The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 13, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Courthouse 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 February 27, 2001 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 19) Board Resolution for FEMA Monies for the Marquette County Road Commission.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 2, 2001 through March 8, 2001 in the amount of $826,803.51 be approved.

The Committee considered the Economic Development Administration’s evaluation of CUPPADD. The evaluation included brief, but complete, narrative responses to Management Standards; Financial Accountability; and Program Performance.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the EDA Evaluation of CUPPADD be accepted for file.

The Committee considered a Report from the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. attended by Comm. Arsenault and Comm. Corkin. The report consists of the following needs and concerns of Marquette County: Steel Dumping; City of Negaunee Wastewater Treatment Plant; Snow Emergency; Military Airport Program (MAP); K.I. Sawyer; and Development of the former Airport.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Report be accepted for file.

The Committee considered a Resolution regarding the Federal Budget. The County of Marquette receives funds to operate essential programs and projects from the federal government in the form of grants and flow-through funds. Local municipalities are required to establish a balanced budget by a specified date. The federal legislature is currently in the process of cutting tax revenue in the form of an income tax reduction without establishing a balanced budget prior to allocating these tax cuts.

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 adopt a resolution requesting the federal legislature to adhere to the same responsible budget process and only consider proposed tax cuts in conjunction with a fiscally responsible budget thus assuring continued economic prosperity for all Americans.


The Committee considered a Recreation Grant Application – Perkins Park Development Project – Phase III. Marquette County has the opportunity to apply to the Department of Natural Resources for a recreation grant to facilitate Phase III of the Perkins Park Development Project. Funding is available from the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). A single application makes the County eligible under both programs.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund will pay up to 75% of the Perkins Park Project if selected for the recreation grant program. The Land and Water Conservation Fund will pay up to 50%. Components of Phase III include construction of seven pull-through campsites for larger RV’s and 5th wheel trailers, enlargement of several other sites, utility extensions, rerouting of the south campground road, relocation of the picnic area, and plantings to provide screening between campsites and separation between campsites and day use areas. Staff estimates the cost to complete Phase III to be $224,700.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, Seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Resource Management/Development Department staff to submit a notice of intent; adopt a resolution supporting the
application and committing matching funds; appropriate matching funds from the Forest/Recreation Fund; authorize the Administrator to sign the application; and authorize the Board Chair to sign all documents if awarded the grant.

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The Committee considered Seasonal Mooring Fees – Big Bay Harbor. The State has established the 2001 rate schedule for seasonal mooring at Harbors of Refuge. Proposed State rates have been raised 5% over last year. Historically speaking, long term demand at the Harbor has been erratic and given the remoteness of the site, it is unlikely that the Harbor would remain full if the County raised rates to State levels. Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends the County Board request the State to allow us to maintain our current fee structure with a 5% increase for 2001.

Comm. Wallace proposed the County Board not increase the fees, leaving them at last year’s level. He feels that raising the Seasonal Mooring Fees does not generate a significant source of revenue.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Wallace), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request the State allow us to maintain our current fee structure with a 5% increase for 2001.

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The Committee considered Transient Mooring Fees – Big Bay Harbor. Marquette County has received the 2001 fee schedule from the Waterways Commission for Transient Mooring at Harbors of Refuge. We are obligated by our grant-in-aid agreement to adopt these rates or request permission to vary the State mandated rates. In the past, Marquette County has adopted the State proposed transient schedule which is the same for all State sponsored south shore Lake Superior harbors. Boaters traveling the Great Lakes expect uniform fees and find our services (refuge mooring, restroom shower, fuel, and public phone) comparable to those at other harbors. Proposed 2001 rates are 3% over last year’s rates.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Moore. and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the State’s 2001 Transient Mooring Fee Schedule.

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The Committee considered the Recreational Trails Master Plan. The County Board referred a variety of trails issues to the Marquette County Planning Commission for their guidance and direction. Many of the issues were a result of differences in trail use by various groups and land use conflicts. The County Planning Commission recognized a need for a comprehensive recreational trails plan that would guide future trail development. Bids for a consultant were taken and CUPPAD was awarded the project in December, 1999.

The Planning Commission began review of the draft trails plan in October, 2000. Since that time, three public hearings were held and copies of draft trails plans were distributed to all local units of government in the County as well as trail user groups. CUPPAD was present at all three of the public hearings and has followed through with the Planning Commissions recommended changes.

After thorough consideration, the Marquette County Planning Commission voted unanimously to adopt the Comprehensive Recreational Master Trails Plan.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Nordeen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the Planning Commission recommendation to adopt the Marquette County Recreational Trails Plan.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with the Iron Industry Museum. Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, advised that an agreement is necessary if the Board chooses to pass through the funds to the museum. A new agreement is needed because the current payment, unlike the payment last year, is not designated for any specific activity or program at the museum.

On January 16, 2001 the Board of Commissioners accepted two-percent gaming distributions from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The KBIC included $2,500 for the Iron Industry Museum. The agreement is for $2,500. The County has received the two-percent distribution.

The County has no legal obligation to pass through the two-percent payments to any particular department or agency. In correspondence to the County, the KBIC Tribal Council stated it trusts that those organizations that have been identified as being worthy recipients will benefit from the distributions.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution specifically finding that the activities of the Iron Industry Museum advance the historical interests of the County, approve

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the agreement between the County and the Michigan Department of State and authorize execution of the agreement.

