The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 14, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skenis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 23, 1999 be approved with the following correction: Page 3, Paragraph 4, Comm. Joseph and Comm. Rapport were "liaisons" not members of the Airport Commission.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late addition: Item 15) KI Sawyer Processing, LLC, Heat Conversion Costs Reimbursement Request, and Item 16) KI Sawyer Housing Trade With MACASU, Inc.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 19, 1999, through December 9, 1999 in the amount of $1,048,448.92 be approved.

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The Committee considered the Year 2000 Computer Bid Awards. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present and explained that bids specifications were distributed to vendors for both PC's and a large format scanner. The bid specifications noted that each bid would be awarded separately since the scanner is a special piece of equipment and not carried by most computer vendors.

The 2000 Copy/Computer Fund budget has funds to replace 43 PC's and provide for 8 new PC's for various departments. The budget for this expense is $102,000. The low bid from Sundberg & Carlson, which met all specifications, is $85,935. Mr. Nault is requesting that the amount be raised to $87,000 for modifications to four computers which require the Windows NT operating system.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the 2000 Personal Computer Bid Award to the low bidder, Sundberg & Carlson in the amount not to exceed $87,000.

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The Committee considered the Year 2000 Computer Bid Award for a large format scanner and associated software. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present and explained that the scanner will be used to transfer the images of our current County maps to digital images which may be edited by mapping software. Last fall the County Board approved the transfer of funds to establish the local match for the Coastal Grant Program and the LIAA Grant. Of this amount $16,000 has been budgeted to purchase the scanner.

Mr. Nault recommended the award of the scanner bid be to Taylor Technologies in the amount of $15,899.

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 approve of the Year 2000 Scanner Bid Award to Taylor Technologies in an amount not to exceed $15,899.

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The Committee considered a request from the Marquette County Road Commission for a Letter of Support to their efforts to receive grant funding to improve the Road Commission Office Building in Ishpeming. The County Road Commission has approved a grant application to the Michigan Department of Transportation for $343,000 under the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program to fund the improvements. The FY 2000 County CIP Budget also includes $78,500 to improve the Road Commission Facility in Ishpeming. The total project cost will be $510,000.
Renovations include exterior restoration and repair, upgrading the plumbing, heating, and electrical, and improving the basement. The County Road Commission Office Building is a significant historical structure due to several factors: First, the building was designed for a new mode of transportation in Marquette County, the motorized automobile. Second, the building was designed and the construction supervised by a significant historical figure, Kenneth Ingall Sawyer (KI Sawyer). KI Sawyer, in 1917 is credit with placing the first strip centerline on a Michigan highway which is now County Road 492 to assist drivers to stay in their own lanes. Third, the building is an excellent and intact example of a simple, clean line governmental building with classic features.

It is the Road Commissions belief that the structure along with its unique history needs to be preserved and maintained as a record of Marquette County’s transportation heritage.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a Letter of Support for the Marquette County Road Commission’s efforts to secure grant funding to improve the Road Commission Office Building.

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The Committee considered proposals for the development of environmental plans to obtain a Discharge Permit from the Michigan DEQ for Airport generated stormwater. Larry Coe, Assistant Airport Manager, was present to explain the proposal and answer questions.

In order to make application for the permit, Marquette County needs to have two developed plans; a Spill Prevention Control and Counter-Measure (SPCC) Plan, and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The request for proposals was published in The Mining Journal and three proposals which were technically adequate were received. The one from TriMedia Consultants had the lowest cost of $3,800. TriMedia Consultants previously developed plans for the Marquette County Airport and assisted the County in obtaining a stormwater discharge for the former airport.

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 accept the proposal from TriMedia Consultants for the development of environmental plans to obtain a Discharge Permit from the Michigan DEQ for airport generated stormwater.

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The Committee considered a memo from Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, regarding the Marquette County Airport Zoning Ordinance. The relocation of commercial aviation from the County Airport in Negaunee Township to Sawyer International makes it necessary to assure that future development at Sawyer does not result in aviation hazards. Staff is in the process of writing an ordinance specific to the Sawyer International Airport site. The 1966 ordinance included both the County Airport in Negaunee Township and Sawyer however Sawyer being a federal facility the original ordinance the rules pertaining to it were different than those at Marquette.

