The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, February 14, 2001, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. 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 23, 2001 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes: Table Item 12) Lease Agreement with Boreal Aviation; Table Item 18) County Accomplishment List for Year 2000; and add Item 19) Steel Dumping Resolution.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 2, 2001 through February 8, 2001 in the amount of $727,824.91 be approved.

Diane Miller, Program Coordinator, Youth Empowerment Service (YES), was present to thank the Board for support of YES and provide an overview of its work. YES serves court-referred youth from the Marquette County Juvenile Court who have been stealing cars, shoplifting, or are generally incorrigible. YES has served 158 youth with counseling services, however the most effective component of the program is establishing Success Partner Mentors. Success Partner Mentors are generally college students who meet with the teens for three hours a week and assist them with school work, goal setting, life skills, and volunteering. A year ago there were seven such partners but currently there are 54 Partner Mentors.

Ms. Miller noted one youth that was arrested for shoplifting lived in a home situation of substance abuse and neglect. His typical report card contained grades of D, E, C+, E, E, C. His parents attended no school functions nor met with teachers or school officials.

By participating in the YES Success Partner Mentor Program the same youth now regularly goes to school and the mentor meets with school officials. He now cleans his house and his last report card was comprised of A, A, A, A, A, A.

Commissioners asked Ms. Miller several questions. She noted schools can refer the youth but usually the diversion part of the juvenile system does the referring. A goal was established for 50 Success Partner Mentors. YES has reached that goal and hopes to maintain it. Increasing the goal would require more staff and more dollars to run the program and YES is rather concentrating on quality. Only one out of 98 youth who have participated in YES have ever been sent to detention.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board thanked and commended Diane Miller. The YES program is an example of a community service that is working directly with people and helps solve problems in our community.

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The Committee considered an agreement with Credit Service, Inc. for collection of former KI Sawyer Tenants past due accounts. On January 8, 2001 the KI Sawyer EDC approved the use of Credit Service, Inc. to collect Sawyer Welding’s past due account. The agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by Civil Counsel. Credit Service, Inc. has no placement fee and is only paid if there is collection made on the account.

The policy used by the KI Sawyer Development Department for collecting from former tenants includes the following actions: 1) Withhold security deposit, 2) Letter(s) and/or phone call(s) from KI Sawyer Development Department, 3) Letter(s) from Civil Counsel, and 4) The use of a collection agency. Credit Service, Inc. would retain 10% to 50% depending on the process used. If the process only requires some phone calls the fee is at 10%, if collection requires legal action they would retain 50% of any funds collected.

Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson KISED, noted at this point Sawyer Welding is the only tenant with past due accounts, however the Committee felt a procedure needs to be in place should similar action be necessary in the future.
It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Agreement with Credit Service, Inc. for collection of former tenants past due accounts at KI Sawyer.

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The Committee considered an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Marquette for internet access and related services. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present to explain the agreement and answer questions. The cost for internet access and e-mail is $9,000 annually of which the County will pay half through the copy/computer enterprise fund. Mr. Nault noted this is a good agreement with the City and provides for more than just internet access, it also provides for data sharing, website housing, and training. Approximately 130 computer stations of Marquette County Employees will have internet access. Maintenance will be at no cost to Marquette County until the beginning of 2004 and at that time will cost approximately $200. Software fees will be approximately $700 per year for fire wall protection, however the software cost for Novell’s Master License Agreement is a cost the County has to pay anyway because we were already using it internally, now internet access has opened it externally.

Brent Nault further reported that the potential is unlimited for future internet access in areas of data sharing, especially GIS. Other municipalities and “out” departments will be able to become part of the system.

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 of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Marquette for internet access and related services.

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The Committee considered a 3-year renewal option with the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority for liability, property, and vehicle insurance coverages. John Katona, MMRMA Representative, was present and noted that this is a win-win situation for Marquette County. The renewal premium offered is $3,000 less than the premium paid by Marquette County four years ago. MMRMA works with County agencies to reduce their potential liabilities and has brought $24,000 in grant funds to Marquette County with $29,000 in grants still in the under consideration. If insurance rates are reduced in the future the County can still receive a lower rate. All risk in this agreement actually falls with MMRMA.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that MMRMA works well with Marquette County and analyzes our liability and helps us to reduce our risks. An agreement for a 3-year lock in rate makes good financial sense.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a 3-year renewal with MMRMA Insurance (2001 – 2003) at this year’s rates for liability, property, and vehicle coverage.

