The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 11, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Courthouse Complex, Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the June 27, 2000 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

Vice-Chairperson Arsenault opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 11) Parking Lot lighting for Sawyer Building 643 (ACN Call Center), item 12) 2% KBIC Gaming Distributions, and Item 13) News Release from US Senator Spence Abraham: Sawyer International Airport will Receive a $2.91 Million in Federal Funding from the FAA to Rehabilitate the Hangar and Taxiways, Install Miscellaneous Navigational Aides, and Construct the North Access Road.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 30, 2000 through July 6, 2000 in the amount of $365,7329.62 be approved.

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The Committee considered four budget amendments affecting the FY 2000 budget for the General Fund and other funds. Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Susan Vercoe, Finance Manager, were present to discuss the budget amendments and answer questions.

Budget Amendment No. 4 adjusts the Public Improvement Fund and carries forward balances reserved for 1999 and prior year projects not completed by year’s end. Budget Amendment No. 5 carries forward General Fund balances of items for which the County was obligated at the end of 1999. This amendment also incorporates a line item transfer from the Equalization Department to the GIS Department. Budget Amendment No. 6 carries forward Forest Recreation Funds reserved for the Trail Rationalization Plan. Budget Amendment No. 7 carries forward Central Dispatch Funds reserved to pay the County’s insurance deductible related to tower damage claims during 1999.

The audit report for 1999 which will be presented to Commissioners later this month, reflects General Fund equity total of $717,272.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Budget Amendments No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, and No. 7 as presented by Staff.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with the Soil Conservation District to provide water, woodlands, and soil conservation and protection services. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the FY 2000 budget includes $10,000 from the Forestry and Recreation Fund for these conservation services. The agreement lists the conservation districts responsibilities for the $10,000 with services including: providing information and advice to the County and the public, preparing a newsletter, and conducting three workshops. These services are in addition to the District’s agreement with the County to administer the Soil Erosion Program and Countywide watershed projects.

Comm. Bergdahl noted that the Soil Conservation District Administrator along with the Soil Conservation District Board have reviewed and concur with the Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Agreement with the Soil Conservation District for conservation services with the $10,000 to come from the Forestry and Recreation Fund.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Matrix Design Group, Inc. to provide consultation services for the disposition of the utility systems at KI Sawyer. Ed Bailey, KI Sawyer Operations Manager, was present and noted that the Air Force Base Conversion Agency is prepared to transfer to the County of Marquette through a Bill of Sale ownership of the KI Sawyer utilities. The utility systems which include natural gas, electric, telecommunications, water, and wastewater are a critical component in the development of Sawyer. Impartial, knowledgeable assistance to the County Board is essential to insure the public receives the highest and best return for these utilities.

Mr. Bailey further explained that he prepared a Statement of Qualifications process with David Kniesley’s assistance. The request was advertised in the media and sent directly to companies who had previously expressed interest in the Sawyer utility issue. Three responses were received from – KMPG, Eisenhardt Group, and Matrix Design Group. The preferred proposal was received from the Matrix Design Group of Colorado Springs, Colorado because of their previous experience with military base utility dispositions, a clearly stated understanding of the KI Sawyer utility problems and opportunities, an emphasis on involvement and consensus building process to assure informed decision making, and a “holistic” investigation and decision making process that recognizes the association and potential impacts of the Sawyer utilities to other aspects of base redevelopment.

The Matrix Design Group proposal outlines the task, requirements, contacts, and products required. The proposal cost is $68,900. Matrix will determine the utility systems value with the timeline to submit a recommendation within six months.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board engage Matrix Design Group Inc. to provide consultation services to the County of Marquette for the disposition of the utility systems at KI Sawyer for the cost of $68,900 with funding to come from the KI Sawyer Development Fund.

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The Committee considered the First Amendment to the Agreement between the County of Marquette and the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Inc. for marketing services.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that there is one more modification that has come to light since the drafting of the First Amendment that should be included. This modification would allow flexibility to the hours of the Marketing Director as the grant draws down so work can continue before the funding ends. Otherwise, the First Amendment remains as presented by the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the First Amendment to the Agreement between the County of Marquette and Lake Superior Community Partnership for Marketing Services with the additional modification presented by Staff.

