The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 17, 2001, at 7:00 P.M. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners meeting held on April 3, 2001 be approved.

**PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS, AND AWARDS.**

Chairperson Corkin presented the following proclamation and plaque to Gary John Nicholas on his retirement:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION HONORING GARY JOHN NICHOLAS**

**WHEREAS,** Government has the obligation to provide citizens the best service possible by hiring employees of the highest quality, and

**WHEREAS,** Gary John Nicholas was hired November 18, 1978 as a Sheriff’s Department Deputy and has served in various capacities including: Correction Officer, Road Patrol, SWAT Technical Team, Snowmobile and Marine Safety, and currently Court Security Officer, and

**WHEREAS,** Gary John Nicholas will retire on April 30, 2001 after twenty two years five months of service to Marquette County,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Marquette County Board congratulate Gary John Nicholas for his years of dedicated service and professionalism; and

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

*Proclaimed this 17th day of April, 2001*  
*Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson*  
*Marquette County Board Of Commissioners*

Gary Nicholas thanked the County Board noting that he has enjoyed his years working in the Sheriff’s Department. He introduced his daughter Jennifer who has been his main supporter throughout the years.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution honoring Peter R. Pelissier on his retirement:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION HONORING PETER R. PELISSIER**

**WHEREAS,** Government has the obligation to provide citizens the best service possible by hiring employees of the highest quality, and

**WHEREAS,** Peter R. Pelissier was hired October 26, 1979 as a Custodian of Building and Grounds and promoted to Lead Service Worker on January 1, 1999, and

**WHEREAS,** Peter R. Pelissier will retire on April 20, 2001 after twenty-one and a half years of service to Marquette County,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Marquette County Board gratefully acknowledges it appreciation for the dedicated service of Peter R. Pelissier since 1979; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** on behalf of all County Citizens the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wish “Pete” and his wife Margaret a long and happy retirement.

*Proclaimed this 17th day of April, 2001*  
*Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson*  
*Marquette County Board Of Commissioners*

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution in honor of Excellence In Education Week Program:
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS    COUNTY OF MARQUETTE    APRIL 17, 2001

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION

HONORING THE EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WEEK PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE MARQUETTE-ALGER EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WEEK ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE MARQUETTE-ALGER YOUTH FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, In recent years, public leaders in the United States have taken steps to renew our nation’s commitment to education. The drastic changes which have taken place as our society explodes into the age of high tech and global communications have made it clear that the only means by which our country and our state can compete in the global marketplace of the twenty-first century are through making our educational system the finest on earth; and

WHEREAS, It is in this spirit that the Marquette-Alger Youth Foundation is hosting an Excellence in Education Week Program during the week of April 23-27, 2001. This ambitious project will bring together the top scholars from the Marquette-Alger Intermediate School District’s schools and many of the area’s most respected professional educators. This day will serve to focus needed attention on the exemplary commitment and discipline that distinguish exceptional students and gifted teachers from the ordinary. It will also honor them for the outstanding efforts and underscore our pressing need to increase their numbers; and

WHEREAS, It is also fitting to acknowledge the manner in which Excellence in Education Week brings the issue of education to the attention of the American public. Let no one underestimate the critical importance of informing citizens, especially those without children in the schools, that the value of education extends to every aspect of life in our society. Clearly, excellence in education must be the goal of us all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners commend the Marquette-Alger Excellence in Education Week Advisory Committee and the Marquette-Alger Youth Foundation for the EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WEEK PROGRAM.

Proclaimed this 17th day of April, 2001
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Chairperson Corkin will present the Resolution at the Excellence in Education Week Awards Banquet on Monday, April 23rd.

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 Claims and Accounts for the period April 6th through April 11th, 2001 in the amount of $320,304.29 be approved. (Check No. 014400, Vendor No. 3792 in the amount of $25,000 was pulled. Payment to Partners for Livable Communities will be on the next Committee of the Whole Agenda).

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chairperson Corkin opened a public hearing regarding a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of $620,000 which was used to construct improvements to Building 642 at the former KI Sawyer Air Force Base.

Linda Howlett, Chief Planner, CUPPAD, was present and explained that CUPPAD has administrated this particular CDBG Grant which commenced January of 1998. The County’s share of the grant was $61,000, however with construction change orders it amounted to approximately $70,000. PICO invested $980,000 to construct improvements to building 642. The purpose of this hearing is to accept public comment regarding the project. Construction of CDBG funded improvements are now complete.

Ms. Howlett noted that the amount invested by PICO was less than their commitment and the number of jobs created was also less than anticipated. The State of Michigan however is satisfied and is ready to close out on the project.

Chairperson Corkin opened the hearing to the public for comment. None was forthcoming.

