The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 11, 2000 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 December 14, 1999 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes: Remove Item 13) Census 2000 Advertising. Late Additions: Item 14) Community Garden for KI Sawyer, Item 15) Resolution Waiving Competitive Bidding for the hiring of Anderson Tackman for Professional Services at Sawyer, and Item 16) Sawyer Community Sledding Party.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution:

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING BETTY JOHNSON

WHEREAS, government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, government services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Betty Johnson was hired on October 1, 1963 as a Deputy Clerk in the Register of Deed’s Office.

WHEREAS, Betty Johnson has dedicated over 36 years of her life to the citizens of Marquette County, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges its appreciation for services of Betty Johnson from October 1, 1963 to January 14, 2000, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Betty Johnson’s conscientiousness, professionalism, and pride in her work has enabled her to serve the people of Marquette County in a most exemplary fashion.

Proclaimed this 11th day of January, 2000
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

The Committee considered a memo from Ruth Solinski, Human Resources and Risk Manager, regarding MERS Benefit Resolutions.

Recently the County Board approved changes to the wage and benefit packages offered to members of the Deputy’s Association and also members of the Central Dispatch Employees Union, AFSCME Local 1613 as part of the collective bargaining process. The Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) requires that the governing body adopt formal resolutions articulating these changes prior to their implementation.
Submitted for County Board consideration are resolutions adopting the following changes: Change from FAC 5 to FAC 3 option for Deputy's Association; standardization of AFSCME Local 1613 pension offerings; and implementation of the Defined Contribution Plan for both units.

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 adopt the appropriate MERS Benefit Resolution for changes to the wage and benefit packages of the Sheriff Deputy's Association and the Central Dispatch Employees Union AFSCME Local 1613.

********

The Committee considered a request from Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, for Township access through the County's Honor Camp Property. A letter from Supervisor Yelle noted that the Township requests the access in order to more quickly provide emergency services to a part of Sands Township.

Attached to the letter was correspondence from Sundberg, Carlson & Associates, Inc., regarding their fees for the necessary work to provide specifics for the access. Sands Township would like County Board concurrence in principle before it proceeds to incur any expense. Should the County Board grant the request, Sands Township would then proceed with the work with the engineers to provide the needed property descriptions. Township plans at this time are to simply provide for emergency services access, the road would be a limited access road and gated under the control of the Township.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole direct County Staff to work with Sands Township for an emergency service access through the County's Honor Camp Property with the final recommendation to come back for Board consideration.

********

The Committee considered a Contract between Marquette County and the Marquette County Road Commission to perform the EDA II Grant Surveying Work at KI Sawyer. The work under the contract provides for a complete package of the surveying needs for the redevelopment of the former base. The contract is a product of over two years of negotiations between the EDA and the County for a system of delivering the survey effort which is efficient, economical, and maintains coordination among many interests at Sawyer. Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, was present to discuss the agreement for surveying services and answer questions. Mr. Kippola noted that one year has passed since award of the grant, however there has been good coordination by various agencies with the project. The County Road Commission survey crews will do approximately 45% of the work with the roads and the private sector surveying firms will do the remaining 55% of surveying work on the raw lands. The contract will be administered by the KI Sawyer Development Department.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, noted that the Road Commission will be doing two things. First, the survey work they agree to under contract, and second, they will also administer the subcontracts with the private surveying firms. The Road Commission may not assign to another party its responsibilities under the contract without consent of the County Board, however they do not have to bring subcontracts back to the County Board that are under its responsibility for administration.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the EDA II Agreement for Surveying Services between the County of Marquette and the Marquette County Road Commission.

The Committee considered the Carpet Replacement Bid Award for the Geraldine DeFant Building. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that in response for an advertisement for bids two bids were received: McCabe's Quality Carpet, $28,290 and Magdaleno Carpet, $29,500. As allowed by County policy, portions of the low bid were deleted, resulting in a recommendation of awarding the
contract to McCabe's Quality Carpet for $19,999 to replace carpet in the Geraldine DeFant Building. The project will replace carpeting in the building's public areas, i.e. first and second floor hallways and lobby areas, and the first floor reception room. The 1999 budget includes $9,000 for carpet replacement which will be carried forward into the 2000 budget. Pathways will pay for the balance and in return will receive reduced rental rate over a 5-year period.

