The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 10, 2001, 6:00 P.M., Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Courthouse 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 March 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. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions and changes: Add Item 15) Approval of Transfer of Sawyer Office Furniture to Gwinn Area Schools, Item 16) Agreement with the Huron Bay Lighthouse Preservation Association for KBIC 2% Gaming Funds, Item 12) Countywide Watershed Program be Moved Up to 5a and Item 14) Lake Superior Community Partnership Annual Report be Moved Up to Item 5b).

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 30, 2001 through April 5, 2001 in the amount of $471,739.37 be approved.

The Committee considered the extension of an Agreement with the Marquette County Conservation District for 2001 for administration of a County Watersheds Management Program. The 2001 budget includes $50,485 for the Watershed Management Program.

Carl Lindquist, Soil Conservation District, provided an overhead presentation of the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership 2000 accomplishments and outlined its goals for 2001. He introduced Noreen Heidtman, Conservation District Chair, along with Board Members Larry Gould, and Rich Reader. Also present was Conservation District Staff Members Laurie Dhandt and Mike LaPointe.

The Soil Conservation District received $363,000 in grants for the year 2000 but has already received $471,000 in grants for the year 2001. Carl Lindquist presented slides explaining the various projects that will be undertaken by the grant funding for the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership.

The Conservation District agrees to provide technical and educational assistance for every watershed in Marquette County, hold workshop seminars, and write grant proposals. During 2000 they conducted twelve workshops throughout Marquette County and submitted $900,000 in grant proposals.

Commissioners were impressed with the performance of the Soil Conservation District and noted the positive return on their investment of $100,000 for the past two years by receiving back over $800,000 in grants.

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 Agreement with the Marquette County Conservation District for 2001 in the amount of $50,485.

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The Committee considered the 2001 Annual Report from the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Inc. Mike Skyttä, LSCP Management Team, was present to give the report and introduced Mike Gokey, EDC Director, and Amy Clickner, Director of Operations.

Mr. Skyttä noted that the Lake Superior Community Partnership with the County of Marquette is to provide staffing for the Economic Development Corporation, provide structure on County-wide economic development and to continue to meet economic development objectives that have been established by Marquette County. There are approximately 1,100 members of the Lake Superior Community Partnership and contributions to maintain the Partnership budget are one-third public and two-thirds private. This ratio has remained constant over the past three years. There is a membership fee increase for the private sector which should generate an additional $25,000 to $28,000 in 2001.

Mr. Skyttä reviewed the various accomplishments, goals, and plans of the Lake Superior Community Partnership and answered questions from commissioners regarding marketing, international potential, industrial site inventory, and educational outreach.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, thanked the Lake Superior Community Partnership for its continuing efforts in economic development and especially for the work done in Negaunee Township.
It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place the Lake Superior Community Partnership Annual Report on file.

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The Committee considered the bid award for lease of an emergency services vehicle.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted it is recommended the County Board authorize a three year lease with Crown Motors for a 2001 Ford Expedition. The 2000 budget includes $6,840 to lease a vehicle for use by the Emergency Program Manager. Leasing the vehicle allows 50% of the expense to be eligible for federal reimbursements. The bid from Crown Motors for the Expedition meets all bid specifications and the monthly payment to Crown Motors will be $586.65.

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 authorize a three year lease with Crown Motors for the 2001 Ford Expedition for use by the Emergency Program Manager.

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The Committee considered a resolution to approve issuance of Michigan Transportation Fund Revenue Notes on behalf of the Marquette County Road Commission. Mike Etelemaki, Engineer/Manager, along with Rick Hunt, Road Commission Finance Director, and Road Commission Members J. Pat Farrell, Chairperson, and Robert Menard were present. The Road Commission needs the County Board approval to proceed with issuance of notes for refinancing of existing loans and to borrow additional monies for new equipment and building improvements.

Rich Hunt, Finance Director, further noted that issuance of the revenue notes provides some financial advantages which includes elimination of a $400,000 balloon payment that is due in November and pushing the first payment on the new loan to February, 2002 which frees up an additional $35,000 to $40,000 to be used for projects this year. Actual dollars saved with the bond proposal amounts to $225,000.

