorize the Airport Manager to execute individual leases.

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The Committee considered an Engineering Services Agreement with URS Greiner for Military Airport Program Projects at Sawyer International Airport. The Contract with URS Greiner is for $40,000 for engineering design, contract management, and construction inspection for paving the access road to the ILS System, and area around the ILS antenna, an access road to the taxiway, and T-hangar taxi streets. The County share of the cost is $2,000 which will be funded by Passenger Facility Charges with is budgeted in the SIA budget for 1999. The remaining funds are from the FAA and the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Engineering and Services Agreement with URS Greiner.

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The Committee considered an Economic Development Administration Title IX Defense Economic Conversion Funding Grant (EDA IV). Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Marquette County is eligible for a fourth Defense Adjustment Grant from the EDA which has $5 to 6 million available. A 40% non-federal share is required. County Staff, the Marquette County Road Commission, and CUPPAD prepared the recommended project list. Over $4,000,000 of projects were prioritized to the $2,048,000 list which include: Business route using 5th Street, Avenue C, and Avenue D totaling $1,273,000; City of Negaunee Wastewater System improvements to sewer line from former County Airport to City of Negaunee, amount $275,000; and roof replacement/repair for roofs in the greatest need within the public benefit transfer area at SIA in the amount of $500,000.

Administrator Powers further explained that the recommended resolution is general to provide County flexibility in working with the EDA on issues such as wastewater system improvements and roof replacements. The non-federal match of $192,200 is available in the Sawyer Development Fund, the Sawyer International Airport Fund, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the resolution authorizing submittal of an Application for EDA Title IX Defense Conversion Application and County matching funds.

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The Committee considered a short term plan by MarqTran to provide additional transportation to and from the Sawyer International Airport Terminal. Comm. Rapport noted that she attended a recent MarqTran meeting to discuss the need for better ground transportation. There have been several complaints daily regarding transportation to and from Sawyer International Airport. Comm. Rapport noted that MarqTran must allow the private sector to meet the transportation needs but will provide a 6:00 a.m. morning stop that will arrive at the terminal for first departure and an 11:45 p.m. stop that will depart after the last flight arrival at SIA for 90 days.

The additional night run will cost $3,000 and MarqTran has requested $1,350 from the County for the 90 day period. MarqTran will charge a fare ($12 one way) for the service.

Chairperson Corkin noted that the needs of the community are still being determined and thanked the MarqTran Staff and Board, and Comm. Rapport for their developing the additional transportation service as an interim measure.

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 $1,350 from the Sawyer International Airport Fund for expanded MarqTran service to and from the SIA Terminal.

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The Committee considered a bid award for interior wall, carpeting, and ceiling tile removing for Building 726 at KI Sawyer. Ed Bailey, KI Sawyer Operations Manager, noted that Building 726 was used by the Air Force for Administrative Offices and contains and inner vault which was a secure area. At some point a roof leak developed in this area and water combined with lack of sunlight and poor air circulation provided an opportunity for mildew and mold growth on interior services. The affected area is estimated to be 3,750 square feet. Pearson Asbestos Abatement thoroughly examined the building and measured the site. They are experienced at this type of work. The project is 100% funded by the Air Force Base Conversion Agency (Caretaker Budget).
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It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the bid and authorize the contract with Pearson Asbestos Abatement for Building 726 interior wall removal in the amount of $26,538.

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The Committee considered a request from George Wright, Facilities Manager, for additional sidewalk work that is needed around the Courthouse Complex while Menze Construction Company is on site doing the Courthouse Sidewalk/Curb Project.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that George Wright received a proposal from Menze Construction for additional work to remove the brick pavers by the Sheriff’s Department and pour concrete where the brick pavers were located. This area is between the Jail Building and the Courthouse Annex and requires constant maintenance. By pouring concrete and making it look like brick this would greatly reduce maintenance and improve the safety within this area. The additional work would cost $3,771 and funds are available in three CIP completed projects with balances totaling $21,318.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the additional sidewalk and concrete work in the amount of $3,371 by Menze Construction with the appropriate budget amendment in the Public Improvement Fund balance.

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Mike Gokey, the Governor’s Northern Michigan Representative, requested that the County Board consider expanding the size of the Renaissance Zone Application for Sawyer. Mr. Gokey noted that the State of Michigan has extended the Renaissance Zone Application period for two additional weeks. Sands Township officials have agreed to meet with County representatives to discuss the differences in their Renaissance Zone Application Resolutions.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and carried on a voice vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Arsenault, Curto, Joseph, Rapport, Seppanen, Wallace, and Corkin) to 1 Nay (Comm. Roberts) that Commissioners meet with Sands Township to discuss the possibility of expanding the Sawyer Renaissance Zone Application and further request Staff to provide information regarding lease revenue versus tax revenue, and the potential affects a Renaissance Zone may have on funding from the FAA, MAP dollars, or the Caretaker Agreement.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin noted he will be attended a meeting in Bark River/Harris Thursday, October 28th, along with County Treasurer Jim Sodergren, and Finance Manager Gary Yoder regarding the new tax reversion legislation. The County must decide whether it will opt in or opt out by December 1, 1999.

Chairperson Corkin commended Comm. Arsenault, Bergdahl, and Tuominen for their work on the rail spur project at Sawyer which will greatly benefit Sawyer Lumber and other business entities at Sawyer. Comm. Bergdahl noted that the EDA provided for a one time waiver for this project. Comm. Arsenault noted that CUPPAD and Dave Gillis were especially helpful.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that a letter be drafted thanking Dave Gillis and CUPPAD for their project help with the Sawyer Rail Spur.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts  
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, October 26, 1999, 6:00 p.m.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Termination of Leases at former County Airport.
7. Update on Close of Sale for former County Airport. (No packet materials).
8. COPS MORE Grant.
9. MERS Amendment for Sheriff's Dept.
12. Upper Peninsula Community Mental Health Boards Resolution.
13. Title IV-D Friend of the Court Contract.
16. Budget Amendment for GIS System.
17. T-Hangars Lease Agreement.
18. Engineering Services Agreement with URS Greiner for Map Funded Projects at SIA.
19. EDA IV Grant Resolution.
20. Transportation to and from SIA. (No packet materials).
21. Bid Award Pearson Airports
22. Additional Sidewalk Replacement
23. K15 Ren. Zone
24. PUBLIC COMMENT.
25. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
26. ADJOURNMENT.