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


It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the November 14, 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. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 17) Sawyer Engineering Services Agreement with URS, Item 18) Central Dispatch Tower Lease Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 17, 2000 through November 22, 2000 in the amount of $189,353.22 be approved.

The County Board considered the purchase of Sheriff’s Department vehicles. The Sheriff’s Department sent out five bid requests and only one was received by November 20, 2000 at 2:00 P.M. The bid was received from Crown Motors for four Sheriff’s Department Vehicles with a total of $74,198.40 (with trade-in allowance); Three Patrol Vehicles for $57,148.80 for the Sheriff’s Department, and one patrol vehicle for Marquette Township for $17,049.60. The FY 2001 Public Improvement Fund Budget includes $70,000 for the three patrol vehicles and Marquette Township will pay for the fourth vehicle through its law enforcement contract with Marquette County.

Administrator Powers further noted that several bids were requested for a Chevrolet Impala Police Package to compare costs with the Crown Victoria. The Crown Motor bid is within $100 of the Michigan State Police contract price, however the price quoted by Frei Chevrolet is $63,962.44 with trade-in allowance. The Sheriff is recommending purchasing the Crown Victorias instead of the Impalas. His department presently has two Impalas, one for the detective and one for road patrol, however they have experienced maintenance problems. Other law enforcement agencies are also reporting Impala maintenance problems. 2001 is the second year of manufacture of these vehicles and the Crown Victoria/Impala comparison will be done again next year.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee forward the purchase of the Sheriff’s Department vehicle to the County Board with no recommendation with a request for further regarding maintenance costs from the Sheriff’s Department.

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The Committee considered the Community Corrections Day Parole Program. Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, were present to discuss the Day Parole Program and answer questions.

The Michigan Department of Treasury, Local Audit and Finance Division, informed Marquette County that State community corrections grant and fee revenue must be budgeted in a special revenue fund. Marquette County currently budgets Community Corrections in the General Fund. Grant revenues have funded community corrections and fee revenue from the Day Parole Program has helped fund the Sheriff’s Department.

The Community Corrections Advisory Board met November 21st to review the impacts of the required change. The Advisory Board recommends that the Day Parole Program remain in the General Fund and no longer be a community corrections program. This is more of an accounting change rather than a day to day operations change, with little or no impact on the Day Parole Program.

The 2001 General Fund Impact would result in a $20,000 loss of revenue. Currently the General Fund nets $45,000 but with the change the General Fund will net $25,000. Included in the recommended change is charging Community Corrections an indirect cost, consistent with County policy and subject to State approval. The State places a $6,000 cap on indirect costs, however Marquette County has budgeted conservatively at $4,000.
Proposed 2001 budget revenues for the Day Parole Program are $55,000 with expenses budgeted at $32,500. The 2000 year to date revenue for the Day Parole Program is $51,285.

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 approve the Special Revenue Fund for Community Corrections excluding the Day Parole Program which will remain in the General Fund with the appropriate budget amendment.

The Committee considered an Agreement with Great Lakes Recovery Center for Community Corrections Probation Residential Treatment Services.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the State Office of Community Corrections is providing up to $31,390 for probation residential services which include space provided for an average daily population of two offenders. They will receive room and board, supervision, intake and assessment case management, referral, transportation, recreation, and financial management services.

The agreement between Marquette County and Great Lakes Recovery has been reviewed and approved by Civil Counsel and Risk Management and has been signed by Great Lakes Recovery. The agreement is necessary for State funding for these services, there is no County match required.

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 Agreement with Great Lakes Recovery Centers for Community Corrections Probations Residential Treatment Services.

The Committee considered a Lease Agreement with O’Dovero Properties for rescue vehicles storage space at the former Marquette County Airport in Neguane Township. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the rates appear to be the best that Marquette County can do. Storing a vehicle at the former airport provides an excellent location along the U.S. 41 corridor. Administrator Powers recommends that the Lease Agreement be forwarded to the County Board with no recommendation because he wants more time to work out further details with O’Dovero Properties.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Lease Agreement with O’Dovero Development for rescue vehicle storage space at the former County Airport be forwarded to the County Board for consideration with no recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place on file a General Fund Budget Report through October, 2000 from Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

The Committee considered a request from Boreal Aviation for the waiver of fuel flowage fees for air ambulance flights. The Boreal Aviation request is based upon a letter from Airifeline which transports low income patients at low or no cost with pilots volunteering their time and aircraft. There is an average of two flights per month with the fuel flowage fee being approximately $15 per flight. Total estimated revenue loss from the fuel flowage fee waiver would be less than $500 per year.

The waiver of the fee is allowed by the FAA and Civil Counsel believes the fee can be waived, however advises the waiver cannot be just limited to Airifeline. All non-profit air ambulance services who provide patient transports at no cost would have to be exempt from the fuel flowage fee.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow the waiver of the fuel flowage fee for all air ambulance/lifeline flights that do not charge fees for transporting patients.