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The Committee considered a Contract with DMG – Maximus, Inc. for a three year extension to provide our cost allocation plan at the annual fee of $11,000.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that a cost allocation plan is required by the United States Government and the State of Michigan in order for the County to receive reimbursement for supporting programs which it operates with federal and state funding. DMG Maximus provides a cost allocation plans for all counties in Michigan which have withstood federal and state auditors. Marquette County receives approximately $300,000 per year by having a cost allocation plan in place. The agreement with DMG Maximus costs $11,000 per year and staff recommends the contract be extended for three years.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Cost Allocation Plan with DMG Maximus for three years at the same annual fee of $11,000 per year.

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The Committee considered the FY 2000 Year End Budget Amendments. Budget Amendment 16, Forest Recreation Fund, is recommended to budget for a capital project at Perkins Park. The project has been approved by the Board and is funded by a State Recreation Grant available through revenues in the Forest Recreation Fund.

A review by Sue Vercoe of General Fund expenses noted an increase of $371,882 over the amended budget while revenues increased by $274,697. The FY 2000 Amended General Fund Budget is $16,141,508. The review included all revenues and expenses over/under budget by $1,000 or more.

Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, noted that the budget amendment provides by department and line item detail for recommended expenditure and revenue changes. Significant changes from the amended budget include retiree and employee health insurance, retirement, court appoint legal fees, 2% distributions, jail revenues and
expenditures, vacation and sick leave payouts to departing employees, taxes, state court funding, indirect cost charges, register of deeds services, and building permits.

The recommended budget amendment includes a $97,000 transfer from the insurance fund. The transfer is recommended because of increased health insurance costs for employees and retirees. With this transfer the insurance fund will have an estimated 2000 year end balance of $420,000. The FY 2001 budget includes use of $180,000 and a minimum balance of $150,000 is recommended. All funds will be closed by March 31, 2001 for the auditors. Additional budget amendments may be necessary as the 2000 financial statements are further reviewed by auditors.

Sue Vercoe further noted that the child care fund’s estimated general fund transfer is the same as the mid-year estimate of $915,000. Also, the Sawyer Development Department is estimated to end the year with a fund balance of $470,000, approximately $40,000 more than estimated at mid-year. The Sawyer Development Fund has never required a general fund transfer.

The Sawyer International Airport estimated transfer from the general fund is $190,000, a $97,000 reduction from the mid-year estimate. This estimate includes a $25,000 payment to the Road Commission for maintenance of the Kelly Johnson Drive and streets within the Airport.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, also noted that various controls and steps are in place and are necessary to insure that the 2001 budget is managed in anticipation of revenue and expenditure changes. Monthly reports will be made to the Committee of the Whole showing the General Fund budget status with the first report scheduled for February 20, 2001.

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 approve of the FY 2000 preliminary year end budget amendment No. 16 Forest Recreation Fund and No. 17 General Fund Expenditures and Revenues as presented by staff.

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The Committee considered a Contract with the Central Upper Peninsula Training Agency (CUPPAD) for economic development grant administration with an amendment to include the Highland Development Center Project. CUPPAD’s rate is $34 per hour, unchanged from 1999. Funding is included in the four EDA grants for administration costs. The four grants total $13.5 million and since May CUPPAD has been paid $41,191 for EDA Grant administration.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that in 1999 Marquette County competitively selected CUPPAD to administer the EDA grants. The contract allows for a 12 month extension and CUPPAD’s work has been satisfactory. CUPPAD was selected in 1999 because of its relationship with the EDA, its proven grant administration abilities, and its cost effectiveness. A pre-application is required for the Highland Development Center which is being prepared by CUPPAD. Should the County and the City of Negaunee be successful with the grant application CUPPAD will be the recommended grant administrator.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a 12 month extension contract with CUPPAD for EDA grant administration which will include the Highland Development Center Project.