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The Committee considered Change Order to Closner Contraction Contract to renovate and improve Buildings 661, 725 and 727. The work is 100% funded by the first Economic Development Administration Grant. The change order authorizes: removal of asbestos and miscellaneous changes - $58,485.34; Entry finish - $346.50; Utility and heating costs for duration of construction - $6,000.00; Removal and replacement of two overhead doors - $10,518.54.

The need to remove asbestos was greater than anticipated when the project was bid. The only information regarding asbestos was Air Force records. As work progressed, additional areas of asbestos were discovered. Rather than funding the utility costs from the airport operating budget, the recommendation is to charge the costs against the grant. The buildings are vacant. The door replacements are recommended because of the conditions of the doors and the availability of funds. The EDA grant must be expended before April 30, 2001.

The Change Order has been reviewed and approved by the engineer/architect and by Hal Pawley, Airport Manager. Board approval is needed because the amount exceeds the limits the County Administrator is authorized to approve.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen seconded by Comm. Moore and carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the change order to Closner Construction to renovate and improve buildings 661, 725, and 727 in the amount of $75,350.38.

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The Committee considered a Change Order to the Dresseler Mechanical, Inc. Heat Conversion Contract. This change order adds building 503, the chapel on Avenue A, to the list of buildings to be converted by Dresseler. The Michigan State Missions Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is leasing building 503 and plans on occupying the building in May. The Change Order has been reviewed and approved by the engineer/architect and by County Staff. Board approval is needed because the amount exceeds the limits the County Administrator is authorized to approve.

Dresseler Mechanical, Inc. was awarded a contract on October 10, 2000 to convert heating systems. Dresseler was selected after a competitive bid process. Dresseler was the low bid. For the remainder of the federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30), Administrator Powers recommends Dresseler be the heat conversion contractor. This will better ensure the 2001 heat conversion funds ($500,000) are expended prior to the end of the federal fiscal year (unexpended funds are returned to the Air Force) and the County can respond timely to the occupancy needs of lessees.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Change Order to the Dresseler Mechanical, Inc. Heat Conversion Contract in the amount of $31,569, and further that Dresseler be the heat conversion contractor for the remainder of the federal fiscal year (October 1 to September 30).

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The Committee considered a Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) Planning Grant Application. Michael Zorra, County Emergency Manager, explained that Marquette County was recently invited by state emergency management officials to apply for funding assistance through the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program to support development of our countywide all-hazard mitigation plan. The objective of the federal program is to assist communities in planning and implementing mitigation measures that reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood related damage.

Mr. Zorra recommends that the Marquette County Planning and Resource Development Department serve as the lead agency/point of contact for this project. This process will help assure that the community hazard mitigation planning is well integrated into our comprehensive plans and addressed in the various community planning activities. The necessary local matching funds outlined in the hazard mitigation planning grant application is included in the 2001 budget approved for the Emergency Services Division.

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 Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) Planning Grant Application and the County Planning and Resource Development Department serve as the lead agency/point of contact for this project.

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The Committee considered FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds. Michael Zorza, County Emergency Manager, explained that he has received notice that as a result of the recent presidential disaster declarations in Michigan, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Program funding assistance is still available to fund cost effective hazard mitigation measures. Hazard mitigation is defined as an action intended to reduce or eliminate damages or other negative impacts caused by natural or technological hazards.

Mr. Zorza further explained that if the County has projects that may have a community hazard mitigation benefit, this may be an opportunity to ease the local financial burden. He stated that this is short notice program requiring that a completed application and support documentation be submitted to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 30, 2001.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that communication be accepted for file.

The Committee considered a resolution for FEMA monies for the County Road Commission. Because of the record snowfall the Marquette County Road Commission is already $200,000 over budget due to snow removal.

Comm. Tuominen recommends Staff draft a letter to FEMA requesting support to help ease this financial burden.

Mike Zorza, County Emergency Manager, explained that part of the problem is that FEMA regulations are designed to address a one to two day event, taking care of public safety and public health concerns. It is not necessarily meant or designed to take care of economic burdens. Mr. Zorza further stated that they have in the past been successful in receiving funds because of a record one-day event. Congressman Stupak had apparently worked with some of his colleagues in the New York area and also found that the cumulative effect was not being addressed in the FEMA policy. The Governor did include, along with several other U.P. Counties, in his request to FEMA to support a disaster declaration for our communities. So basically the steps for a formal request has taken place for FEMA disaster assistance funds. Our request should be from the County to the Governor to the federal agencies. That process has taken place. Now, we must convince FEMA that they have to clarify their policies and that will take some political intervention.

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 draft a resolution to FEMA and the Governor’s Office requesting support for amendment to their policies regarding disaster assistance funds.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

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

Chairperson Corkin announced that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners will meet as a Committee of the Whole on Friday, March 16, 2001 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, March 17, 2001 from 8:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at “An American Place” at KI Sawyer, Gwinn, Michigan, for the purpose of a Strategic Goal Setting Workshop.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, March 13, 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. EDA Evaluation of CUPPAD.
9. Recreation Grant Application – Perkins Park Development Project Phase III.
10. Seasonal Mooring Fees – Big Bay Harbor.
11. Transient Mooring Fees – Big Bay Harbor.
12. Recreational Trails Master Plan.
16. Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) Planning Grant Application.
17. FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds.
18. FY 2001 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement.

22. PUBLIC COMMENT.
23. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
24. ADJOURNMENT.