Comm. Seppanen questioned whether or not the project was downscaled in order to avoid prevailing wage considerations?

Comm. Curto thanked Staff and Commissioners for considering the carpet replacement project, it was badly needed.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Seppanen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the contract to McCabe's Quality Carpet for $19,999 to replace carpet in the Geraldine DeFant Building and further authorize an amendment to the Lease Agreement between the County of Marquette and Pathways to fund the Carpet Replacement Project in reduced lease payment for the years 2000 through 2004.

* * * * *

The Committee considered the year end budget amendments from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager. Mr. Yoder was present and noted that he has submitted for his final time the year-end budget amendments for Commissioners' consideration prior to moving to the County Treasurer's Office.

This year's review of the General Fund looked at items either over or under budget by $1,000 or more. The bottom line is an increase in expense of approximately $141,000 which will be offset by an increase in revenue of $91,000 and the reduction of contingency by $50,000. This reduces the 1999 contingency to zero which is not a problem because the year has ended.

On the expenditure side the large adjustments include: 1) Circuit, District, and Probate Court legal fees projected to be $57,500 short. 2) Probate Child Care Fund Appropriation increase of $21,000. 3) Circuit Court transcripts are $12,000 short, and 4) Appropriation made to the Health Department is up $22,494 (this is caused by the annual receipt of the cigarette tax money, actual amount was higher than anticipated and the County is required to submit 12/17 to the Health Department).

Mr. Yoder further reported on the revenue side the County was able to cover over $90,000 of the expenditure increases because of higher expected real estate transfer tax revenues - $30,310, increased cigarette taxes - $29,543, and other various items detailed in the budget amendments.

Comm. Seppanen noted the legal fees are $57,500 short for 1999. This issue has from time to time come before the County Board for review. Comm. Seppanen requested a graph of County legal fees for the last four years.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board thanked Gary Yoder for an excellent job over the years as Marquette County's Finance Manager and looks forward to him serving as the Marquette County Treasurer.

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 1999 budget amendments numbers 18 through 22, and 2000 budget amendment number 2.

* * * * *

The Committee considered a lease with the Marquette Area Public Schools for the storage of County records. The sale of the Marquette County Airport has resulted in a need to find space for storing County records. The County Clerk and George Wright, Facility Manager, have reviewed several locations and the recommended location is the Parkview School. The Marquette Area Public Schools will lease to the County 450 sq. ft. for an annual amount of $1,800.

Clerk Roberts noted that the storage facility is approximately one mile from the Courthouse, is heated, secure, and has excellent access.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, has reviewed the Lease Agreement with the Marquette Area Public School and has recommended a number of minor changes which he believes should be no problem to the Marquette Area Public Schools. Of special note: the lease terms contain no language restricting the use of the storage facility and it is his assumption that what is needed by the County Clerk is a secure storage facility for County records with access limited to only County personnel. He recommends suggesting that
the reference to “concurrent use” for the Chapter I Room be deleted, and a sentence substituted to read “Rental space is for the sole and exclusive use of the user, for the secure storage and records of the user.”

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 approve of the Lease with the Marquette Area Public Schools for the County Clerk records storage with the language changes suggested by Civil Counsel, $4 per sq. ft. per annum, $1,800 total for 450 sq. ft., lease payable at $150 per month commencing February 1, 2000.

*****

The Committee considered an expenditure up to $2,000 in support of a community garden at KI Sawyer.

Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson of the KISEDAC, noted that a community garden would be a great learning resource and enjoyable asset at KI Sawyer to help foster community development, cooperation among neighbors, employers, volunteers, and students. The Air Force used to have a community garden next to the elementary school. This site may be relatively easily unearthed and expanded with little cost and a possible donation of supplies, fertilizers, etc. Comm. Arsenault noted that Barry Bahrman is willing to donate fertilizer.

Commissioners concurred that a garden at Sawyer would be an attractive asset to the community.

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 direct the KI Sawyer Development Department to cooperate with the Gwinn Area Community Schools, housing developers, religious groups, volunteers, clubs, and/or others by providing up to $2,000 in labor, material, supplies, and/or equipment for construction of a community garden, for the enhanced health, welfare, and enjoyment of the residents and employees at KI Sawyer; with funds to come from the KISDD Revenue Fund Balance.

