The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 10, 2000, 6:00 p.m., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 26, 2000 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Joe Pietro, Gwinn, presented a press release: Sawyer International Airport will host an Aviation Wall of Fame. Mr. Pietro noted the County Board was not in favor of naming the Sawyer Airport Terminal Building after a single individual, however a Committee was formed to investigate the possibility of gathering names of individuals to be recognized on a Wall of Fame dedicated to military pilots and aviation pioneers from Marquette County.

The volunteer committee lead by Mr. Pietro and Robert Moore includes Norman "Boots" Kukuk, Peter Frazier, Virginia Long, Nan Bengstrom, John Veith, and George G. Johnson. They have created a nomination form to be distributed to the public for their input and participation. Once nominations have been submitted the Committee will select an appropriate style of memorial to highlight the honorees based upon the number and categories of individuals to be recognized.

Chairperson Corkin commended the volunteer committee for their efforts and looked forward to their plan in the future. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 17) Courthouse Snow Removal Contract, and Item 18) Heat Conversion Bids for Sawyer Buildings 501, 502, 701, 710, and 817.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 29, 2000 through October 5, 2000 in the amount of $681,258.94 be approved.

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The Committee considered a draft of the FY 2001 Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement proposed for Marquette County. Mike Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, was present and explained that the agreement is an administrative tool designed to outline emergency management related objectives that Marquette County intends to carry out during the coming year to enhance emergency services programs and overall community safety. An approved Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement is required of counties receiving Federal Emergency Management Agency funding to support their local emergency services programs. In addition, the agreement is necessary for our local units of government to remain eligible to receive disaster assistance funds.

Mr. Zorza noted that it is an ambitious work plan because emergency planning is not meant to be a solo operation but rather to provide policy directives for all County departments. He is required at each quarter to forward a Emergency Management Services Quarterly Report to the State of Michigan with copies to the County Board.

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 FY 2001 Emergency Management Annual Work Agreement and authorize the signature of the Chairperson prior to forwarding the document to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division.

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The Committee considered a memo from Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, regarding the Wisconsin Central Rail Abandonment. Al Feldhauser was present and noted that the Resource Management/Development Department is in receipt of notification from Wisconsin Central LTD regarding their intent to file a Notice of Exemption for Abandonment of a Railroad Line. The abandonment being proposed is 8,84 miles in length beginning at the Shiras Steam Plan in Marquette's Lower Harbor and running westerly to "Diamond Junction" near Eagle Mills in Negaunee Township. Staff has reviewed the
documents which Wisconsin Central is submitting. The documents include comments from the Marquette County Planning Commission as well as comments from other potentially impacted parties. The concerns presented related primarily to soils, wetlands, and stream crossings along the grade and it was suggested that when the rails are removed the grade surface should be restored and reseeded.

Mr. Felhauer further noted that the Planning Commission did forward comments previously that if the railway is abandoned the corridor should be preserved for trail purposes. This concept is consistent with the County’s Recreation Plan. It is Staff’s recommendation that no additional action is required regarding the abandonment.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board forward a Notice to the Surface Transportation Board noting that Marquette County sees no adverse effects on the proposed abandonment and that the abandoned corridor should be preserved for trail purposes consistent with Marquette County’s Recreation Plan.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Correction Funding. The Agreement will provide $90,785 for Community Corrections Programs and $31,390 for residential substance abuse treatment services. There is no County match required.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, further explained that the Community Corrections Grant is for October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2001, so amendments to the 2000 and 2001 budgets will be necessary. The State requires a separate fund for the Community Corrections Grant apart from the Substance Abuse Treatment budget. The Community Corrections Advisory Board and the County Board of Commissioners approved the application for funding on May 2 and June 6, 2000 respectively. The agreement provides funding to meet local goals, objectives, and priorities to decrease prison admissions and increased utilization of community based services for nonviolent offenders. Services funded include case management and administration of community services, adult education, work release, and electronic monitoring. The grant also funds probation residential services provided by Great Lakes Recovery Center.

It was moved by Comm. Curtio, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Agreement with the Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Correction funding.

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The Committee considered a memo from Capt. Jack Schneider, Sheriff’s Department, regarding inmate telephone services. Capt. Schneider was present and noted that the surcharges by Evercom and Ameritech were standard in all fourteen Upper Peninsula Counties. Pay phones in school systems provide for similar surcharges and the school receives a commission.

Capt. Schneider distributed information regarding visitation for jail inmates. Inmates are allowed forty minutes per visit, two times per week. In September, 2000 there were 6,585 visitation minutes provided to 164 jail inmates.

Commissioners thanked Capt. Schneider for the update regarding inmate phone services.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the memo on file.