The Committee considered the Sawyer International Airport and Industrial Park Capital Improvement Projects. Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, were present to discuss the capital improvement projects and answer questions.

Over $20 million in improvements have been made at Sawyer International Airport and Industrial Park. The Federal Aviation Administration, the Economic Development Administration, the State Bureau of Aeronautics, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation have funded 87% of the work. The County’s 13% share, $2.6 million, is being funded by passenger facility charges (approximately 50% of County share), proceeds from the sale of the former airport, and from lease revenues.
Use of the airport sale proceeds requires FAA approval. Staff distributed a summary of the projects recommended to use sale proceeds for the County’s share which follow FAA guidelines and priorities. These recommended projects include: Local share of airport projects, rather than lease revenues; PFC loans from the Delinquent Tax Fund; airport closure and relocation costs; fuel farm write-offs; T-hangar loan from Delinquent Tax Fund; PFC loan for 2001 AIP/MAP Projects; and local share, non PFC for 2001 and 2002 projects.


Other summaries were distributed which included all airport capital projects and funding sources for proposed 2001 and 2002 projects, and provided a status of projects underway or planned for the next construction season.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board 1) Approve 2001 Airport Improvement Program/Military Airport Projects, and 2) Approve request to Federal Aviation Administration to allow proceeds from the sale of the Marquette County Airport to be used as local share for eligible projects.

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The Committee considered an Airport Update from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager. The first 10 months of 2000 have shown an increase of 3.5% in passengers over the first 10 months of 1999. Mr. Pawley further noted that Northwest Mesaba has added one more daily flight to and from Minneapolis to Sawyer International Airport. He also noted a dedication ceremony for the new North Access Road will take place on December 12th at 1:00 P.M. and Congressman Stupak is scheduled to attend.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the report on file.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Randolph E. Smith, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, for the appointment of the following as Medical Examiner Investigators:

Lt. David Lemire, Marquette County Sheriff's Department
Det. Scott Johnson, Marquette County Sheriff's Department
D/Cpl. Greg St. John, Marquette City Police Department
D/Sgt. Jean Belanger, Michigan State Police
D/Sgt. Todd Johnston, Michigan State Police

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the appointment of the Medical Examiner Investigators as recommended by Randolph E. Smith, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner.

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It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place on file a Budget Update Report through September 30, 2000 from the Marquette County Road Commission.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place a communication from the Michigan Public Service Commission regarding a Wisconsin Public Service Corporation and Upper Peninsula Power Company Public Hearing regarding a restructuring plan to be held December 6, 2000 in Lansing.

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The Committee considered approval of an Engineering Services Agreement for two Sawyer International Airport Projects. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that Marquette County has received FY 2000 MAP Grant funding for continued improvements of hangar 400 and for reconstruction of the parallel and cross taxiways.
The total estimated cost of the hangar 400 project is $625,000. The proposed Engineering Services Agreement with URS Corporation Great Lakes is to perform the design, contract administration, and construction of these projects totaling $73,000. For the reconstruction of taxiways the total project cost is estimated at $720,000 with the design, construction administration, and inspection costs amounting to $81,000.

The continued use of URS Corporation for design and administration of these projects was questioned. Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Mr. Pawley explained that the County Board approved a five year agreement with URS Greiner. They have done a very satisfactory job in design and contract administration for Sawyer projects. This is a Federal Aviation Administration prescribed process with review provided by the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics. It is possible for the County Board to seek and new design/administrator for Sawyer construction projects if it believes costs are too high or the work has been unsatisfactory. Staff contends this is not the case with URS Corporation.

It was further noted that out of the $1.345 million for these projects the County’s portion is only $154,000 or 11.4%. If the FAA and the Bureau of Aeronautics are satisfied then why would Marquette County not be satisfied?

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Curto, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Engineering Services Agreements for the two projects: Improvements to SIA Hangar 400 and reconstruction of the SIA parallel and cross taxiways.

The Committee considered renewal of an agreement between American Microwave and Communications, Inc. and Marquette County for lease of tower space (Suicide Mountain Site No. 4115). Joe Van Oosterhout, Central Dispatch Manager, recommends extension of the use agreement for an additional three year term with an annual rental increase of 5%. The contract has also been reviewed by Civil Counsel.

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 approve the Lease Agreement for tower space with American Microwave and Communications, Inc. for a three year extension.

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

Chairperson Corkin reminded Commissioners to get their Administrator evaluations in as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 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 NOVEMBER 14, 2000.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Sheriff’s Department Patrol Vehicle Bid.
7. Community Corrections Day Parole Program.
9. Lease with O’Dovero Development for Rescue Vehicle Space at Old Airport.
11. Request from Boreal Aviation for Waiver of Fuel Flowage Fee for Air Ambulance Flights.
13. Sawyer International Airport Update.
14. Medical Examiner Investigator Appointments.
Company Restructuring Plan.
17. 
18. 
19. 
20. PUBLIC COMMENT.
21. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
22. ADJOURNMENT.