*****

The Committee considered a resolution authorizing the waiver of competitive bidding requirements and the selection of Anderson Tackman for professional services including Business Plan Update, monitoring, reporting, and financial management of KI Sawyer redevelopment efforts.

Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, was present to explain that the recent loss of Sue Vercoe from the Sawyer Development Department to the County’s accounting department has necessitated this recommendation. KI Sawyer has yet to find a replacement and with time passing is in need of updating and monitoring the business plan, conduct analysis of various alternatives, and continue to revise long term solvency problems.

Mr. Rumora has discussed the matter with Anderson Tackman about providing high level financial monitoring and advisory services. Anderson Tackman has prior auditing experience at KI Sawyer and would be cost effective in providing an update on the business plan as an interim step until KI Sawyer finds a suitable party to replace Sue Vercoe. Two excellent replacement candidates have declined offers for the employment.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, further noted on the positive side Sue Vercoe was fortunately still an employee of Marquette County. He noted that Anderson Tackman can provide the update of the business plan at half the cost of JBF & Associates with a more localized and useful perspective.

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 authorize the KI Sawyer Development Department to waive competitive bidding and engage Anderson Tackman for professional services including business plan updates, monitoring, reporting, and financial management of KI Sawyer redevelopment efforts. Funding to come from the KISDD lease revenue.

*****

The Committee considered a motion from the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee requesting the County Board consider allowing use of the Sawyer Ski Hill for a Community-wide sledding party.
Comm. Arsenault, KISED C Chairperson, noted that the Community Sledding Party would be held on February 5, 2000 and would be supervised by the YMCA and Deputies from Sawyer. Such an activity would enhance community development. The warmup shack would be utilized, however the tow rope would not be used, in fact Tom Rumora, KISDD Development Director, noted that the tow rope was dismantled several years ago. Many kids are already sledding at this site.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, pointed out that Marquette County neither owns nor has a lease on the ski hill property. It cannot legally give permission for use for something it does not own. Usually the Air Force would allow activities on its property if the County would take on any liability. In this case there is no direct financial benefit to Marquette County for taking on the liability.

Mr. Andrews recommends that the County Board not assume the liability for a sledding party. Sledding has the potential for injury and this activity may not even be insured if the County does take on its liability. If it is covered the County must pay the first $100,000 as a deductible for MMRMA coverage. Mr. Andrews apologized for acting as a curmudgeon in this matter but it is his duty as civil counsel to present the facts. He supports the development of Sawyer as a community.

County Board consensus was to take no action. Even a motion supporting the use of the hill could be termed as County endorsement.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Curto provided an update on Pathways. The State Community Mental Health is developing a new position paper. There has been a great deal of opposition to their original plan. He will keep the County Board posted.

Chairperson Corkin noted that the Michigan DEQ, O'Dovero Development, the KBIC, the City of Negaunee, and County Staff had a meeting regarding the sewer system for the old County Airport in Negaunee Township. It may be possible that the EDA Grant monies are available to help solve the situation.

Chairperson Corkin announced that the Commissioner Committee assignments for 2000 will remain the same as last year unless any Commissioner objects and wants a different assignment.

Comm. Arsenault noted that Civil Counsel is working on a draft policy for lease enforcement at Sawyer. It will be considered at a future meeting. A fair lease enforcement policy is needed.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that in the future there will be a new format for the Committee of the Whole review of Claims and Accounts.

County Clerk Dave Roberts, noted that all Commissioners present have signed the request for a Special Meeting. The Special County Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13th at 5:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2000, 6:00 P.M.
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 DECEMBER 14, 1999.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Resolution Honoring Betty Johnson on Her Retirement.
7. MERS Benefit Resolution for Deputy’s Association and the Central Dispatch
Employees Union.
8. Sands Township Road Easement Across Honor Camp Property.
10. Bid Award for Geraldine DeFant Building Carpeting.
11. Year End Budget Amendments.
12. Parkview School Lease for County Clerk Records Storage.
14. Authority to expand up to $2,000
15. Resolution annumting county building
16. Public Comment
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.