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The Committee considered an E-Mail/Internet Policy from Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager. Brent Nault was present and noted that the approval of a policy is one of the final steps in making internet access available to County Employees. This project has been in a development stage for about two years and is now 30 to 60 days from completion. The E-Mail/Internet System will be a valuable tool for County Employees. The wealth of information available on the internet will keep employees up to date with legislative decisions and current trends in their particular field. The use of E-Mail will encourage communication with colleagues, service providers, and citizens to increase our level of services.

Brent Nault further noted the efforts of the City of Marquette. This project started out as a means of linking the City buildings for computer and internet access. Al Hawker, Director of Computer Information Systems for Marquette City, and Gerry Peterson, Marquette City Manager, proposed a line to the County Courthouse Complex to include the County in the City system. The Marquette City Commission adopted a plan and provided the communication links which makes this system possible.
Department Heads and Elected Officials have reviewed the County of Marquette E-Mail/Internet Policy. It includes an acknowledgement form for employees to sign off on thereby knowing that the E-Mail/Internet Policy was read and understood.

Commissioners questioned some of the wording in the policy regarding prohibited uses. The word “embarrassment” seemed rather vague. Also, the line about using the internet to purchase or sell goods or services is prohibited was questioned. Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, noted that wording in policies such as this are often necessarily subjective. Brent Nault further noted that the prohibited use of purchasing or selling goods was designed to prevent employees from circumventing the County’s Purchase Policy. This wording can be further clarified.

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 adopt the E-Mail/Internet Policy with the suggested changes. A copy of the policy to be available for review at final approval.

The Committee considered application for the final grant from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) covering the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. In order to send in the application the budget has to be approved by the County Board of Commissioners. OEA funding would amount to $151,975 with a local match of $132,725 for a total proposed budget of $284,700.

Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Department Director, noted that both the OEA funding and the local match have been declining. The local match represents the amount required by the OEA which is funded mostly by lease revenues. Lease/sale revenues are designed to be the main funding source for the KI Sawyer Development Department in the future.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Grant Application for OEA funding for the period 7/1/00 through 6/30/01 for $151,975.

The Committee considered the bid award for Engineering Services for the KI Sawyer Sanitary Lift Stations. The Sawyer Lift Stations (18) are in need of electrical metering and redesign to bring them up to code.

Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Department Director, was present and explained that two firms submitted proposals for the engineering services phase of this project. The low bidder was Timberland Engineering, Inc. at a cost of $16,400. The Air Force is satisfied with the bid and the funding will be provided by the caretaker program. The engineering service phases of the project has a cost of $16,400.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Engineering Services Agreement with Timberland Engineering, Inc. for the Sawyer Sanitary Lift Stations in the amount of $16,400.

The Committee considered lease terms with PLC, Inc. for Sawyer Building 431. PLC, Inc. will pay $35,620 in year one, increasing to $42,097 by year four. The lease is for one year with three additional lease terms. The building is within the Sawyer International Airport boundary.

Larry Coelhoorn, Assistant Airport Manager, was present and noted that the terms and conditions of the lease have been negotiated with PLC, Inc. for Building 431. The building is 12,953 sq. ft. and personal property includes a fork lift, lathe, van, and other miscellaneous equipment in the building. Before occupancy, the County would replace windows and improve the insulation. Heat conversion funds can be used for this work.

PLC, Inc. plans to begin a wall board manufacturing operation and employ 10 in the first year and 40 by the end of year four. PLC, Inc. is a Canadian firm with plants in other parts of Canada and the United States. Their wages will be approximately 12 per hour with medical benefits. If they are successful at Sawyer they may need more space.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Lease terms with PLC, Inc. for Building 431.

The Committee considered a contract award for EDA III Civil Engineering Design Services related to improvements to Avenue “A” at KI Sawyer. Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Department
Director, was present to explain the project and answer questions. The improvements are focused on eliminating three areas of poor water drainage and the installation of curbing to separate parking lots from roadways. The project will provide for as much curbing as funding permits along Avenue “A” which is the main business street at Sawyer between the KI Sawyer Development Department Office and the Fitness Center. U.P. Engineers and Architects failed to acknowledge receipt of an Addendum which rendered their firm’s proposal not responsive. The second lowest proposal was from Timberland Engineering, Inc. of Gladstone for $12,500. These engineering design services are eligible for EDA funding.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Civil Engineering Design Services proposal from Timberland Engineering, Inc. in the amount of $12,500, funding from EDA III.

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The Committee considered approval of an Amendment to an Engineering Services Agreement for construction administration with URS Greiner. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and noted that on March 7, 2000 the County Board approved a contract with URS Greiner for engineering design and renovation of Building 600 for the storage of crash/rescue vehicles and snow removal equipment, and provide work areas for Airport maintenance staff.