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The Committee considered a notice from the Michigan Department of Transportation that the proposal, plans, and engineer’s estimate for the repair and construction of County Road 550 have been found acceptable and bids can proceed on August 4, 2000. Commissioners welcomed the news.

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

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The Committee considered a Renovation Project Proposal from Van Ert Electric Company, Inc. in the amount of $3,992 to reestablish electrical supply to the parking lot lights for the ACN Call Center.

Ed Bailey, Operations Manager, KI Sawyer Development Department, noted that the Building 643 north parking lot is a large common parking lot area which will be utilized by several businesses. The lot contains four parking lot light poles with two lights per pole and the electricity for serving these lights was provided from the former BX (Building 643). The ACN Call Center will begin 24 hour operation and the company has expressed concern about the lack of parking lot lighting at night for its employees. Van Ert Electric Company would reestablish the lighting and the electricity would come from Building 643 Mechanical Room through ACN’s electrical meter. Funding for the project would come from the KI Sawyer Development Department Lease Revenue Accounts and ACN has agreed to provide the electricity for the lighting.
It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept a proposal from Van Ert Electrical Company in the amount of $3,992 to establish electrical supply to the parking lot lights associated with Building 643 (ACN Call Center), project funding to come from the Building Renovation Project Budget or the KI Sawyer Development Lease Revenue.

The Committee considered acceptance of KBIC 2% gaming distributions. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that two of the distributions were previously approved by the County Board for the FY 2000 budget. These include $22,401 for the DARE Program, and $25,000 towards the COPS Program.

In addition, two more gaming distributions are to be considered and include $3,000 for the Commission on Aging TRIAD Program, and $30,000 for the City of Negaunee/Marquette County Sewer Project.

The KBIC Tribal Council requests a letter from Marquette County confirming these gaming distributions.

It was moved by Comm. Corkin, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the four 2% KBIC gaming distributions as presented.

Commissioners welcomed the news release from U.S. Senator Spence Abraham for Sawyer International Airport Funding, especially funds for the construction of the North Access Road. Chairperson Corkin read the news release which noted that the $2.91 million funding is critical because of the short construction season in the Upper Peninsula. Marquette County can now begin construction on the North Access Road to Sawyer International Airport, which will improve public access to the Passenger Terminal on the former Air Force Base.

Chairperson Corkin noted himself and Administrator Powers made a number of calls to Washington, D.C. He thanked U.S. Senator Spence Abraham, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, and Congressman Bart Stupak for their assistance.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, further noted this was a bipartisan effort to speed the funding through the federal process. He also noted that Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, and the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics were very instrumental in securing this funding.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and reported that construction will start next Monday on the North Access Road with clearing and grading. The timeline for the project is to complete the paving by the end of October.

Comm. Wallace suggested that the County Board send letters thanking the various legislators, staff members, and agencies for their efforts in securing this funding.

Vice-Chairperson Arseneault opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

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

Comm. Corkin apologized for being a little late for the meeting. He went to Marquette General for surgery at noon on his hand and was just released before the meeting.

Comm. Curto, on behalf of Comm. Rapport, noted there are continuing complaints regarding the signage leaving the Sawyer International Airport. Because of the persistence in the complaints there is something wrong with the signage which should be corrected.

Comm. Corkin noted that by November the new North Access Road will solve the signage problem.

Comm. Tuominen wanted to note for public information that the four County millage proposals on the August 8, 2000 Primary ballot are all renewal millages. There are no new millages being requested.
Comm. Wallace reported on two memos Commissioners received regarding requirements for temporary food licenses which are a result of a Township having a community meal where the public was invited. The Health Department requires a temporary license for such activities and a notice will be sent to all townships and cities.

Comm. Tuominen further noted that the Marquette County Township’s Association has invited Health Department representatives to attend its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
11. Parking Cut
12. Lighting Reversal
13. No Access Rd
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.