The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, February 9, 2000 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. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the January 25, 2000 Committee of the Whole meeting 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 change: Delete Item 11) Conservation District Agreement for Watershed Coordinator.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution honoring Glen C. Miller on his retirement:

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING GLEN C. MILLER

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with the best possible services by hiring employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Glen C. Miller was hired as a Deputy in the Sheriff’s Department on July 16, 1973, promoted to Corporal on January 1, 1978, then promoted to Sergeant on June 10, 1992; and

WHEREAS, Glen C. Miller will retire on February 14, 2000 after serving the citizens of Marquette County for twenty-six and a half years, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges Glen C. Miller for his dedication and service, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners on behalf of all County citizens wishes Glen a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Proclaimed this 9th day of February, 2000
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

The Committee considered a recommendation for improvements to Sawyer Building 643. Under consideration is an amendment to a contract with Industrial Piping Co. for heat conversion in an amount not to exceed $397,550. Sources for funding the heat conversion and the architectural work are Caretaker Heat Conversion Funds which has a current balance of $803,000 and the KI Sawyer Development Fund which has a current unreserved cash balance of $1.1 million.

Ed Bailey, KI Sawyer Operations Manager, was present and noted that Industrial Piping and Sundberg & Carlson have been working together on the Scope of Work. The heating conversion equipment had been ordered last December. He noted that the contract is a not-to-exceed amount and there is downward pressure on this amount so he expects it to be approximately $100,000 less. It is in everybody’s interest to minimize the cost for the project.

Mr. Bailey further reported that the KI Sawyer and County Staff, and local vendors are ready to deliver. The deadline for the project has been moved back. MEGA funding was a big roadblock but is now out of the way. There have been no project delays from Marquette County’s perspective.

Chairperson Corkin noted that Administrator Powers, EDC representatives, Mike Gokey and Vicki Kulju, along with Commissioners Arsenault, Roberts and himself were present at the MEGA hearing in Lansing. American Communication Network, Inc. testified to Marquette County’s professionalism and the efforts put forth by Marquette County. American Communications Network is pleased with the Michigan Jobs Commission endorsement of Marquette County and supporting the MEGA funding. The
American Communications Network, Inc. plans to lease 43,000 sq. ft. for a Call Center at Sawyer Building 643 is very significant for Marquette County and the redevelopment of Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Contract with Industrial Piping Company for heat conversion improvements to Sawyer Building 643 in an amount not to exceed $397,550.

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The Committee considered a proposal by Bradley N. Cory, Administrator, Marquette County Medical Care Facility for additions and alterations to the Medical Care Facility. Mr. Cory noted that the Michigan Department of Community Health in late November granted a Certificate of Need Application for a 30 bed Alzheimer Unit to be added to the existing facility. There are no special needs units for Alzheimers or related dementia in any of the area nursing homes except for the Jacobetti Veteran's Facility. Demand is very high for this type of special care. It is estimated that up to 15% of the over 65 population is afflicted which he equates to approximately 2,200 people in Marquette and Alger Counties.

Mr. Cory explained the difference in the care and settings for patients with Alzheimers and that they do not mix very well in a regular nursing home setting. Settings modeled after the Methodist Alzheimers Unit in Chelsea, Michigan provide for a quiet, colorful, (but not disturbing) multi-sensory approach which expands the quality of time left for victims of Alzheimers and their families. Mr. Cory distributed a floor plan proposed by Architects Edmond, London & Associates of Southfield, Michigan who designed and built the Chelsea Alzheimers home and many other facilities. Mr. Cory noted that the present facility has 120 beds and the Certificate of Need would provide Marquette County Medical Care Facility with 20 additional beds. The plan provides for 10 beds to be taken from the present unit leaving 110 regular beds and providing for 30 Alzheimer beds.

The Marquette County FIA Board has 100% of the cost to construct the facility set aside, without jeopardizing the present facility operations. Mr. Cory noted if conditions stay as they are the cost for Maintenance of Effort for the facility including the new addition would be $488,516 annually. Presently $500,000 comes in which covers the MOE. If conditions change in the future it may be necessary to ask for an increase in the Maintenance of Effort millage.

Teresa Luetzow, Medical Care Facility Accountant, was present to answer financial projection questions. A chart was distributed to Commissioners for their consideration.

Commission consensus, there is a tremendous need in Marquette County for such a facility and the proposal is welcome news. The fact that Marquette County received a Certificate of Need for 20 beds for this project demonstrates the need. Alzheimer patients require 24 hour daily care. Comm. Rapport applauded the proposal and the Marquette County FIA.

Commissioners requested a financial review of the proposal by Administrative Staff noting that four Commissioners were not present at this meeting and invited Administrator Cory back to the next Committee of the Whole to further discuss the proposal.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the proposed Marquette County Medical Care Facility additions and alterations be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda for further consideration.

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The Committee considered a Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant. Barry Sullivan, Director of Juvenile Court Services, was present to discuss the grant and answer questions.

State funding was made available for metropolitan areas for juvenile drug testing/drug courts, however, the State FIA Office in November, 1999 decided to provide some funding for rural areas and gave notice to Marquette County that $49,065 would be available.

Barry Sullivan, with little notice, thought it was worth the effort to write a grant for a Drug Enforcement Probation Officer for one year. He received approval from the FIA in January and finally received a signed copy of the grant proposal on February 3, 2000.

The State is providing the $49,065 with no County match required. The Grant requires no continuation after one year and Judge Anderegg and Barry Sullivan will not be requesting any County funds to continue the drug testing/drug court program after the one year period. Any unemployment costs would be funded by the grant.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board amend the budget for the Juvenile Department of the Marquette County Circuit Court's Family Division by $49,065 to authorize an increase in the staffing level by one part time, limited-term position. The position will end January 31, 2001.

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The Committee considered a Contract Extension with American National Management Corp. for Resource Protection Services at Sawyer.

Ed Bailey, Sawyer Director of Operations, was present and noted that the American National Management Corporation has met the performance requirements established by the Air Force. The Air Force has approved the grant extension. Mr. Bailey noted that Marquette County now has two deputies at Sawyer and the Board will have to consider whether or not to continue the Resource Protection Services after the end of this fiscal year.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Contract Extension with American National Management Association, 100% Air Force funded in the amount of $66,330 and also authorize the lease of a vehicle from Frei Chevrolet, 100% Air Force Funded, cost $8,040.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF, COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin reported briefly on the Michigan Association of Counties Conference held in Lansing which he attended on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Chairperson Corkin is a member of the MAC Board of Directors which had a 1-1/4 hour meeting with Governor Engler. Several issues were discussed. Act 51 Road Needs, the Governor is not going to engage in a strong fight like last time. The Community Mental Health Managed Care issue has been tabled for this year because too many questions have arisen regarding access and quality issues which need to be addressed. The Governor wants to eliminate his appointment of FIA boards and turn appointment over to counties. He would like to tax purchases made over the internet.

Chairperson Corkin will provide the information regarding important issues to be placed in the Commissioners’ mailroom. He also noted that Administrator Steve Powers gave a presentation on Marquette County’s successes to a full room and did an excellent job.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, will provide an outline of his presentation for Commissioners and information regarding other matters discussed at the MAC Conference.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts,
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, February 9, 2000, 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. Resolution Honoring Glen C. Miller on His Retirement.
7. Bid Award for Sawyer Building 643 Improvements and Heat Conversion for Call Center.
8. Proposed Marquette County Medical Care Facility Additions and Alterations.
9. Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant.
12.
13.
14.

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