Mr. Feldhauser further reported that it will be necessary for the County Board to reappoint an Airport Zoning Board of Appeals. This is a five member body which will administer the Airport Zoning Ordinance and the appointment process is currently underway through the County Clerk’s Office.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

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The Committee considered a COPS Grant Deputy for Marquette Township. Sheriff Michael Lovelace was present to discuss the COPS Grant Deputy and answer questions. Since 1991 the Township of Marquette has contracted with the Sheriff’s Department for additional police services over and above what is normally provided. The Township pays an hourly rate that covers the deputy’s wages and all operational costs.

At the November 2, 1999 meeting of the Marquette Township Board, adopted a resolution to add a second deputy position to their contract by using an available COPS Grant position. The County Board has directed the Sheriff to fund operational/startup costs on any future COPS Grant positions, along with a retention plan that does not use general fund monies. The agreement with Marquette Township follows in that direction. The request is that the County Board of Commissioners authorize the additional position to begin January 1, 2000.
Sheriff Lovelace further noted that an addendum has been added to the present contract reflecting a $2 increase in the hourly rate from $29.14 to $31.14, which will take effect on January 1, 2001. 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 the Agreement with Marquette Township for an additional COPS Grant Deputy.

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The Committee considered the County Jail Reimbursement Formula. Lyn Nelson, Community Correction Coordinator, and Sheriff Michael Lovelace were present to discuss the Jail Reimbursement Formula and answer questions.

The State of Michigan, through the Michigan Department of Corrections, reimburses counties for housing offenders that would otherwise be sentenced to State correctional facilities. The program’s intent is to divert felons from prison. The Michigan Department of Corrections has outlined technical changes in the reimbursement formula and the bottom line appears to be that the Michigan Association of Counties wants higher reimbursement for certain felons and the Michigan Department of Corrections is refusing because of the cost. Of particular concern is that sentencing guidelines are anticipated to increase the number of offenders sentenced to county jails thereby providing counties with more inmates but less reimbursement.

Jack Schneider, Jail Administrator, further noted that Michigan pays Marquette County $40 per day for inmates for the first 90 days and $38 per day thereafter, however, variables in the formula and changes in the number of eligible inmates make precise budget predictions very difficult. The 2000 budget for jail reimbursements is $70,000, however reductions are anticipated at 2000 mid-year.

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 take the following action:

1) Adopt a position that the jail reimbursement formula does not appropriately reimburse counties for housing otherwise prison-bound felons.
2) Notify State Senator Don Koivisto and State Rep. Mike Prusi of the County Board of Commissioner’s position on the Jail Reimbursement Formula, and
3) Work with the Michigan Association of Counties to change the formula consistent with the Board of Commissioners position.

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The Committee considered a resolution from Mason County supporting legislation which would compel the State of Michigan to support local units of government in the tax appeals process. Blanket appeals are now being filed by large utilities and corporations and eroding the tax base of counties that need to provide services to citizens. The State of Michigan needs to adequately staff and fund the Michigan Tax Tribunal so that they can support local units of governments in the appeals process.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that Jim Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, and Gerry Markey, Equalization Director, concur with the resolution.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a similar resolution.

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The Committee considered membership in the National Association of Counties. A letter from Andrew S. Goldschmidt, Director of Membership Marketing, NACo, noted that Marquette’s membership dues for the calendar year 2000 would be $1,284 which includes one month of free membership in 1999.

Mr. Goldschmidt further explained that NACo’s constituency is made up of County officials with presently 62% of the nation’s 3,066 counties being members of NACo (representing 80% of the U.S. population). NACo’s primary activity is to represent counties before Congress and the Administration. In order to provide an incentive for Marquette County to become a member, Mr. Goldschmidt is offering the County one free conference registration (a $465 value) to the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. in March, 2000.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Seppanen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board of Commissioners join the National Association of Counties.

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The Committee considered the role of the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee. Comm. Arsenault thought that all leases at KI Sawyer, whether they be part of the Public Benefit Transfer or the Economic Development Conveyance should be reviewed by the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee. The KISEDC’s main role is the economic development for all of Sawyer, not just the Airport. Comm. Arsenault thought there has been some confusion regarding this matter and would like the County Board to take a formal action to clarify the KISEDC role.