Chairperson Corkin declared the public hearing closed.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following informational items be accepted and placed on file:

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a. Letters from State Senator Don Koivisto and Mark Maloney, Superior Region Traffic Engineer, MDOT, regarding a Flashing Beacon at the Intersections of US 41/M-94.
b. Letter from James F. Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer Retired, regarding Steel Dumping.
d. Letter from R. Lance Boldrey, Deputy Legal Counsel, Governor’s Office, regarding Record Snowfall Experienced by Marquette County.
e. Denial of Marquette County Emergency Snowfall Funding Request Appeal. (Copy in Commissioners’ Mailroom).

**ACTION ITEMS**

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10d, 10e, 10f, 10g, 10h, 10i, and 10j be approved as follows:

10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a Change Order not to exceed $14,037 to the U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc. Contract for additional work at Sawyer Building 725,

10e) Committee of the Whole Recommendation authorizing Staff to negotiate with DMG Maximus, Inc. for the Scope of Work for a Phase II Study of the consolidation of the public work functions at KI Sawyer.

10f) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a Resolution to issue Michigan Transportation Revenue Notes by the Marquette County Road Commission in an 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, resolution as follows:

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ISSUANCE OF MICHIGAN TRANSPORTATION FUND REVENUE NOTES**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Road Commissioners of Marquette County (the “Board”) desires to issue notes to defray the cost of construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of highways pursuant to Act 143 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1943, as amended (“Act 143”); and

WHEREAS, the amount of notes issued by the Board may not exceed the amount previously approved by this County Board of Commissioners.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Board to issue notes pursuant to Act 143 to defray a portion of the cost of construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of highways in the County in the amount of not to exceed $2,000,000.

2. The Board is also authorized to pledge for the payment of the notes, future revenues derived from state collected taxes returned to the County for road purposes (the “Michigan Transportation Fund Revenues”).

3. The Board may proceed with the construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of the highways using available funds of the Board from the County Road Commission Fund, which is a fund for the construction, improvement, maintenance and repair of highways in the County. At such time as the Board issues the notes for the long term financing of the improvements, the Board shall be reimbursed its expenditures for the improvements out of the proceeds of the notes. The maximum amount of capital expenditures for which the Board will seek reimbursement from the note proceeds is $2,000,000. This resolution and the expression of intent to seek reimbursement from future note proceeds is intended to satisfy the requirements of Section 150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.
4. Upon issuance of the notes, there shall be set aside a portion of the Michigan Transportation Fund Revenues in a separate account, as provided in the resolution of the Board authorizing the issuance of the notes, for the purpose of paying principal and interest on the notes.

Chairperson Corkin Declared Resolution Duly Adopted

10g) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to authorize a three year lease with Crown Motors for a 2001 Ford Expedition for use by the Emergency Program Manager, monthly payment to Crown Motors will be $586.65.

10h) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve an Agreement with the Marquette County Conservation District for 2001 services in the amount of $50,485.

10i) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve an Agreement with the Huron Island Lighthouse Preservation Association for KBIC 2% pass through funds in the amount of $2,500.

10j) The reappointment of Janet Sonaglia to a six year term ending 4/30/07 on the Marquette County Jury Commission.

**ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**

10a) The County Board considered the non-represented employees compensation and benefit package. Scott Erbisch, Human Resources and Risk Manager, presented the proposal at the April 10th Committee of the Whole meeting, however Commissioners forwarded the proposal to the County Board without a recommendation. Commissioners had additional questions especially regarding the cost analysis of the proposal.

Mr. Erbisch provided a cost analysis of the various parts of the proposal based upon known costs and assumptions based upon past experience. The total estimated value of the non-represented employees request is $26,015, of which $18,415 is already provided for in the 2001 budget.

Commissioners expressed concern about uncapping the unlimited use of sick leave for care of dependent children, spouse, or parents.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the proposal be amended to double the current five day limitation per calendar year to ten days per calendar year for the use of sick leave for the care of dependent children, spouse, or parents.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the non-represented employees' compensation and benefit package for the year 2001 as follows:

1) Add 5 days of vacation to the first year of annual leave schedule (to be retroactive to those non-represented employees hired in the year 2000.
2) Consideration for a program to recognize exceptional service to the County, customer service, or cost savings.
3) Time and half if required to work January 1, President's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, December 24th, December 25th, or December 31.
4) Increase the use of sick leave for care of dependent children, spouse, or parents to a 10 day limitation per calendar year.
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 Personnel Policy Manual.

10b) The County Board considered a recommendation to approve a 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.

Several Commissioners expressed concern regarding an increase in wage costs. They noted that as KI Sawyer becomes more redeveloped the number of positions should be reduced. The consolidation proposal appears to continue administrative staff indefinitely and increase the level of bureaucracy at KI Sawyer.