The amendment to the contract is to have URS Greiner provide construction administration services for the actual construction work. The services will be provided for a price of $27,000 which the Bureau of Aeronautics believes is reasonable and recommends approval. This project is MAP Grant funded.

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 the Amendment to the Engineering Services Contract with URS Greiner and authorize the Chairperson to execute the documents.

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The Committee considered a communication from Circuit Judge Thomas L. Solka regarding the Criminal Trial Docket and Incarcerated Accused Defendants. Judge Solka was present and noted that both Judge Weber and himself are aware of the effect on jail administration of incarcerated defendants awaiting trial and take reasonable steps within the limits of their resources to process the cases as required by law and court rules. In general the State court rules set priorities for docket time and provides that criminal cases be given preference over civil cases, and further that the trial of defendants in custody and of defendants whose pretrial liberty presents unusual risk must be given preference over other criminal cases.

Judge Solka further explained equally important are conflicting statutory and court rule priorities which include family law issues, personal protection orders, hearings over custody of minor children, which must be given priority over the court docket. As an example, he is currently conducting a criminal trial but must hold a hearing on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. regarding a personal protection order. He will have to recess the trial early Thursday afternoon but is confident the trial will be completed as scheduled.

Judge Solka pointed out that convicted felons are sentenced within 25-35 days in Marquette County, which is well within court standards.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for Judge Solka’s response regarding court scheduling procedures of accused felons in the Marquette County Jail.

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

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The Committee considered a Snowplowing Contract with Bob’s Snow Removal for the Marquette County Courthouse Complex. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the contract is essentially the same as the 1999/2000 contract and Bob’s Snow Removal has agreed to providing snow plowing services for the same price as last winter.

Administrator Powers spoke with County Staff and has not found any complaint about the contractor’s service for the last contract period. The contractor has agreed to start this contract October 1, 2000 to cover the normal snowfall period through May 1, 2001. This contract can be extended by mutual consent of both parties, however that does not mean that Marquette County will automatically renew the contract with Bob’s Snow Removal should a problem develop.

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 Snow Plowing
Contract with Bob's Snow Removal from October 1, 2000 to May 1, 2001 for the Marquette County Courthouse Complex Parking Lots in the amount of $16,800.

The Committee considered a Heating System Conversion bid for Sawyer Buildings 501, 502, 701, 710, and 817. Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Department Director, was present and noted all the buildings are currently vacant, and the heating system conversions represent an attempt to maximize the use of the funding available from the Air Force for that purpose. Heat conversion dollars must be utilized because they do not carry over.

Mr. Rumora further explained that these five buildings were selected on the basis of their likelihood for reuse. Buildings 501, 502, and 817 are modest size former office buildings along Avenue A. Building 701 is the former Flight Simulator Facility on 5th Street and Building 710 is the former Judge Advocate Building near the Sawyer International Airport Terminal.

Dresseler & Son Mechanical, Inc. of Marquette was the low bidder at $102,700. The recommendation of the design engineer, Sundberg, Carlson & Associates, is to award the project to Dresseler & Son Mechanical.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Curto, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Heat System Conversion Bid for Buildings 501, 502, 701, 710, and 817 to Dresseler & Son Mechanical, Inc. of Marquette in the amount of $102,700.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Joe Pietro, Gwinn, expressed his support for the PLC, Inc. Project at KI Sawyer. He contended that whether PLC, Inc. stays for one year or four years, or for ten years, the County will end up with an improved building and a good investment.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin noted that he attended the U.P. County Commissioners Meeting on Friday and Saturday in Manistique along with Comm. Tuominen, and Comm. Roberts. Several good round table discussions were held. Friday afternoon State Representative Doug Bovin, along with other U.P. State Representative Staff Members were present to discuss legislative issues important to Upper Peninsula Counties. It was a good meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, October 10, 2000, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
   MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2000.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. Wisconsin Central Rail Abandonment.
8. *Agreement with Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Corrections
   Funding.
10. E-Mail/Internet Project and Policy.
11. *Final OEA Grant Application.
12. *Bid Award for Engineering Services on Sawyer Sanitary Lift Stations.
14. *Contract Award for EDA III Civil Engineering Design Services, Sawyer Water
   Drainage Modifications.
15. Engineering Services Agreement with URS Greiner for Renovation of Sawyer Building
   600.
16. Letter from 25th Circuit Court Judge Thomas L. Solka regarding Criminal Trial Docket
    and Incarcerated Accused Defendants.
17. Snow Removal Contract
18. Heat Conversion
19. 
20. PUBLIC COMMENT.
21. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
22. ADJOURNMENT.

*THESE ITEMS ARE PLACED ON ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA FOLLOWING
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.