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 approve of the Resolution to issue Michigan Transportation Fund Revenue Notes by the Marquette County Road Commission in the amount not to exceed $2 million, notes to defray a portion of the cost for construction, improvement, maintenance, and repair of highways in the County of Marquette.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Mike Etelemaki, Engineer/Manager, Marquette County Road Commission, for an Agreement with DMG Maximus, Inc. to conduct a Phase II final study of the consolidation of County public work functions at KI Sawyer. Mr. Etelemaki explained that this study must be completed before future decisions can be made by the Road Commission regarding construction, building maintenance, and road repairs. The cost of the study is estimated to be $24,000 with 50% to be paid by the Road Commission, 25% by the Airport Fund, and 25% to come from the KI Sawyer Development Department Fund.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends that the County would continue with DMG Maximus, Inc. to conduct the Phase II study and noted that the County Board may have to consider the issuance of bonds for future construction. The final agreement with DMG Maximus would come back to the Board for approval.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize staff to negotiate with DMG Maximus, Inc. for the Scope of Work for a Phase II study of the consolidation of the public works functions at KI Sawyer.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, to amend the KI Sawyer Caretaker, Development Department, and Sawyer International Airport Department budgets to implement the KI Sawyer Development Department and Sawyer International Airport administrative changes.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that by consolidating the KI Sawyer Development Department and Sawyer International Airport into one department the County will be better structured to accomplish the goal of a financially viable airport which does not require general fund dollars and will further the goal of facilitating the development and reuse of KI Sawyer. If the Committee of the Whole concurs with the recommendation, Administrator Powers intends to implement:

- Tom Rumora will be the Department Director, overseeing reuse, marketing and development, department administration, and his responsibilities will include the airport.
- Hal Pawley will be the Sawyer International Airport Manager, directing operations, development, marketing, and administration.
- Larry Coehorn will manage Airport and Caretaker operations and infrastructure.
- Ann Giroux, Business Manager, will be responsible for managing the finances and budget for the consolidated department.
- Vicki Kujlu, Development and Marketing Manager, will be responsible for prospect management, recruitment, negotiation, tenant retentions and relations, and other programs.
- Steve Schenden has been hired as a Limited-Term Project Manager, his responsibilities include managing construction, engineering, and design work for EDA, FAA, and Air Force projects.
- The Marquette County Resource/Management Department will continue providing planning services with Jim Kippola overseeing two existing Sawyer positions. Civil Counsel will continue to provide legal support for Sawyer.

Commissioners asked questions regarding personnel and administrative changes and costs with the consolidated development and airport departments. Steve Powers noted that the salaries are to be adjusted as per the Marquette County Classification and Compensation Plan that was approved by the County Board. Although several salaries may be increased the consolidation of the departments will reduce seven positions to six positions resulting in a budget reduction of approximately $26,000. Further salary information will be provided to Commissioners.

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 revised organizational structure for the KI Sawyer Development Department and the Sawyer International Airport and amend the KI Sawyer Caretaker, Development Department, and Sawyer International Airport Department Budgets to implement these administrative changes.

Chairperson Corkin declared a recess at 7:12 P.M. for the County 2001 Equalization Meeting.

..........................................................COUNTY BOARD EQUALIZATION MEETING..........................................................

The Committee came back into session at 7:25 P.M.

The Committee considered a memo from Scott Erbisch, Human Resources and Risk Manager, regarding non-represented employees current compensation package and benefits and proposal for the year 2001. The non-represented employees have met several times and the group has expressed their pleasure with the level of benefits received with particular emphasis on the continuation of health insurance at its current level for 2001, continuation of their retirement plans, and the previously approved 3% wage increase for 2001. There was a consensus among non-represented employees that they would also like to request several items for consideration to the County Board which include the following:
1) Add five days of vacation to the first year of annual leave.
2) Consideration for a program to reorganize exceptional service to the County, customer service, or cost savings.
3) Time and a half if required to work on holidays.
4) Uncap the use of sick leave for care of dependent children and also allow for the use of sick time to care for a spouse or parent.
5) Allow the use of compensatory time for vacation buy back eligibility.
6) Increase tuition reimbursement to $1,000.
7) Study the feasibility of a leave bank for the year 2002.
8) Any pay increase in 2002 for non-represented employees to be based on Sec. 103.0 General Classification and Compensation of the Personal Policy Manual.

