The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 27, 2001, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skews Courthouse Annex, 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 February 14, 2001 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. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 11) EDC Revolving Loan Fund Plan, Item 12) Lease with Boreal Aviation for Sawyer Building 427, Item 13) Resolution to Amend Lease for Building 431 with CANUSA, and Item 14) IRP Loan Application for CANUSA.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 16th through February 22nd, 2001 in the amount of $714,820.71 be approved.

Comm. Harvey Wallace, an active Board Member of the Medical Care Access Coalition, Inc. (MCAC) introduced members of the Coalition for the purpose of making a presentation to the County Board. MCAC has been working for several years to find a way to provide primary health care for the underinsured in Marquette County. It is estimated that there are approximately 6,000 underinsured citizens living in Marquette County and MCAC immediate goals are to access primary health care for 1,000 underinsured patients by the end of year two.

Comm. Wallace introduced Shawn Wagner, to make the presentation and provide an overview of MCAC, Inc. Mr. Wagner introduced other Coalition board members present including Julia Hadas, Hugh Miller, Jim Dotson, Dr. Randall Johnson, and Karlyn Rapport. The vision of MCAC, Inc. is to insure that all residents in Marquette County will have access with dignity to quality affordable health care. Their objective is to establish and organize an easily accessible referral and case management network linking volunteer physicians, hospital based care, diagnostic lab, x-ray, and pharmacy services needed to complete treatment. Each patient’s financial history will be reviewed on an individual basis. To be eligible for coverage income must be at 200% or less than the poverty level. Those typically who would qualify for coverage include: Working people without insurance who can’t afford medical or pharmacy care; people with seasonal, low paying, or part-time jobs; working single parents; people who are attempting to become self-sufficient while leaving public assistance; people who are unemployed; and homeless individuals.

Karlyn Rapport further noted the Marquette Medical Clinic has donated space, but MCAC needs support for good, samaritan legislation. She has spoken with Rep. Adamini and State Senator Koivisto regarding needed legislation so retired physicians can obtain malpractice insurance and donate their services. Ms. Rapport further noted that access to care is not an incentive so potential employers coming into Marquette County can avoid offering medical benefits under the guise of economic development. The Medical Care Access Coalition hopes to begin providing services July 1, 2001.

Chairperson Corkin suggested that the Coalition formerly request, with assistance of County Staff, 2% gaming funds from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. Chairperson Corkin commended and thanked the Coalition for its efforts on this worthwhile project for Marquette County.

Joe Van Oosterhout, Central Dispatch Manager, made a presentation to the Committee of the Whole to provide an overview of the 800 MHz Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS). Mr. Van Oosterhout noted that the current Central Dispatch System has a combination of consoles and transmitters 20 or more years old. The fire/EMS use Simplex Transmitters requiring telephone circuits at a cost of $1,800 per month. The current system uses eight towers, five are at no cost but three cost a total of $1,600 per month. Marquette County Central Dispatch has a close working relationship with the State Police and has been located at the Negawane Post since 1977. All utilities, supplies, snow removal, and police supervision cost Central Dispatch only $3,500 per year. We share a phone system, computer aided dispatch, emergency power, and other office and technical equipment. The Michigan State Police are planning construction of a...
new dispatch center at a cost of $640,000 at no cost to Marquette County with plenty of room for Central Dispatch.

Mr. Van Oosterhout further explained the 800 MHz MPSCS which is being built in four phases at a cost of $230 million. This includes 181 towers statewide and Phase III (completion of the Lower Peninsula) will be operational next week. The benefits of Marquette County Central Dispatch participating in the 800 MHz MPSCS include more consistence in wider area coverage with lower noise levels, vastly increased talk group capabilities with private circuits for detectives to speak only to each other, improved communication security, indication when a radio is out of range so an officer knows he has not made contact, reduced operating costs, extensive system diagnostics, 24 hour supervision, and any lost radios can be remotely “stunned” (deactivated).

The Central Dispatch Policy Board met with its consultant in February and will meet again in March. The Policy Board will be making a recommendation to the County Board by the end of March to place an order for three consoles by the second week or April. This cost is expected to be approximately $150,000 which has been anticipated and budgeted for. This order will coincide with the State Police order for four consoles and will be advantageous to the County even though the system will not be operational for two years.

