The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 14, 1999, 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. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on August 24, 1999 and the Committee of the Whole Budget Work Sessions held on August 30, 31 and September 7, 1999 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: Item 17) Amendment of Terms of Purchase for Red Fox Properties at KI Sawyer, and Item 18) Resolution Honoring Janet Anderson on Her Retirement.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Roberts and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 21, 1999, through September 9, 1999 in the amount of $2,407,156.88 be approved.

The Committee considered the FY 2000 Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement proposed for Marquette County. Lt. Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Director, was present and explained that the agreement is an administrative tool designed to outline emergency management related objectives that Marquette County intends to carry out during the coming year, to enhance our emergency services programs and overall community safety. This is an opportunity for the County Board to review its priorities, however the work agreement is strongly influenced by federal and state priorities.

Lt. Zorza noted that the FY 2000 Agreement may look very similar to the FY 1999 agreement, that is because many of the tasks for 1999 had to be carried forward into 2000 because of a shift in priorities caused by the winter storm and the forest fire.

Lt. Zorza further noted that an approved Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement is required for Marquette County to receive funding to help support the Local Emergency Services Program. The Work Agreement is also necessary for Marquette County to receive state and federal disaster assistance if necessary.

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 the FY 2000 Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement for Marquette County.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that a report on the Hoist Hydro Facility/County Airport Emergency Operation Exercise from Lt. Mike Zorza, County Emergency Manager, be accepted and placed on file.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that a communication regarding the State Emergency Management Division "Y2K" Round Tables from Lt. Mike Zorza, County Emergency Manager, be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee considered the FY 2000 Military Airport Program Grant Application. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and noted that the FAA has called for Marquette County’s FY 2000 Map Grant Application. The proposed FY 2000 Map Projects include: 1) North Access Road to SIA which will cut off 8-1/2 miles and 15 minutes travel time; 2) Taxiway pavement rehabilitation; 3) Insulation and electric service for Building 400; 4) Installation FAA - PAPI and REIL; 5) Hangar taxiway; 6) Jet bridges; 7) Exhibit A; 8) Replacement hangar doors; 9) Sand storage building; and 10) General Aviation hangars. The details of the projects are described in the application narrative, with funding requests totaling $7,456,500.00 of Map Grant Funding and $414,250.00 of state and local funds. Passenger Facility Charges will be used for local share of approved projects.
It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the FY 2000 Military Airport Program Grant Application.

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The Committee considered a contract award for concrete block repairs to Sawyer Buildings #530, #725, #726, and #730. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that concrete blocks in four leased buildings have deteriorated and replacement of the blocks is needed to prevent further damage. Anticipated cost is $11,562.00 and the Air Force has approved the project and a proposal from Menze Construction.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the contract for concrete block repairs to Sawyer Buildings #530, #725, #726, and #730 to Menze Construction Company, Marquette, Michigan.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from the County Administrator regarding an application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for Renaissance Zones. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the Michigan EDC (formally the Michigan Jobs Commission) is accepting applications on a second round of Renaissance Zones based on the experience of the first eleven zones. The Michigan Legislature approved the second round of Renaissance Zones under the Michigan Renaissance Zone Act enacted in 1986 to encourage commercial, industrial, and residential improvements in economically distressed areas. The second round of legislation now includes closed military bases and will provide for four rural zones. Administrator Powers recommends that the Lake Superior Community Partnership be allowed to prepare Renaissance Zone Applications for various sites in Marquette County if the local units of governments are interested in participating. Administrator Powers further noted that in the first round of Renaissance Zones 101 projects were initiated providing for 3,295 jobs and $279 million in investments. He is recommending that the Lake Superior Community Partnership take the lead in preparing the application, in that they have already attended Renaissance Zone meetings. He further noted that Baraga and Iron Counties would like to see Marquette County become involved. Creating Renaissance Zones would also provide for a valuable marketing tool.

Comm. Rapport noted that Marquette County has gone to great lengths to provide reasonable terms and lease rates to attract business to Sawyer. We are looking forward to K.I.Sawyer developing revenue from leases and expanding Marquette County’s tax base. A Renaissance Zone goes one step too far by providing for loss of tax revenue.

Comm. Arsenault believes that by creating more jobs we will then create revenue, in that workers will need housing and purchase goods and services which will have a snowball effect. However we must be very careful that we pick certain sites at Sawyer so not to hurt the infrastructure.

