The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 23, 2001, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Courthouse, Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 9, 2001 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution honoring Mary L. Buchman on her retirement:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING MARY L. BUCHMAN**

**WHEREAS,** Government has an obligation to provide citizens the best possible services by hiring employees of the finest quality; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary L. Buchman was hired on February 11, 1980 as a Clerk Typist/Stenographer Internal Services, then Probate Court Clerk/Recorder on August 4, 1986, and then promoted to Deputy Register of Probate on August 8, 1986; and

**WHEREAS,** Mary L. Buchman will retire on January 31, 2001 after 21 years of service to Marquette County,

**THEREFORE,** BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges its appreciation for the dedicated service of Mary L. Buchman since 1980; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** on behalf of all County Citizens the Marquette County Board of Commissioners with Mary a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Proclaimed this January 23, 2001
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board Of Commissioners

Mary expressed her appreciation for the plaque and resolution. She has enjoyed being associated with Marquette County and thanked the County Board for supporting its employees over the years.

Chairperson opened the meeting for public comment.

Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, reported that a motion was passed at the last Sands Township Board meeting recommending to the Marquette County Board that the new North Access Road to Sawyer International Airport be named the John Voelker Drive.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

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 11) Sawyer Title Insurance Agreement, Item 12) Lease with Amerilink for Sawyer Building 741, Item 13) Equalization Director Appointment, Item 14) Resolution and Request for Extension of Audit Report Filing Date, and Item 15) Ishpeming Ski Club Request for Letter of Support.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 12, 2001 through January 18, 2001 in the amount of $412,636.30 be approved.

The Committee of considered the 2001 Borrowing Resolutions. Gary Yoder, County Treasurer, was present to discuss the Borrowing Resolutions and answer questions. Marquette County annually borrows an amount to insure there is enough money on hand to pay all local units of government for their delinquent taxes. The amount borrowed over the last few years has ranged between $500,000 and $800,000, however with the adoption of P.A. 123 of 1999 substantial changes in the delinquent tax laws have been implemented.
Treasurer Yoder believes the new law which provides for steeper penalties and higher interest rates will encourage earlier payment. How the interest rates on collected taxes (currently 5% to 6%) will related to 1% to 1 ½% on uncollected taxes still remains to be determined. Mr. Yoder recommends the adoption of the Borrowing Resolutions to assure there is enough money to pay local units in 2001 for delinquent 2000 real property taxes. The resolution is similar to that used in previous years. The amount to borrow will be determined later. If all goes well the County retains the option not to borrow anything.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the 2001 Borrowing Resolutions recommended by Treasurer Gary Yoder.

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The Committee considered Amendment No. 3 to the Lease Agreement between Marquette County and Pathways. The payment schedule lease between Marquette County and Pathways ends January 31, 2001.

Larry Gould, Facility Manager, was present to discuss the lease agreement and answer questions. The current lease rate for the DeFant Building is $14.19 per square foot. The revenue from Pathways is the largest funding source for operating and maintaining the DeFant Building. The new recommended payment schedule would begin February 1, 2001 through January 31, 2011 which will provide the revenues needed to maintain the DeFant Building and pay the bonds upon which annual interest varies between $250,000 to $280,000, with the last payment due January, 2011.

Pathway lease rate as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>352,123</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>423,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>383,915</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>436,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>394,994</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>449,426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>401,256</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>462,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>411,372</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>476,642</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It was noted the DeFant Building was renovated with Community Mental Health locked in as the major tenant to finance the construction bonds. Pathways may be interested in the outright purchase of the building in the future, however the lease agreement must be approved at this time.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Lease Agreement between the County of Marquette and Pathways for the payment schedule commencing February 1, 2001 through January 31, 2011.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from the Military Aviation Wall of Honor Committee to name the new North Access Road to Sawyer International Airport after aeronautical engineer Kelly Johnson.

Joseph Pietro, Chairperson, Wall of Fame Committee, and Robert Moore were present to discuss the recommendation and answer questions.

Kelly Johnson is considered the greatest aeronautical engineer known to mankind. A little bit of Kelly is part of every aircraft, private, commercial, and military. The world renowned Kelly Johnson was born in Ishpeming, Michigan.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board name the new North Access Road to Sawyer International Airport the Kelly Johnson Memorial Drive.

