The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 25, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the January 11, 2000 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following Late Additions: Item 13) Contract for Radio Maintenance with El-Com Services, Inc./Central Dispatch; and Item 14) American Communication Network (ACN) Project Update.

Chairperson Corkin read the following Resolution Honoring Richard E. Borse on his Retirement as an Airport Maintenance Technician at the Marquette County Airport:

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING RICHARD E. BORLACE

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

WHEREAS, Richard Borse was hired on October 25, 1974 as an Airport Maintenance Technician at the Marquette County Airport; and

WHEREAS, Richard Borse has served the citizens of Marquette County for 25 years and 3 months and will be retiring on January 25, 2000, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the services of Richard Borse for the past 25 years, 3 months, and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, on behalf of all County citizens the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wish "Tombo" Borses and his wife Della a long, happy, healthy retirement.

Proclaimed this 25th day of January, 2000
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 7, 2000 thru January 20, 2000, in the amount of $1,595,894.13 be approved.

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The Committee considered the Access and Visitation Grant from Carolyn L. Hanson, Friend of the Court. In collaboration with the Marquette County Prosecuting Attorneys’ Office and Child and Family Services of the Upper Peninsula, the Friend of the Court Office made application to the State Court Administrative Office for an Access and Visitation Grant for the year 2000. This application sought grant funding for a supervised parenting time and exchange program, which would provide, in needed cases, supervised visitation and a safe and neutral alternative location for the exchange of the children for parenting time.

On 12/21/99 Ms. Hanson was notified that the proposal had been selected to receive funding in the amount of $21,612. The actual provider of services will be Child and Family Services. The contract is between Marquette County and the State Court Administrative Office. The 10% match is being provided by in kind services from Child and Family Services.
Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, explained that the Access and Visitation Grant Agreement is between the granting agency and the County. He is also preparing a separate agreement between the County and Child and Family Services which is in effect subcontracting with the County to provide the actual services. Mr. Andrews recommends including approval of the "yet to be drafted" agreement between the County and Child and Family Services.

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 the Access and Visitation Grant between the County and the granting agency presented by Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, and also the agreement between the County and Child and Family Services being drafted by Civil Counsel Harley Andrews.

The Committee considered the Clean Michigan Initiative Grant-Perkins Park Development Project-Phase II. In 1994, the County Board accepted a Perkins Park Master Plan. Since that time, the Resource Management/Development Department staff has persisted in implementing the recommendations of the Plan through various grant programs. A Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant ($132,000) was awarded in September of 1996 facilitating completion of Phase I of the Plan. Improvements included construction of a new boat launch, fishing pier, fish cleaning station, shoreline bank stabilization, and parking lot improvements. Phase II improvements proposed in this grant include construction of two restroom/shower facilities, demolition of an existing restroom, and conversion of the existing bathhouse to incorporate a pavilion. Total project costs are estimated at $333,343. The match ratio is 74% State to 26% County funding.

Administrator Powers recommends adopting the resolution accepting the terms of the Agreement as received from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the agreement. The $86,670 County project match has been appropriated from the Forest/Recreation Fund in the approved 2000 Budget.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Clean Michigan Initiative Grant-Perkins Park Development Project-Phase II and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the Agreement.

The Committee considered a MERS Resolution for purchase of prior service credit. Mary Buchman, Probate Court Employee, is requesting to purchase one year of generic service credit towards retirement from the County. The MERS Plan allows employees to purchase up to five years of generic service credit to enhance their retirement benefits.

Ruth Solinski, Human Resources & Risk Manager, explained that Ms. Buchman’s request is consistent with a blanket resolution adopted by the Board on February 19, 1997. Ms. Buchman would be responsible for the full amount of the actuarially determined cost of the additional year of service credit. Ms. Solinski recommends the Board adopt the resolution required by MERS to allow Ms. Buchman to purchase one year of service credit.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the request from Mary Buchman, Probate Court Employee, to purchase one year of generic service credit towards retirement from the County of Marquette.

The Committee considered a bill for South County YMCA presented by Steve Powers, County Administrator. Mr. Powers explained that the claim is from Johnson Controls for $985.50. Johnson Controls calibrated and repaired the pool heating control system. While the agreement between the County and the YMCA has the YMCA responsible for maintenance and repairs under $5,000, Mr. Powers is recommending the County pay this expense because problems with the pool heating system existed before the YMCA assumed responsibility for the facility. The work done by Johnson Controls has helped reduce costs. The YMCA has been responsible for other expenses under $5,000.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the claim from Johnson Controls and pay the $985.50 for repair of the pool heating control system.
The Committee considered a communication from Noreen Heitman, Chairperson, Marquette County Conservation District, thanking the County Board for supporting the Marquette County Conservation District and the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership. The memo listed some of the current activities. Carl Lindquist, the Program Coordinator, along with District staff are now working to promote the program throughout Marquette County as well as at the State and Federal Level. The Marquette County Conservation District and the Forestry Commission will keep the County Board informed of their progress over the next year.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, informed the Committee that he has met with Carl Lindquist and Laurie Dhondt regarding an Agreement for Services regarding the Watershed Coordinator that was funded in the 2000 budget. The agreement will be forthcoming. At that time it would be an excellent opportunity for the District to update Commissioners on their activities.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file.