Comm. Joseph concurred by noting that very specific sites should be targeted. This may provide an added incentive for business. We cannot afford to tear down certain structures and we can’t leave them as eyesores.

Comm. Corkin noted that Sawyer is a separate issue from the rest of Marquette County. Creating a Renaissance Zone for all of Sawyer would be a bad idea, but being very site selective could be a good approach.

Comm. Roberts noted that a Renaissance Zone for a specific site may be acceptable, but pointed out that Marquette County is facing a reduction in personal property taxes. Also, the 2000 census may have an adverse effect on County revenues. We must be very careful with providing tax immunity.

Comm. Seppanen noted that the key to this recommendation is to have the Lake Superior Community Partnership and County Staff put together a application proposal for future consideration by the County Board in mid October. The application deadline to the Michigan EDC is October 22, 1999.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and carried by a voice vote 8 Ayes to 2 Nays (Comm. Rapport and Comm. Roberts), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board: 1) Permit the Lake Superior Community Partnership to prepare a Renaissance Zone Application for sites in Marquette County, if local governments are interested in participating; and 2) Authorize County Staff to prepare application for sites at K.I.Sawyer.

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The Committee considered an award of the contract for the Marquette County Recreation Trail Master Plan. Five proposals were reviewed and the low bidder was CUPPAD, Escanaba, Michigan, at $12,000. Steve Powers, County Administrator, distributed a memo recommending that all proposals be rejected. His original recommendation was to award the contract to CUPPAD to develop a Trail Master Plan, but subsequent to the agenda packet being prepared further review with the proposals occurred, specifically the proof of insurance provided by respondents. The unique nature of CUPPAD allows that agency to be extremely competitive. Also the requested work is not typical of services contracted for by the County. To realize a substantial savings Mr. Powers is recommending that the County negotiate directly with CUPPAD. Other alternatives include: 1) award the contract to the lowest responsive bidder, Beckett and Raeder, the only responder that met all requirements; 2) waive insurance specifications and award the contract to CUPPAD and negotiate insurance as part of the contract; or 3) waive insurance specifications that are not considered significant by Human Resources and Risk Management, and award the contract to Gove Associates.

Comm. Bergdahl expressed concern for funding the development of a Trail Master Plan when the money would be better spent on improving and maintaining trails. As an example, the Michigan DNR requires stickers on snowmobiles, but the funds generated are spent mainly on administration rather than improving trails. As far as identifying trails we already know where all the trails are. We must instead address problems we have with snowmobilers and ORV’s. The proposals for a Marquette County Recreation Trail Master Plan has not been reviewed by the Planning Commission, but should be before funds are expended from the Forest Recreation Fund.

Several Commissioners noted that Marquette County has had a very long-term relationship with CUPPAD which has provided valuable planning services and assistance to Marquette County and its various units of government. There are some conflicting trail uses that must be addressed, the issue is broader than just snowmobiles and ORV’s, and the spirit of the Administrator’s recommendation allows for negotiations.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board reject all proposals for the development of a Marquette County Recreation Trails Master Plan, but rather negotiate directly with CUPPAD for a Marquette County Trails Master Plan with the Marquette County Planning Commission to be a part of the negotiation and review process.

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The Committee considered a letter from Bob Larson, U.P. RC&D Chairperson, requesting County Board support for a $15 million increase in the upcoming Federal U.S. Dept. of Agriculture budget. A combination of inflation and approval of new RC&D Areas across the Country has hindered the capabilities of RC&D’s and NRC’s to provide adequate technical support. The Upper Peninsula RC&D urges that no new Areas be authorized by the Dept. of Agriculture without the additional money needed to adequately fund all RC&D Areas at least a $150,000 level. A $60 million budget is needed to adequately fund existing and newly proposed nationwide RC&D’s.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter supporting the Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development District in their efforts for additional funding.

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The Committee considered a resolution from Huron County opposing any legislative action that would allow non-residents the right to vote on tax issues.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support Huron County with a similar resolution opposing legislative action allowing non-residents the right to vote in Michigan municipalities or jurisdictions.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that a Letter of Appreciation be sent to Dave Olsen who has been a member and officer of the Marquette County Local Emergency Planning Committee since December, 1987 and recently moved to Del Rio, Texas.
Comm. Rapport provided an update on the Sawyer International Airport Terminal Dedication to be held Saturday, September 25th. All U.P. citizens and families are invited to the activities which begin at 8:00 a.m. and include: Aircraft Show (C-54, F-16, Trimotor, etc.), Young Eagles at 11:00 a.m., Sandy Knoll Space Shuttle, food service provided by four different vendor groups, large tents for seating, music, and door prizes.