Comm. Arsenault, with the concurrence of other Commissioners, noted that potential clients and tenants need to deal with a single point of reference. The County Board of Commissioners must make the final decision regarding leases, however the KISEDC will provide for a review and recommendation process. The KISEDC meets monthly therefore should a prospective tenant need action on a quicker time frame the KISEDC has no problem with leases being brought directly to the County Board. This has happened on several occasions in the past.

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 clarify the role of the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee by directing that all leases go through the review and recommendation process with the KISEDC in order to provide for a single point of reference for the economic development of Sawyer.

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The Committee considered a request from KI Processing, LLC (KIP) for heat conversion reimbursement. Barry Bahman, KIP, LLC, was present to answer questions regarding the request. KIP has requested reimbursement of $30,535.19, the actual cost for installing heat systems in buildings 511 and 518. KIP is making the request due to delays in cash shortfalls they have encountered because of significant increases in the renovations costs. Several options were considered but the one being recommended by the KI Sawyer EDC does not need Air Force approval.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of KI Processing, LLC’s request for the reimbursement of $30,535.19 for heating systems in Sawyer buildings 511 and 518, amount of reimbursement will be added to the purchase price unless each condition is met as follows:

a) plant opens on target date (as determined in revised business plan)
b) number/type of protected jobs within two months of opening reaches (as determined by revised business plan)
c) total investment of the project of $10 million dollars (or the amount determined by the revised business plan)
d) revised business plan provided to KISDD by June, 2000.

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The Committee considered a request for the trade of housing units with MACASU, Inc. (Phase IV). Comm. Arsenault, KISEDC Chairperson, noted the trade provides that the County swap 36 units for 32 MACASU units, the additional units to be paid for by MACASU as per the previously agreed upon price and conditions. This would put all MACASU units together in the same area and make them easier to manage.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the exchange of housing units with MACASU, Inc. as outlined.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin noted the NACo Report announced that federal funding for Airport Improvement Projects was not addressed. Congress did not take action, therefore there will be no funding for the north access road nor an increase in the Passenger Facility Charges. This issue must be addressed early in the year 2000.

Chairperson Corkin further noted that Civil Counsel Harley Andrews has almost completed his review of the Public Benefit Transfer and the Economic Development Conveyance for KI Sawyer. He will be able to sign the documents later this week or early next week.
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Comm. Joseph questioned whether or not he and Comm. Rapport must post their meetings and prepare minutes as Airport Liaisons.

Civil Counsel Harley Andrews contended this would be true only if they were designated as a Committee. The two Commissioners are not designated as a subcommittee of the County Board, however they have a continued interest in Airport operations. They may meet to discuss issues related to the Airport, however there is no designated function and the meeting is for informational purposes only. Should anything require further consideration it would be brought to the attention of the County Board.

Comm. Rapport thanked Staff for the information regarding County insurance liability coverage for various appointed boards and committees.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, thanked the County Board for clarifying the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee role.

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The Committee considered the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Sheriff’s Department Deputies Association, WPPA Local 513.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by roll call vote 10 Ayes (Comm. Tuominen, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Curto, Joseph, Rapport, Roberts, Seppenan, Wallace and Corkin) to 0 Nays, that the Committee of the Whole go into closed session to discuss a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Sheriffs Deputies Association.

Chairperson Corkin declared a recess at 7:02 P.M. to clear commission chambers.

CLOSED SESSION

The Committee of the Whole came back into open session at 7:29 P.M.

It was moved by Comm. Seppenan, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Sheriff’s Deputies Association, WPPA Local 513, as outlined by Staff during the Closed Session, summary as follows:

* Wages
  2000    2.50% increase
  2001    2.75% increase
  2002    3.00% increase

* Paid Time Off
* PXBS - Community Blues
* MERS Pension Plan
  1. FAC 3 in 2000
  2. Defined Contribution Plan (10/2)

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
Tuesday, December 14, 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. Year 2000 Computer Bid Award.
7. Request for Letter of Support to Designate Road Commission Ishpeming Office as a Historical Site.
8. Contract with TriMedia Consultants for Development of Environmental Plans for Sawyer International Airport.
10. COPS Grant Deputy for Marquette Township.
11. County Jail Reimbursement Formula.
15. W  
16.  
17.  
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. CLOSED SESSION: Labor Negotiations - Sheriff Deputies.
21. ADJOURNMENT.