The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 9, 1999 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 5, 1999, through November 18, 1999 in the amount of $385,558.21 be approved.

The Committee considered a County request to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for two-percent gaming distributions amounting to $215,000. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the FY 2000 adopted budget includes $98,000 in contributions to continue the DARE Program. According to current County policy, if the gaming revenue is not received, or other donations are now made, the DARE program will be eliminated. The two-percent gaming request for DARE is $90,000.

Administrator Powers further explained that also included in the two-percent gaming request is $50,000 for the Health Department's Dental Clinic, $50,000 for retention of the COPS grant funded road patrol positions, and a $25,000 request for the County owned and YMCA managed Fitness Center and Sawyer.

The County Board of Commissioners has adopted a policy of making one unified request to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for two-percent gaming revenues. The policy replaced the practice of individual departments requesting funds.

Chairperson Corkin noted that since 1994 the County of Marquette has received $604,000 in two-percent gaming revenues. In 1998 the KBIC distributed $177,500 to various programs within the County of Marquette.

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 forward a request to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for two-percent gaming distributions amounting to a total of $215,000 to assist in the funding of various programs.

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The Committee considered a request from William G. Birch, CEO, Pathways, to replace Richard Ryan who recently resigned from the Pathways Board. Mr. Ryan’s term was not due to expire until March, 2001. Comm. Curto, County Board Representative on Pathways, noted that there are currently 19 members on the Pathway Board of Directors so it is a large Board. Appointments are normally made in March. Next year three terms are expiring, however, only two are to be replaced. The goal is to get the Pathways Board down to 12 members with 6 from Marquette County, 4 from Delta County, and 1 each from Alger and Luce County.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote to make the appointment to fill the partial term vacated by Richard Ryan with the other regular appointments in March, 2000.

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The Committee considered an agreement with Industrial Piping Company (IPC) to maintain and operate the HVAC system in Sawyer Buildings No. 708 and 709.
The Air Force has agreed to pay to heat Building No. 708 to support the County’s efforts to reuse the 121,000 sq. ft. building. Building No. 709 provides backup powers to Building No. 708. Building No. 708 has a steam boiler system that is unique and was installed by IPC for the Air Force. IPC is certified to operate and maintain steam boilers and they have satisfactorily operated and maintained the heating system for these buildings the past three years. After a Request for Proposals the only response was from IPC. The Contract is for $8,700 with IPC to maintain and operate the HVAC system. The Air Force should be recognized for agreeing to heat Building No. 708. Last year the average monthly cost to heat the building amounted to $5,000.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board waive the purchasing policy and approve the contract with Industrial Piping Company to maintain and operate the HVAC system in Sawyer Buildings 708 and 709.

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The Committee considered the award of bids for the purchase of four Sheriff’s Department patrol vehicles from Crown Motors for $78,479 and the bid award for one detective vehicle from Frei Chevrolet for the amount of $19,548.64.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the bids are under budget. The FY 2000 adopted budget includes $76,525 for three vehicles, the KI Sawyer Development Department budget includes $32,000 for one vehicle, and Marquette Township will be funding the fifth vehicle. Invitations to bid were sent to all Ford dealerships in the Central Upper Peninsula for the four Sheriff’s patrol vehicles, and to all Ford and Chevrolet dealerships in the Central Upper Peninsula for the one detective vehicle. The bids were opened on November 19th and were compared to the Michigan State Police contract price. The recommended bid awards are to the lowest responsive and responsible bidders.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole Recommend that the County Board approve the bid for Sheriff’s Department patrol vehicles from Crown Motors in the amount of $78,479 (with trade-in allowance).

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 bid award for one detective vehicle from Frei Chevrolet in the amount of $19,548.64 (without trade-in allowance).

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Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that the U.S. Air Force is scheduled to deliver the Economic Development Conveyance and the Public Benefit Transfer documents, signed by the authorized Air Force Representatives, the week of November 30, 1999. The County Board has previously authorized signature by the Chairperson on the EDC and PBT documents.

Chairperson Corkin noted that the Air Force has agreed to Caretaker funding for five years at $1.5 million per year plus an additional $500,000 for heating conversion. All Commissioner thoughts and ideas of importance have been considered in the development of the documents.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, noted the EDC and PBT documents will meet the concerns of the County Board. Any changes that may occur will not be substantial but only procedural. A commitment on utilities is noted in the conversion documents for future consideration.

No further Board action was necessary at this time.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Curto, County Board Representative on Pathways, submitted a paper to Pathways requesting its plan/views regarding managed care. He hopes to have more information for the County Board in December. Comm. Curto attended a Michigan Community Mental Health Board meeting in Lansing and will be attending another one in December. There were only two representatives from the U.P. He noted that administrative rules seem to be changing every day. Currently there is much turmoil because of lobbying efforts, every agency seems to have their own ideas. It is assumed that the Upper Peninsula may become one region, however it is not yet determined how many regions there will be in Michigan for the management of Medicaid funding.

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Comm. Curto further noted that nothing is final yet and nothing needs to be fixed at this point, however Marquette County and Pathways must stay involved in the process to express its voice and concern.

Comm. Bergdahl noted that the Marquette County EDC has approved the loan guarantee for Sawyer Lumber for the Rail Spur Project. The project is now waiting on the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Comm. Joseph noted that with the resignation of Herb Parsons the Lake Superior Community Partnership is seeking a new director. Although Marquette County has a two year contract with the Lake Superior Community Partnership, and does not decide who its director will be, perhaps now is the time to review the EDC director's job description and consider making it a stand alone department. Commissioners concurred. Chairperson Corkin directed Administrator Powers and Comm. Bergdahl to make the County Board wishes known to the LSCP.

Comm. Joseph also noted since the County Airport Board was formally dissolved there continues to be little issues that should be addressed. Comm. Joseph along with Comm. Rapport, both former liaisons to the Airport Commission, would like to meet regularly with Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, and Administrator Powers. Lately there have been some complaints about flight costs, transportation, etc. Comm. Bergdahl noted that the Lake Superior Community Partnership has contracted for a study on airline service and fares.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that West Branch and Forsyth Township have taken the necessary action for their approval of the Renaissance Zone being established at Sawyer.

Comm. Wallace requested that the County Board consider membership in the National Association of Counties (NACO). Chairperson Corkin will place it on the next Committee of the Whole agenda and requested that Staff check on the cost for NACO membership.

Chairperson Corkin noted that all Commissioners are invited to the Marquette County Township’s Association Christmas Potluck to be held at 6:00 p.m., December 15, 1999, at the Ishpeming Township Hall.

Chairperson Corkin will be out of town for the County Board meeting on December 7th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. 2% Gaming Revenue Request.
7. Pathways Board Replacement Appointment.
8. Heating of Building 708 at Sawyer.
9. Bid Award, Sheriff's Department Vehicles (no packet materials).
10. EDC PBT Agreement.

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13.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!