Comm. Wallace also noted at the recent Strategic Planning Sessions the number one goal of Marquette County was to develop an exit plan for KI Sawyer. This consolidation proposal may not fit into
whatever exit plan is developed. Comm. Wallace contended the County Board should first develop a Sawyer Exist Plan before considering consolidating these departments.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Girard and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Wallace, Bergdahl, Girard, Joseph, Moore, Nordeen, Seppanen, Tuominen, and Corkin) to 0 Nays to table the recommendation.

10c) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to waive the personal property policy and approve the transfer of office furniture from KI Sawyer to the Gwinn Area Community Schools. Comm. Moore has learned that the office furniture will not be used on Sawyer property but instead at the high school which is in Gwinn. If the Gwinn Schools were to purchase this furniture new it would cost approximately $40,000. She further noted that all personal property has been assessed a value and the Gwinn Schools should at least purchase the furniture at assessed value or bid at the auction.

Comm. Bergdahl contended there were other schools who previously requested furniture from KI Sawyer but were told they were not allowed to take it off base. If the Gwinn Schools are allowed to have furniture then all schools in Marquette County should have the same opportunity. The closure of KI Sawyer affected the whole County and not just the Gwinn Schools.

Comm. Nordeen noted the closure of the Base may have affected the whole County but the Gwinn School District being part of KI Sawyer was impacted most severely and is not comparable to the impact on other school districts. Even though the furniture would go to the high school in Gwinn it would be utilized for a business education program and follows the personal property waiver policy established for KI Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin further noted that the waiver of the Personal Property Policy has been done for the Dental Clinic, several Townships, and to help public agencies. The newly adopted policy applies to all units of government in Marquette County and any school district could make a similar request for personal property at KI Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Nordeen, Bergdahl, Seppanen, Tuominen, Wallace, and Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Girard, Joseph, and Moore) that the County Board waive the Personal Property Policy and approve the transfer of office furniture from KI Sawyer to the Gwinn Area Community Schools.

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

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

Comm. Wallace noted a memo from Administrator Powers regarding the Marquette County Trial Court's Next General Project requested Commissioner involvement. He questioned whether Commissioners were to be appointed or volunteer for the various subcommittees of the project? Chairperson Corkin preferred Commissioners to attend the committee meetings on a voluntary basis however noted that Comm. Moore is the official liaison for the County Trial Courts Next Generation Project.

Comm. Nordeen will be attending a House Subcommittee hearing in Traverse City on Public Act 51 (road funding).

Comm. Moore followed up on a constituent concern regarding the Marquette County Transportation authority using large buses which travel mostly empty throughout the County. MarQTran officials informed her that the large buses cost the same to operate as the small buses, but the large buses require less maintenance.

Chairperson Corkin reported the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners Executive Committee last Thursday adopted a resolution on illegal steel dumping in the United States. The next UPACC meeting will be held in Brimley, Michigan on June 1, 2001.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER - SALUTE TO THE FLAG - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
3. PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.
   a. Salute to Ellwood Mattson.
   b. Resolution Honoring Gary John Nicholas on His Retirement.
   c. Resolution Honoring Peter R. Pelissier on His Retirement.
   d. Resolution Honoring the Excellence in Education Week Program.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
5. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS.
6. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
   a. Public Hearing on Closeout of CDBG Grant for Building 642 at the Former KI Sawyer Air Force Base (PICO).
8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:
9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:
   a. Letters from State Senator Don Koivisto and Mark Maloney, Superior Region Traffic Engineer, MDOT, regarding a Flashing Beacon at the Intersections of US 41/M-94.
   b. Letter from James F. Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer Retired, regarding Steel Dumping.
   d. Letter from R. Lance Boldrey, Deputy Legal Counsel, Governor's Office, regarding Record Snowfall Experienced by Marquette County.
   e. Denial of Marquette County Emergency Snowfall Request Appeal. (Copy in Commissioners' Mailroom).
10. ACTION ITEMS:
    a. Non-represented County Employee's Compensation Package and Benefits.
    b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Consolidate the KI Sawyer Development and the Sawyer International Airport Into One Department.
    c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Waive the Personal Property Policy and Approve Transfer of Office Furniture from Sawyer to the Gwinn Area Community Schools.
    d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Change Order to the U.P. Architects & Engineers Contract for Additional Work at Sawyer Building 725.
    e. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Negotiate with DMG Maximus for the Scope of Work for a Phase II Study of Public Work Functions at KI Sawyer.
    f. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Resolution to Issue Michigan Department of Transportation Revenue Notes by the Marquette County Road Commission.
    g. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Authorize a 3-Year Lease with Crown Motors for the 2001 Ford Expedition for Use by the Emergency Program Manager.
    h. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve an Agreement with the Marquette County Conservation District for 2001 Services.
    i. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve an Agreement with the Huron Lighthouse Preservation Association for KBIC 2% Gaming Funds.
    j. Jury Board Appointment.
11. LATE ADDITIONS:
    a. 
    b. 
    c. 
12. PUBLIC COMMENT. (time limit 20 minutes total)
13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.