Commissioners questioned purchasing the equipment now and not being able to use it for two years? They wondered whether technology advances would make the equipment outdated before it was utilized.

Comm. Seppanen, County Board Liaison to Central Dispatch, and Mr. Van Oosterhout further explained by ordering the consoles along with the State Police now will insure shared cost for design, staging and electronics by utilizing the same equipment. This will save Central Dispatch thousands of dollars and assures having the latest technological upgrades with no additional cost to Marquette County. The Central Dispatch Policy Board expressed the same concern, but after thorough discussion with the consultant unanimously recommend the purchase of the three consoles in conjunction with the State Police.

Chairperson Corkin noted Marquette County’s Central Dispatch’s close association with the Michigan State Police has saved Marquette County hundreds of thousands of dollars over past years and will continue to do so in the future. He thanked Joe Van Oosterhout for the presentation and looked forward to the Policy Board’s recommendation in the near future.

The Committee considered the UPSET Subcontract with the Michigan State Police. The subcontract provides reimbursement for one-half of the actual cost of the Sheriff’s Deputy assigned to the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team. The subcontract amount is $62,776, with one-half required from the County. The FY 2001 County budget for UPSET is $57,499 with $30,200 provided from State reimbursement. MMRMA has no objections to the County of Marquette approving the subcontract.

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 UPSET Subcontract with the Michigan State Police for 2001.

Chairperson Corkin read an update from Congressman Bart Stupak regarding his efforts to preserve and promote the U.S. Steel Industry and enhance monitoring to detect foreign steel dumping. Congressman Stupak pledged to continue to fight for the interest of iron ore workers who are vital to the nation's steel industry in Northern Michigan. He has drafted a proposal to keep steel companies, who benefit under the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee Act, from using loan proceeds to buy slab steel from countries who illegally dump steel in the United States. He will continue to update Marquette County on actions at the federal level and requested he be notified of any state or local efforts undertaken as well.

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

The Committee acknowledged a letter to Randy Van Portflet from State Senator Don Koivisto urging that a yellow caution light is needed at the intersection of M-553 and Kelly Johnson Memorial Drive.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered an EDC Revolving Loan Fund Plan revision. The Board of Directors for the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation has requested that the County Board consider the plan
The update was prepared in consultation with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The EDC Revolving Loan Fund is funded in part by a Community Development Block Grant. The County Board of Commissioners has given responsibility for the Revolving Loan Fund to the Marquette County EDC. The revision deletes the County Board of Commissioners from final approval of RLF loans and is consistent with the current and accepted practice. By deleting the final approval requirement this makes clear to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation that the Marquette County EDC is responsible for the RLF program. The County still maintains the right to periodically audit the RLF program.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation Loan Fund Plan Revision.

The Committee considered a Lease Agreement with Boreal Aviation for Sawyer Building 427. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present to explain the Lease Agreement and answer questions. Building 427 has 4,058 sq. ft. designated for use by Boreal Aviation for its business operations at an initial rental rate of $3 per sq. ft. The remaining 3,470 is designated for common use by general aviation public for which Boreal will pay an initial rental rate of $2 per sq. ft. These rental rates result in a total lease amount of $19,114 for the first year and each subsequent year the lease rate will be adjusted upward by the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Hal Pawley further explained that the lease will be effective February 1, 2001 with an initial term of three years with automatic extension of additional three year terms, however the County will have the option of terminating the lease without cause by giving the leasee written notice not less than 120 days prior to the end of each three year term. A security deposit of $1,600 is required and the leasee will pay all taxes, insurance, and utility costs. Boreal will also pay all maintenance cost, with one temporary exception and that is for roof work which was not completed by last winter utilizing EDA grant funds. There have been some roof leaks since which will be eliminated by further work done this spring. The leasee will be responsible for the cost of future improvements or modifications which are subject to County prior approval.

Hal Pawley further explained that Boreal is terminating its lease on Building 404 and the personal property being used under that lease is being transferred to the new lease. The office furniture located in Building 427 is also being added to the new lease.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Arsenaull, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Lease Agreement with Boreal Aviation for Sawyer Building 427.