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The Committee considered a letter written to U.S. Senator Carl Levin from Randall Pierce, Mayor, City of Negaunee, requesting his assistance and support for a 100% direct congressional appropriation for the City of Negaunee’s mandated $10 million wastewater treatment plant facility and system upgrade. The City of Negaunee has an annual per capita income of $23,345, as per the 1990 census, while a typical household in the City of Negaunee pays $1,005.48 in water/sewer costs. Anything less than a 100% congressional grant program will ultimately drive Negaunee’s exorbitant water and sewer rates even higher. Representatives from the City of Negaunee including the Mayor Randall Pierce and the City Manager Tom Manninen are planning to go to Washington D.C. in March, 2001 and would like to meet with Senator Levin to discuss this critical issue.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide a letter of support for 100% direct Congressional appropriation for the City of Negaunee’s mandated $10 million Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility upgrade.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file a communication from Stu Bradley, Chair, Regional Planning Committee, Marquette Community Foundation regarding a planning exercise to take place Monday, February 19th at the Ramada Inn. Robert McNulty, President of Partner for Livable Communities, Washington, D.C., will lead a discussion at
8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. regarding U.S. 41M-28 to help communities develop long range plans to meet local needs.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file a communication from Nancy J. Patera, Appointments Manager, Office of the Governor, noting that Public Act 454 of 2000 revises the appointment process for County Board Jury Members. Jury Board Members will now be appointed by the County Board of Commissioners upon recommendation of the Circuit Judges of the County.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file a Detroit News article regarding General Motors relocating 150 deer from the Warren Tech Center with permission of the Michigan DNR. Chairperson Corkin noted that the Michigan DNR would not approve the relocation of the deer from Presque Isle in Marquette.

The Committee considered a Resolution requesting that our Federal and State Legislators thoroughly investigate the practice of steel dumping in the United States and take the necessary actions to enforce the trade laws to eliminate illegal dumping of foreign steel which threatens the operation of our local iron mines.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution calling for an investigation into the practice of illegal steel dumping in the United States.

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

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

Chairperson Corkin reported on the Michigan Association of Counties Legislative Conference held in Lansing February 11th through the 13th. He attended along with Administrator Powers and Commissioners Arsenault and Nordeen. Chairperson Corkin believed it to be the best MAC Conference he attended. He had the opportunity to meet with the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Chair and other key legislators. Several issues were discussed:

- The Child Services Enforcement System, the federal government was planning to cut $38 million from Michigan Friends of the Court because ten counties in Lower Michigan were not in compliance. Friends of the Court will be made whole for 2001 and not lose funding. The ten Lower Michigan counties have made commitments that they will work toward compliance.
- The Marquette County Road Commission will get an invitation to apply for additional funding for historic preservation renovations for their Ishpeming Office.
- Chairperson Corkin had the opportunity to discuss the Land Division Act as it relates to KI Sawyer. Also, the placement of a caution light by MDOT at Kelly Johnson Memorial Drive intersection with M-553.
- Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus has pledged his support for additional funding for snow removal for Upper Peninsula counties.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that having Chairperson Corkin as a member of the MAC Board of Directors is very important. His influence will help Marquette County and the whole Upper Peninsula.

Comm. Arsenault disclosed that his company Concepts Consulting, has entered into an agreement with Red Fox Properties. This agreement is between two private corporations and has nothing to do with Marquette County. He wanted to disclose this Agreement to the County Board in case questions are raised.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Presentation by Diane Miller, Youth Empowerment Services Program Coordinator.
7. Collection Services Agreement with Credit Service, Inc.
8. Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Marquette for Internet Access.
9. Renewal of Insurance with MMRMA.
11. FY 2000 Year End Budget Amendments.
12. Lease Agreement with Boreal Aviation, Inc. for Sawyer Building 427.
13. Agreement with CUPPARD for EDA Grant Administration.
14. Letter of Support for City of Negaunee’s Mandated Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade.
17. GM Completes Deer Relocation from Warren Center with Michigan DNR Approval.
18. County Accomplishments for Year 2000 (materials forthcoming at meeting).
19. Steel Damming Resolution
20.
21.
22. PUBLIC COMMENT.
23. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
24. ADJOURNMENT.