The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 28, 2000 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on March 14, 2000 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following late additions: item 13) District Court Computer Software; and item 14) Letter of Support for Lake Superior Community Partnership application to the Federal Dept. Housing and Urban Development.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 17, 2000 thru March 23, 2000 in the amount of $860,818.43 be approved.

The Committee considered a communication from Laurie Dhondt, Administrator, Marquette County Conservation District, regarding Storm Water Problems in Marquette Township. The communication was a follow up to a presentation to the County Board on March 14, 2000. The County Board questioned why problems in Marquette County. Ms. Dhondt explained that 1) the quantity of stormwater leaving the site is not regulated through Part 91, Soil Erosion; 2) local stormwater controls are not being strictly and uniformly enforced; 3) contractors/landowners responsible for sites under permit are continually removing temporary erosion controls, not installing controls as required, refusing to follow permit and law conditions; and 4) several large scale earth change operations, up to 50 acres of raw soil at once, present inherent difficulties for both sides.

Possible solutions would include 1) including language in a County program to regulate stormwater, and 2) adopting stricter enforcement/application laws than what is required by law under Part 91 or in applicable townships. The toughest part of administering the soil erosion permit process is that of enforcement in the field. The law given permit holders up to 20 days to fix problems; meanwhile the damage is ongoing. If the problem is not fixed after that it is a balance between using the County Prosecutor’s Office or trying to force the permit holder to remedy the situation through on-site meetings or petitioning for bond monies.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be placed on file with a copy sent to the Marquette Township Board.

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The Committee considered a communication from Bob Larson, U.P. RC&D Chairman, regarding County Board support increasing USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, Resource Conservation & Development Council, account to $53 million in the FY 01 Agriculture Appropriation Bill. RC&D Councils throughout Michigan play an important role in protecting the environment in a way that improves the local economy and living standards. Congress created this public/private partnership as a way of engaging local leaders in promoting their local economy by leveraging limited federal dollars. For every dollar appropriated by Congress, local Councils have leveraged an average of $14 from other sources. Over $18 million of grassroots-driven RC&D projects have been completed in the U.P. alone. The figure for Michigan State is over $60 million.

Mr. Larson requested the County Board support the request by writing to the Chair and Ranking Members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and ask them to insert the following language into the Agriculture Appropriations Bill:

Resource, Conservation and Development Councils play an important role in rural development and natural resource conservation. USDA has indicated that on average it takes $154,000 to fully support a RC&D Council. There are currently 315 existing Councils and 47 pending applications. The Committee provides $53,000,000 to fully support all existing Councils and additional applicant areas.

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 support the request of the RC&D Council.
The Committee considered a communication from Tom Vitito, Chair, Six County Employment Alliance, regarding the Second Amendment to the Six County Employment Alliance Interlocal Agreement. The Interlocal Agreement established the Six County Employment Alliance. Its Board consists of two County Commissioners from each of six central Upper Peninsula Counties. As the grant recipient and administrative entity for federal and state funding, the Six County Employment Alliance Board works in partnership with the Michigan Works The Job Force Board in providing education and workforce development services to our community residents.

Due to the passage of the Workforce Investment Act, minor changes must occur in the Interlocal Agreement adopted July 1, 1983 and modified June 23, 1992, to reflect the enactment of the Workforce Investment Act replacing the Job Training Partnership Act.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Second Amendment to the Six County Employment Alliance Interlocal Agreement and authorize the Board Chair to sign the documents.

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The Committee considered a memo from Edward Bailey, K.I. Sawyer Development Department, regarding EIFS Repair. At the direction of the Air Force, proposals were solicited from architectural and engineering firms for services related to the repair of Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) on a number of K.I. Sawyer Buildings. Some more familiar trade names for EIFS are Insulcrete and Drivit. This problem is most evident on Hangar 661, Hangar 667 and Building 708 where the EIFS has delaminated exposing a blue rigid Styrofoam type material.

A bid tabulation sheet shows the price proposals range from $9,900 to $43,800. Both the Air Force, which is paying 100% of the cost for these services, and Mr. Bailey believe that this is much closer to a “$10,000 Project” than a “$40,000 project.” Hitch, Inc., the low bidder, is a capable engineering firm based in Houghton, Michigan, which has bid on a number of previous K.I. Sawyer Projects. Mr. Bailey has spoken with Company representatives regarding the project and they have consulted with an experienced Grand Rapids based EIFS person who is familiar with K.I. Sawyer and the subject buildings. Mr. Bailey is confident that Hitch, Inc. understands the project and their corresponding price proposal. He recommends awarding the project to Hitch, Inc.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the EIFS Repair project on a number of K.I. Sawyer Buildings to Hitch, Inc. in the amount of $9,900.