The Committee considered Review of 1999 County Activities and Achievements distributed by Steve Powers, County Administrator. Chairperson Corkin requested that since this item was not distributed in the packet that Commissioners review and comment at next weeks meeting. He also thanked Commissioners, Staff, and Employees for all their hard work. Through the policy leadership of the Board of Commissioners and the diligent effort of elected officials, employees, and volunteers, Marquette County completed numerous projects in 1999. Tangible results were achieved as a result of cooperative efforts among federal, state, city, and township governments, special districts, and non-profit organizations. Marquette County’s accomplishments mirror the goals and objectives of the Board of Commissioners. A thorough, comprehensive annual report will be available later this year.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that Committee of the Whole refer Review of 1999 County Activities and Achievements to the next County Board of Commissioners meeting to be held on February 1, 2000.

The Committee considered a Contract for Radio Maintenance with El-Com Services, Inc. The Central Dispatch Policy Board recommends renewal of the maintenance agreement with El-Com. El-Com will be maintaining equipment at tower sites. Over the past three years, El-Comm’s work has met the needs of Central Dispatch. The existing agreement allows for a renewal for a two-year period. The recommended termination date is October 31, 2001.

For a flat rate of eight hundred fifteen dollars ($815.00) per month, El-Com will furnish all materials, equipment, and labor required to maintain the communications system at each tower site. Required services for each tower site are specified in the agreement.

The Central Dispatch Manager must approve any work not specified in the agreement. Services not included in the flat rate will be paid at an hourly rate of sixty dollars for hours during regular business hours and ninety dollars for work performed outside of regular hours.

The agreement has been approved as to form by Civil Counsel and Human Resources and Risk Management. Administrator Powers recommends the Board authorize the contract. The expense is budgeted in the Central Dispatch Fund.

(A complete copy of the agreement is available in the County Clerk’s Office).

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Contract for Central Dispatch Radio Equipment Maintenance with El-Com Services, Inc.

The Committee considered an Update regarding the American Communication Network (ACN). On December 7, 1999, the County Board authorized staff to issue a proposal to ACN to lease building 643, approximately 30,000 sq.ft. This recommendation was granted based on the understanding that initially 100 jobs would be created with growth potential to 200 jobs.

Marquette County submitted a proposal in competition with various other cities throughout the United States. A decision was expected on January 20, 2000 based on final review of the proposals and finalization of a Michigan Economic Growth Authority award by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.
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Three days prior to January 20, 2000, notification was received from ACN’s real estate representative that ACN’s project scope had increased and they would need more space. More specifically, the rate of growth and number of jobs have increased. The current expected job potential is over 300.

As a result of the increased scope of the project, ACN has reapplied to MEDC for an increased MEGA award, thus pushing the award date from January 20, 2000 to February 8, 2000. Additionally, ACN has made the decision to push their occupancy date from March 1, 2000 to April 1, 2000.

Pursuant to ACN’s request, it is recommended that Marquette County increase its existing proposal by an additional 13,000 sq. ft. to include the building adjacent to Building 642, thus making the total space committed to ACN 43,000 sq. ft. Currently staff is analyzing costs of additional improvements, alternative financing methods, etc. and will be bringing new deal parameters to Commissioners for their approval as soon as possible.

MEDC has issued an invitation to local representatives to be present at the MEGA meeting scheduled for 10 a.m. at MEDC’s offices in Lansing on February 8, 2000.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that ACN wants to have the tax incentive all together from the State before they tell us that they are going to come to Sawyer. They cannot make a decision regarding locating here until they receive the MEGA Tax Incentive. If they make any decision prior to that point it could jeopardize the MEGA Tax Incentive. Administrative Powers urges all Commissioners to attend the MEGA Board meeting on February 8, 2000.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole reschedule their Tuesday, February 8, 2000 Committee of the Whole Meeting to Wednesday, February 9, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin congratulated the County Board for an Award of Excellence received from Operation Action U.P. for the redevelopment efforts at K.I.Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin also congratulated Comm. Wallace President Elect of the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

Comm. Curto announced that there will be a special meeting on February 14, 2000 of the Pathways Board. He will also be attending the Winter Conference in Lansing so will be unable to attend the Michigan Association Conference.

Comm. Rapport asked Commissioners to compare the 1999 Accomplishments to the 1997-1998 Strategic Plan to see that the Board has accomplished a great deal. She requested the Board set goals and objectives from here on out and would like to discuss it at the next meeting.

Comm. Joseph requested a report on the number of employees that chose to opt out of the MERS Defined Benefit Plan.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
ROLL CALL.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 11, 2000.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Resolution Honoring Richard E. Borlace on His Retirement.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Access and Visitation Grant, Marquette County Friend of the Court.

Clean Michigan Initiative Grant - Perkins Park Development Project Phase II.

MERS Resolution regarding Purchase of Time.

Bill for South County YMCA.

Communication from Noreen Heitman, Chairperson, regarding
Marquette County Conservation District and the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership.

Review of 1999 County Activities and Achievements.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.