MarqTran will provide shuttle service. The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 5:00 P.M. with Chairperson Corkin as the host, and Monsignor Cappo, Lake Superior Community Partnership. Administrator Powers will be the Master of Ceremonies for the dinner, space is limited to 250. The program will include remarks by a number of dignitaries including U.S. Senator Carl Levin and U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham, Congressman Bart Stupak, State Representative Mike Prusi, and the Assistant Deputy of the FAA. After dinner a film clip of the NAID Award Ceremony will be shown. An enormous amount of effort has been put into the planning of the dedication ceremony, Comm. Rapport thanked the many who have helped with a hope for sunshine on September 25th.

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The Committee considered an amendment to the terms of purchase for Red Fox Properties. Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson of the K.I. Sawyer EDC, noted the KISED C unanimously voted to recommend a change in the Master Agreement which would allow Red Fox Properties the "option of purchase" rather than a "first right of refusal."

Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, further explained that the Master Agreement has been changed four times at the County's request. The present agreement says that Red Fox Properties has the first right of refusal should Marquette County decide to sell the properties. This means that Marquette County has the option to sell. Should Red Fox not be able to take the first right to purchase then the County could sell to someone else. The new language gives the purchase option to Red Fox Properties. The new language is necessary for Red Fox Properties' financing arrangements. Each lease is for five years with an option to renew the lease for four more five-year terms. The option to purchase is only available in the last 120 days of each lease segment. The purchase option does not include the golf course property or the housing units, the housing units are covered under a separate options agreement. Most buildings in the agreement are already in use except for the NCO Club. Others are forthcoming but waiting either for a prime lease or conveyance.

Tom Rumora, K.I.Sawyer Development Dept. Director, noted that this proposal will help Red Fox to accelerate their plans. The original proposal has been modified many times, but Mr. Pesola is a team player at K.I.Sawyer and had been willing to give and take. At the County's request he gave up the bowling alley and the gym.

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 an amendment to the terms of purchase for Red Fox Property allowing them an option to purchase rather than the first right of refusal, as per recommendation by Civil Counsel.

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Chairperson Corkin read the following proclamation:

RESOLUTION
HONORING
JANET E. ANDERSON
ON HER RETIREMENT

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, Janet E. Anderson began as Clerk in the Register of Deeds' Office on December 16, 1963, became the Chief Deputy Register on September 1, 1977, and will retire as Chief Deputy on September 17, 1999; and

WHEREAS, Janet E. Anderson has dedicated nearly 36 years of her life to the citizens of Marquette County, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges and extends its appreciation to Janet E. Anderson for her services, and BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board wishes Jan many many years of healthy happy retirement.

Proclaimed this 14th day of September, 1999

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Joseph requested that the roll of the Airport Commission after the Airport is moved be reviewed at a future Committee of the Whole meeting.

Comm. Curto commended the website established for Sawyer International Airport, he has been regularly following it.

Chairperson Corkin noted that on behalf of the County Board he attended the funeral of Retired Register of Deeds, Paul Nykanen.

Administrator Powers reported that a final draft is forthcoming of a brochure for marketing Sawyer International Airport. He also noted Herb Parsons was present to distribute a copy of a magazine article in the August/September 1999 issue of Plants, Sites and Parks Magazine. The magazine includes on Page 137 an advertisement of Sawyer International Airport.

Administrator Powers further reported word was received this afternoon from the Land Information Access Association that Marquette County has been one of two applicants awarded funding to assist in developing a GIS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
September 14, 1999, 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 AUGUST 24, 1999 AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE BUDGET WORK SESSIONS HELD ON AUGUST 30 AND 31, 1999 AND
SEPTEMBER 7, 1999.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
8. State Emergency Management Division "Y2K" Round Tables.
9. FY 2000 Military Airport Program Grant Application.
10. Contract Award to Menze Construction for Concrete Block Repair to Sawyer
Buildings No. 530, 725, 726, and 730.
11. Renaissance Zones.
12. Contract Award for Marquette County Trail Master Plan.
15. Letter of Appreciation to Dave Olsen for Dedicated Service as a Member of the
Marquette County LEPC Since December, 1987.
16. Update on SIA Terminal Dedication Ceremonies (no packet materials).
17. Resolution for Public Notice for Bond Refunding

18.  

19.  

20. PUBLIC COMMENT.
21. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
22. ADJOURNMENT.