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The Committee considered a Reimbursement Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for Removal of Navigational Equipment from the former Marquette County Airport. For the past year Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, has been challenging the requirement for the County to compensate the FAA for the removal. The offices of United State Senator Levin and United States Senator Abraham are aware of the reimbursement requirement also. The total estimated cost of this is $503,236 of which $224,566 is for removal and relocation of some of the equipment to the new VOR navaid being installed at Sawyer International Airport. AIP or MAP grant funding would pay for 90% of this cost, and the remaining 10% could be paid from the sale proceeds from MQT Airport. The FAA would not have to remove or relocate this equipment if the County had not decided to leave MQT Airport.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, concurred with Mr. Pawley to amend the FY2000 MAP grant application to include the project to remove this equipment. FAA will allow the County to amend its 2000 AIP application. Mr. Powers recommends approval of the agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the agreement with the FAA and authorize amendment to the 2000 FAA Airport Improvement Program and Military Airport Grant Application for purposes of funding equipment removal.

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The Committee considered a resolution regarding the 911 Plan Amendment. The resolution amends the 911 plan to require wireless companies to provide geographic positioning technology in Marquette County and makes the County eligible to receive a share of the surcharge. The legislature imposed the surcharge to fund development of geographic position technology so dispatch centers know
the coordinates and location of wireless 911 calls. The ability to locate wireless emergency calls is required by the Federal Communications Commission. The surcharge is fifty-five cents per month and is paid to the State Treasurer. The Central Dispatch Policy Board unanimously approved the plan amendment on March 16, 2000. Once the County Board adopts the tentative amendment, a ninety-day comment period begins. Cities and townships have an opportunity to comment. A public hearing is then held prior to the County Board adoption of the amended plan.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that amending the plan will bring the County an estimated $60,000 in annual revenue from surcharges on wireless telephone bills. Regardless of the County Board’s action on the plan amendment, wireless users will pay the surcharge. Approval of the resolution will allow Marquette County Central Dispatch to receive a share of the funding. He recommends approval.

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 adopt the proposed Plan Amendment Resolution.

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The Committee considered a Lease Agreement for Central Dispatch Tower Space with David and Joyce Savolainen. The Tower is located in Champion Township and is essential to the radio coverage in the western portion of the County. The $6,750 annual payment to the Savolainens is budgeted in the Central Dispatch fund. The Central Dispatch Board has approved the lease. Civil Counsel and Risk Management have also reviewed the lease.

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 approve the lease for Central Dispatch Tower Space.

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The Committee considered purchase of computer, software, and audio/visual equipment for District Court for substance abuse assessments. The Michigan Department of Consumer Industry Services is requiring the use of a recognized assessment tool. The requirement takes effect in March 2000. The computer software will aid District Court in complying with the requirement. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, and Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, have reviewed the request and agree with the Court’s computer needs. The estimated cost for the computer and software is $3,507. There are sufficient funds available in the computer fund for the purchase.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the purchase of computer and ASI modules for the 96th District Court.

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The Committee considered a Letter of Support for Lake Superior Community Partnership application to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. On March 13, 2000 the K.I. Sawyer Economic Development Committee approved a recommendation to the County Board that the County write a letter of support for the HUD grant application. The HUD program provides funds on a competitive basis to community development organizations, non-profit agencies, neighborhood organizations, and economic development agencies. The purpose of the program is to build organizational capacity. The Lake Superior Community Partnership has been asked to be the grant applicant. No County match is required. The Sawyer Community Development Workgroup does not plan on requesting County funding for the Community and Family Services Coordination Program.

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 approve a letter of support to the federal Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development to improve the quality of life for residents of the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that the U.P. County Commissioner Spring Conference will be held in Marquette County June 9-10, 2000 at Captain’s Restaurant, K.I. Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin congratulated the Negaunee Miner’s on their Class C State Championship Win!!!
Comm. Roberts reported that Marquette County has received Tobacco Settlement Funds. The overall U.P. amount was $250,000. Marquette County received $15,046 specifically targeted for Respite Care, and $4,660 for Adult Day Care.

Comm. Wallace explained that none of the Tobacco Settlement money will be used for public health purposes, tobacco reduction policies or prevention activities for kids.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that the Michigan Supreme Court is scheduled to be in our Circuit Courtroom on May 15, 2000.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Brnam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 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 MARCH 14, 2000.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Communication from Laurie Dhondt, Administrator, Marquette County Conservation
   District, regarding Storm Water Problems in Marquette Township.
7. Communication from Bob Larson, UPRC&D Chairman, regarding County Board
   Support Increasing USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, RC&D Council
   Account in the FY 01 Agriculture Appropriation Bill.
8. Consideration of Interlocal Agreement between Marquette County and Michigan
   Works.
10. Reimbursement Agreement for Removal of Navigational Equipment from Marquette
    County Airport.
11. 911 Plan Amendment.
12. Lease Agreement for Central Dispatch Tower Space with David and Joyce Savolainen
    in Champion Township.
13. District Court Chrysler Software.
    Application to the federal Dept. Racing &  Wildlife
15. 

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