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The Committee considered the Updated Airlines Passenger Report through December, 2000. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, contended that Marquette County would have had 90,000+ total passengers during the year 2000 if there weren't so many flight cancellations during the last quarter. In December 2000 Mesaba had 18 flights cancelled and Skyways had 9 flights cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, most of the bad weather occurred in Detroit, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis. In the year 2000 there were 2.63% more passengers than in the year 1999. Passenger numbers in January 2001 are off to an excellent start.

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

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The Committee considered a memo from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager regarding an FAA Grant Amendment. The FAA and the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics have provided for an additional $111,899 in
funding for the following completed projects: Relocation of runway and approach lighting, relocation and installation of security fencing, extension of 10th Street, construction of the terminal access roadway, and airfield and terminal road pavement markings.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place the communication on file.

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The Committee considered the proposed Sawyer Title Insurance Agreement. Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, was present and explained that Marquette County received a federal grant to do the surveying and title work, and update the local tax records. This is necessary as Marquette County acquires title to the property and begins to sell the real estate.

The surveying has already begun through the Road Commission starting with the streets, roads, and the utility right-of-ways. Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning received one response to a Request for Proposals from Great Northern Title & Abstract, Inc. of Marquette. After negotiations with Great Northern Title, cost is not an issue, title insurance rates are standardized. Great Northern Title has done work for the Corp of Engineers and has past experience with properties at KI Sawyer. The surveying and title work is a time consuming process and should be started as soon as possible.

It was moved by Comm. Tuomainen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Sawyer Title Insurance Agreement with Great Northern Title & Abstract, Inc., Marquette.

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The Committee considered Lease terms with Amerilink Corporation for Sawyer Building 741. Larry Coelho, Assistant Airport Manager, was present to discuss the lease terms with Amerilink Corporation and answer questions. Amerilink is starting a support operation to Charter Communications and Radio Shack in the Upper Peninsula. Work will be done in Marquette County with plans to expand to Escanaba and Iron Mountain. Amerilink is owned by Radio Shack and subcontracts with local companies to install modems, cable systems, and satellite dishes.

Amerilink has requested occupancy as soon as possible and will employ three to five people. Amerilink will lease Sawyer Building 741 containing 3,124 sq. ft. which was vacated by Longview Inspections. The building is within the Renaissance Zone however Amerilink’s lease rate begins at 30% more than similar lease tenants. They are requesting a 5-year lease with annual renewal options. Year one will be $3 per sq. ft. and generate $9,372 in revenue and will increase to $3.40 per sq. ft. in year five and generate $10,621 in revenue. The building is ready for occupancy with no cost to the County for improvements.

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 the lease terms with Amerilink Corporation for Sawyer Building 741.

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The Committee considered the Equalization Director hiring recommendation. Scott Erbisch, Human Resources and Risk Manager, was present to discuss the recommendation and answer questions.

The selection process for Equalization Director is complete. Two candidates with the State required Level IV Assessor Certification applied and were interviewed. The candidates were Donald Bode and Dwight Sunday. Both candidates were qualified but due to more equalization experience candidate Bode was first offered the position. The interview panel agreed that if Mr. Bode did not accept then Mr. Sunday would be offered the position.

Mr. Bode was offered the position but due to his salary requirements would accept no less than $70,000 per year which is well out of Marquette County’s approved salary range for the position. The position was then offered to Mr. Dwight Sunday who would like the position and is ready to commit to five years of employment with Marquette County. His salary and benefit requirements are as follows:

- Minimum Annual Salary - $52,104
- Five Weeks Vacation
- Five Sick Days Upon Hire
- Health Insurance
- Participation in the County’s Retirement Program (401A Defined Contribution)

Mr. Sunday’s starting date is March 19, 2001. He will also be provided the benefits that other non-union employees receive in Marquette County. Staff recommends the hiring of Mr. Dwight Sunday.
Chairperson Corkin noted he was on the interview panel and both candidates are well qualified. Mr. Sunday has been assessor for the past 13 years in Ypsilanti Township and has experience assessing commercial properties.