Commissioners and Staff discussed the various proposals and requested further information on the estimated costs.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the non-represented employees requests regarding compensation and benefit package be forwarded to the County Board with no Committee recommendation.

..........................................................COUNTY BOARD EQUALIZATION MEETING..........................................................

The Committee considered a letter of application by Charles D. Erickson, Iron Mountain, for appointment to the Michigan Department of Transportation Commission. Chairperson Corkin that he has had the opportunity to know and work with Chuck Erickson and noted that Mr. Erickson has had construction experience dating back to 1960. Mr. Erickson has served on the Dickinson County Road Commission has been Chairman of the Board for the last 18 years, has served as the County Road Association of Michigan as President in 1977, has served as a member and as President of the Upper Peninsula Road Builders Association, and has received many honors and awards throughout the years. Chairperson Corkin contended that Mr. Erickson would be an excellent appointment to the Michigan Department of Transportation Committee and he requested that Marquette
County send a letter of support direct from Committee to the Governor, to our U.P. State Legislators, and all U.P. County Board of Commissioners on behalf of Mr. Erickson.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that a letter of support for the appointment of Charles D. Erickson, to the Michigan Department of Transportation Commission signed and forwarded by Chairperson Corkin directly from the Committee of the Whole.

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The Committee considered a Change Order to U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. Contract for renovations to Sawyer Building 725. The EDA I Grant includes $45,000 for engineering and design funds for which there is no County match. The Change Order is to compensate U.P. Engineers & Architects for work requested by the County and the additional amount will be used at Sawyer Building 725 to oversee additional demolition work and any resulting fire and building code requirements and preliminary design and engineering work for improvements. The work will be completed using EDA funds and is within the scope of the grant to make Building 725 more usable. The building has 108,000 sq. ft. The EDA I Grant ends April 30, 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 Change Order, not to exceed $14,037, to the U.P. Engineers & Architect, Inc. Contract for additional work at Sawyer Building 725.

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The Committee considered the waiver of the personal property policy at Sawyer to allow the transfer of office furniture to the Gwinn Area Community Schools. Comm. Moore explained she voted against this proposal at the KI Sawyer EDC meeting. She thought the furniture could generate some needed revenue for Sawyer during the forthcoming public auction of personal property. She also noted that Northern Michigan University has previously asked for some furniture and were denied but now this request is being granted to Gwinn Schools. She would rather see Marquette County keep its personal property policy for intact.

Comm. Wallace supports the waiver of the policy. These matters are considered on a case by case basis and in this instance the County is helping a school that is located on Sawyer property in Forsyth Township.

Chairperson Corkin further noted that KI Sawyer has more furniture than we can possibly use and the used furniture will be worth very little at an auction.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and carried by voice vote 8 ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Moore), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board waive the Personal Property Policy and approve the transfer of office furniture from KI Sawyer to the Gwinn Area Community Schools.

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The Committee considered an Agreement between Marquette County and the Huron Island Lighthouse Preservation Association, for the pass through of $2,500 of Keweenaw Bay Indian Community 2% gaming revenues.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, has reviewed the agreement and recommends no modifications. In his opinion the County Board can make a supportable determination that preservation of the Huron Island Lighthouse would advance the historical interest of Marquette County and that such an expenditure is appropriate.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Agreement with the Huron Island Lighthouse Preservation Association for KBIC 2% pass through funds in the amount of $2,500.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Tuominen spoke with Teresa Luettzow, Marquette County Medical Care Facility. The Alzheimer Unit expansion is utilizing all American made steel.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
   MEETING HELD ON MARCH 27, 2001.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. Resolution to Approve Issuance of Michigan Transportation Fund Revenue
   Notes.
8. Approval of the DMG Maximus Inc. Phase II Proposal to Conduct a Final Study
   of the Consolidation of County Public Works Functions at KI Sawyer (no
   packet materials).
9. KI Sawyer Development Department and Sawyer International Airport
   Administration.
11. Letter of Support for Charles D. Erickson for Appointment to the Michigan
    Department of Transportation Commission.
12. County-wide Watersheds Management Program.
14. Lake Superior Community Partnership Report (no packet materials, complete
    copy of the report available in the County Clerk’s Office for inspection).
15. Approval of office furniture for Gunn Area Schools.
16. Petition Island Light House Agent.
17. 
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND
    ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.