The Committee considered Lease Amendments with CANUSA (formerly PLC, USA) for lease of Sawyer Building 431. The original lease was for one year with three renewal terms of one year at a lease rate of $2.75 per sq. ft. in the first year, $3 per sq. ft. in years two and three, and $3.25 per sq. ft. in year four. The tenant would pay all taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance costs and a security deposit equivalent to the first and last months rent. The County would make heat conversion improvements with Air Force funds, however additional improvements would be the responsibility of the tenant.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, noted that although these lease terms were approved by the County Board, the lease was never signed. Since approval of the lease terms the company has changed its name from PLC, USA to CANUSA. Also County Code Officials since determined because of the change in use of the building that it had to be brought up to code for compliance with ADA, fire, etc. Renovation costs of $40,000 were not anticipated when the original lease terms were negotiated and approximately half of the improvements result from code requirements.

Harley Andrews further explained that the following new lease terms have been negotiated with CANUSA. Marquette County would forego the first two months rent which CANUSA would apply to the code construction costs. Also, the first year's lease rate will be $2 per sq. ft. as compared to the $2.75 per sq. ft. originally negotiated. Assuming a start date of March 1, the airport would now realize $17,064 in additional revenue which is currently not in the 2001 budget. The contribution by the County Airport in rent abatement would amount to $12,266 toward the $40,000 building improvements.

Comm. Joseph believed that the building improvements, including the code requirements, were the responsibility of the tenant and contended the rent abatement would be setting a precedent for other potential Sawyer tenants.

Civil Counsel Andrews stressed that this is not an amendment to a lease, the original lease was never signed. This is a new lease negotiated with CANUSA and similar to other leases there are special building circumstances agreed upon.
It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the lease terms presented by Staff with CANUSA for Sawyer Building 431.

The Committee considered a KI Sawyer IRP Loan Application for CANUSA. Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson of the KI Sawyer IRP Loan Committee, noted that the IRP loan amount would be $75,000 used to renovate Building 431. The terms would be three years with monthly payments of principal plus interest, rate would be Wall Street Journal Prime (currently 8 1/2 percent) to be set at time of loan closing. Collateral for the loan would consist of shared secondary position on all collateral, plus personal guarantee by Francis Fournier. The loan is contingent upon receipt of a letter of approval from the Marquette County EDC, however personal guarantee from Francis Fournier has not yet been received.

Rick Verwey, CANUSA Plant Manager, was present and explained that English is the second language of Mr. Fournier who is a French Canadian. There was some language confusion and Mr. Fournier thought personal guarantee meant his home, personal savings, etc. The confusion has been cleared up and Mr. Fournier understands this to be standard language as part of the IRP loan process. Mr. Verwey noted that $500,000 has already been invested by Mr. Fournier with $145,000 tied up into this particular project. Mr. Verwey further noted, although the loan terms are for three years with a one year renewable lease, he is committed to make this plant function profitably and be here much longer than three years.

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 of the IRP Loan Application of $75,000 for CANUSA for renovations to Sawyer Building 431.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 10 Ayes (Comm. Tuominen, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Girard, Joseph, Moore, Nordeen, Seppanen, Wallace, and Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee go into closed session to discuss pending litigation: Rusiecki vs. Marquette County.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess at 7:27 p.m. to clear commission chambers.

The Committee came back into open session at 7:40 p.m.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee concur with the recommendation made by Staff during the closed session.

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

Chairperson Corkin noted that a major issue facing all Michigan Counties will be the Coordinated Planning Act. He will place a copy of the proposed legislation in Commissioner mailboxes for their review.

Comm. Nordeen requested future consideration of more space at KI Sawyer for the Road Commission.

Comm. Nordeen noted he has been appointed to the MAC Transportation Committee and will on several occasions have to travel to Lansing for meetings.

Comm. Nordeen also requested the County Board revisit the Honor Camp Road issue from Chocolay to Sands Township. Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Bergdahl requested to be included in any meetings regarding the Honor Camp Road.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, February 27, 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.
8. UPSET Subcontract with State Police.
9. Communication from Congressman Stupak regarding Iron Ore, Steel Study.
11. Revolving Loan Fund Plan
12. Lease and Lease for Aviation Terminal
13. Rev. Trans. PLC, USA. Loan for $1,000,000.
14. IRP Loan Application for CANUSA
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.

15) closed

Rusiecki