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 hiring of Dwight Sunday for Equalization Director.

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The Committee considered the approval of a resolution for an audit extension. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and noted that preparation for the 2000 audit is underway. The Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act requires that an audit report be filed with the State Treasurer within 120 days of year end and historically Marquette County has requested an audit extension until June 30th. This year a resolution by the County Board is required to request the extension. The resolution must be adopted within 120 days of year end and written request sent to the Michigan Department of Treasury.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the resolution to request an extension to the audit report filing date.

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The Committee considered a request from the Ishpeming Ski Club for a letter of support regarding the development/relocation of the ski jump facility. A letter from Mary A. Jacobson, Chairperson, Development/Relocation Committee, noted that a meeting took place on January 19, 2001 which was attended by the Development/Relocation Committee, key members of the community, Cleveland-Cliffs, and representatives from the State Legislature.

State Senator Don Kovisto confirmed the fact that a new ski jump facility would not be eligible for state funding unless the gift of land by Cleveland-Cliffs was owned by the City of Ishpeming. It has become clear that the Ishpeming Skier’s Training Facility, Inc. and the Ishpeming Ski Club would not be eligible for state or local funding. Ms. Jacobson requests that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners ask the City of Ishpeming to accept the gift of land from Cleveland-Cliffs and that this land be leased to the Ishpeming Skier’s Training Facility, Inc. for development purposes.

Comm. Joseph further noted that Sen. Koivisto has legislation in place requesting up to $5 million in funding for the project, there is no harm in proposing high and accepting less. The gift of land to be owned by the City of Ishpeming would be the first step in the funding process.

Some Commissioners expressed concern about redirecting the City of Ishpeming to accept a gift. This is their decision to make. They believed it would be better for the County Board to offer continued support to the project if the City decides to accept the gift of land.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to the City of Ishpeming indicating: If the City of Ishpeming is willing to accept the gift of land from Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company the Marquette County Board of Commissioners will continue to be supportive of the development/relocation of the new ski jumping facility.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Joe Pietro, Chairperson, Aviation Wall of Honor Committee, thanked the County Board for naming the new North Access Road to Sawyer International Airport after Kelly Johnson.

There being no further public comment. Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin reported he attended a meeting with representatives from Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, the Steelworkers, and Representative Stupak regarding steel dumping and the Marquette Iron Range. Nine steel companies are currently in serious financial difficulties and Congressman Stupak is working on the issue. We do not want the United States to become dependent upon foreign ore and the consensus of the meeting was we must work both nationally and locally on the steel dumping problem. This will be an ongoing issue, hopefully government can help.
Chairperson Corkin also reported he attended a State Court Local Intergovernmental Advisory Committee meeting in Lansing. They heard a presentation by the Probate Judge from St. Joseph County who in the past 13 years has never been over budget. He took office in 1988 when St. Joseph County also had Child Care Fund budget problems. He will provide copies of the report for Commissioners and Staff review.

Chairperson Corkin reminded Commissioners of the AMR Press Conference at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 24th at the Sawyer International Airport Terminal.

County Clerk Dave Roberts noted that January is a five Tuesday month therefore the next County Board meeting will be in two weeks on February 6th. He further noted the MAC Conference is being held February 11th, 12th, and 13th in Lansing. Several Commissioners are going and the Committee may want to consider changing their Tuesday, February 13th meeting to Wednesday, February 14th.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole reschedule its February 13th meeting to Wednesday, February 14th at 6:00 P.M. in Commission Chambers.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, January 23, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
   *Resolution Honoring Mary L. Buchman on Her Retirement.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. 2001 Borrowing Resolution (complete copy of the resolution is available in the County Clerk’s Office and the Commissioners’ Room.
7. Lease Agreement with Pathways.
8. Consideration of Naming the North Access Road to the Airport Terminal.
9. Informational Item regarding Airlines Passengers Stats.
10. Informational Item regarding FAA Grant Amendment Providing an Additional $111,899.

11. Title Ins. Agent
12. Lease w/ AmeriLink
13. Equilization Dis Appointment
14. Resolution & Request Extension of N.A. Report Filing Date

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

[Signature]
Ski Club Request