BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MARQUETTE NOVEMBER 9, 1999

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Tuesday, November 9, 1999, immediately following the Committee of the Whole, in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


A Salute to the Flag was given, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 11a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a Contract with Sands Township for the Collection of Property Taxes on Housing Units at KI Sawyer.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve a Committee of the Whole Recommendation for a Sawyer Renaissance Zone Application for 993 acres and 2.5 million sq. ft. of building space as shown on the map presented, and further include in the Renaissance Zone Application, property containing the former landfill and the ordinance explosive area at Sawyer; resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A RENAISSANCE ZONE AT THE FORMER K.I. SAWYER AIR FORCE BASE

WHEREAS, a history of work and economic activity oriented toward extractive industries and government and the recent closure of the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base cause the need to diversity the job quality in Marquette County;

WHEREAS, sudden and severe economic impact was created in Marquette County by the 1995 closure of the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base;

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has adopted legislation providing tax-free zones as an economic development tool for use in economically distressed rural and urban areas;

WHEREAS, the former military installation is eligible under special provisions of such law;

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is the local redevelopment agency for the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, the entity with primary and substantial responsibilities for developing the 5000 acre site;

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners believes the Renaissance Zone designation will serve a public purpose by offering inducements to businesses that would otherwise not locate in Marquette County and that these businesses will provide job opportunities to county residents;

WHEREAS, the need to diversity and improve job quality is a significant and long-term goal of the County of Marquette, and is a component of the County’s economic development strategy;

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette has received Federal Economic Development Administration assistance to market and promote Marquette County, including K.I. Sawyer;

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan is promoting Renaissance Zones internationally and participation will provide access to the marketing and development resources of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation;

WHEREAS, County of Marquette involvement has contributed to success at Sawyer with over 900 jobs and 40 businesses and the relocation of the commercial airport to Sawyer;

WHEREAS, the Sands Township Board has approved the Renaissance Zone for Sawyer, and the Gwinn Area Community Schools supports the application.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners fully support an application for portions of the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base to be designated a Renaissance Zone, as shown on attachment A, for fifteen years beginning January 1, 2000:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners encourages the Renaissance Review Board, the State Administrative Board, and the Michigan Legislature to recognize the County of Marquette’s unique role as redevelopment agency for K.I. Sawyer, and recognize legitimate variances from State policies and preference and approve the Renaissance Zone Designation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the Renaissance Zone designation is granted, persons and property located within the zone will be exempt from taxes levied by the County of Marquette, as provided in the Renaissance Zone legislation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the revenue loss that will occur within the first full year of operation for the County, Sands Township, Gwinn School District and Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District is $136,661 based on 1999 millages and taxable value.

Adopted this 9th day of November, 1999
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve a Committee of the Whole Recommendation for an agreement (the appropriate contract to be drafted by Civil Counsel) to reimburse Sands Township for extraordinary expenses related to the collection of property taxes on the current housing units at the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base located in the SE-1/4 of the SE-1/4 of Sec. 36, T46N-R25W for the duration of the Sawyer Renaissance Zone, with set expenses to be paid out of the Sawyer Development Fund; and further that the assessments on the housing units will be mutually agreed upon between the Sands Township Assessor and the County Equalization Director.

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

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for Commissioners Comments, Staff Comments, and Announcements. None were forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Meeting, Tuesday, November 9, 1999
(Immediately Following the Committee of the Whole (Approx. 7:00 p.m.)
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, Michigan 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:  None.
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:
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Renaissance Zone.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a.
    b.
    c.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.