The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 24, 2000, 6:00 p.m., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skevis Annex, Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the October 10, 2000 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Stu Bradley, 1835 Heikkila Drive, Marquette, representing the Marquette Community Foundation, announced that a Regional Planning Seminar will be held February 19th and 20th, 2001. Mr. Robert McNaulty, an excellent speaker on public policy and planning, will be the main presenter at the seminar. Cost for the seminar will be mainly sponsored by the Community Foundation and Northern Michigan University with assistance from the Lake Superior Community Partnership and the Township Association. When the informational brochures are finalized he will forward copies to the County Board.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes. That Items 8 and 9 be removed from the agenda and considered at a future meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Curto, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 13, 2000 through October 19, 2000 in the amount of $445,904.19 be approved.

The Committee considered an Agreement with the Marquette County Road Commission for County Remuneration Representative Services. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained annual payment to the Road Commission would be $7,500 with the expense budgeted in the 2001 Remuneration Fund. He thought it appropriate to review the remuneration representative contract that has been in place for eight years. The County Representative is responsible for developing plans and procedures to provide for the location, monumation, and/or remuneration of survey corners. The County Representative creates and carries out a yearly corner work plan. The actual surveying is contracted out. The County Representative also assists in the Annual Monumation Grant Agreement with the State of Michigan.

Pat Manley, Register of Deeds, was present and explained that Larry Bussone has done an excellent job as the County Representative. The Administrator's recommendation for the Road Commission to provide County Representative Services is not necessarily a good one nor a bad one. She questioned why the Road Commission would want to do this? They have a policy of not competing with the private sector. Would they contract out surveying services? Surveyor Neil Lynch, a member of the Remuneration Peer Group, is very well qualified to do surveying services.

J. Pat Farrell, Chairperson of the Road Commission noted that County Representative services vary throughout the State of Michigan. Many counties have a County Surveyor but Marquette County does not. Larry Bussone, County Representative, has acted as our County Surveyor. The Road Commission proposal has been evolving for a long time. With the Road Commission as County Representative the administration of remuneration would have a permanent accessible office for those who need information and are benefiting from the program. In addition, the Road Commission is by far the largest existing repository of information needed for performing survey remuneration work and has a GIS Administrator on board. The actual surveying work would be contracted out by the Road Commission just as before.

Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion. Comm. Wallace and Comm. Seppanen believed the recommendation made administrative sense. The Agreement would benefit the Road Commission which in turn would benefit the public and those utilizing the remuneration information. The
remaining Commissioners noted that Larry Bussone has been credited with doing an excellent job from all sources. He has been working without a contract since January 2000. There could be improvements made in record access but this is no reason to squeeze Mr. Bussone out.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Roberts, Bergdahl, Curto, Rapport, Tuominen, and Corkin) to 2 Nays (Comm. Seppanen and Wallace), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a 3-year agreement with Larry Bussone for County Remonumentation Representative Services beginning January 1, 2001 at $7,500 per year.

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The Committee considered a Summary of Revenues and Expenditures of various County Department activities through September, 2000 from Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager. Ms. Vercoe noted that the figures present no unusual expenditures as provided by the budget.

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

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The Committee considered an audit services proposal for 2000, 20001 and 2002. Susan Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and noted that requests for proposals were sought for auditing Marquette County’s financial records for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002. RFP’s were received from two firms. The low proposal was submitted by Anderson, Tackman & Co., our current audit firm, for a three year cost total of $57,200.

Ms. Vercoe recommends the County Board accept the proposal from Anderson, Tackman & Co. They are our present audit firm and have a very good understanding of the County’s financial activities. Their proposal was substantially lower than the second lowest proposal, and the average cost of the audit for the next three years will be approximately $19,000 which is lower than the cost of last year’s audit.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve an Agreement for Audit Services with Anderson, Tackman & Co. for FY 2000, 2001, and 2002 in the amount of $57,200.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Scott Erbisch, Human Resources and Risk Manager, on the Equalization Director hiring process. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted with the resignation of Gerry Markey, Equalization Director, the County must now recruit and hire a new Equalization Director. According to Michigan Tax Law the Board must make an effort first to hire a Level IV Assessor which is required in Michigan. If this cannot be done then the Board may hire a Level III Assessor with the stipulation he/she take additional classes and become a Level IV Assessor within one year.

As was done in 1992 the County Board should approve the hiring process for Equalization Director. Staff recommendation is as follows:

Assessor Certification Level – Approval focusing on hiring an Assessor with a Level IV Certification, with Level III applicants to be the secondary focus.

Salary Range – Approve a recommended salary range of $45,780 - $56,014 (Rye pay grade 16). Pay grade 16 is in line with the current comparable county market data for Equalization Director positions. The midpoint minimum is $45,032 (Average of $47,299). The median maximum is $53,206 (Average of $55,694).

Travel and Relocation Expenses – Permit the Administrator’s office to utilize their discretion with regard to use of funds for travel and relocation expenses, but not to exceed a total of $5,000 without first notifying the Board of Commissioners.

Interview Panel – Approve the establishment of an interview panel consisting of the County Administrator and Human Resources & Risk Manager. Members of the County Commission Personnel Committee or other designee will participate in the panel as their schedule allows. One Assessor from a Marquette County jurisdiction and a County Manager. The interview panel would interview the top qualified candidates, as identified by the Human Resources and Risk Manager, and then submit their recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners for approval and appointment.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Equalization Director Hiring Process as recommended by Staff.

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The Committee considered Marquette County’s request to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for 2% gaming revenue distributions. The KBIC has supported Marquette County programs and services in a variety of ways since 1995. The Board of Commissioners understands that gaming revenues are limited and the KBIC receives many worthy requests for funds. The County is asking the Tribal Council to consider funding for the following programs:

- Marquette County Dental Clinic: $44,000
- DARE Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education): $52,000
- South County YMCA: $25,000

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the request to the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Community for distributions of 2% gaming revenues.

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The Committee considered the Boiler Weather Shield Award. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that weather shields will be installed around boilers at Sawyer Building 641, 802, 803, and 805. Bids were opened on September 20th with the apparent low bidder being Industrial Maintenance Services (IMS) in the amount of $44,729. IMS submitted a revised bid five days after the bid opening for $61,450 indicating they had made a mistake in the original bid. Accepting the revised bid would violate terms of the request for bids, and compromise the integrity of the County Purchasing Policy and process. IMS’s original low bid must be accepted, however if IMS refuses to enter into the contract Closer (the second low bid) should be awarded the contract. The bids are good for 90 days. Funding for this project is from the KI Sawyer Caretaker Heat Conversion Budget.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, further noted that a bid bond was required in the bid specification. A bid bond provides some guarantee that a bidder will sign a contract and perform the work if the bid is not accepted. The bond is void if a bid is rejected. Staff recommends that two actions be taken: 1) That the bid be awarded to the low bidder IMS in the amount of $44,729 even though they may not agree to the contract. 2) Award the bid to Closer Construction & Sales in the amount of $69,750 should IMS not accept the bid.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the bid and authorize contract with Industrial Maintenance Services, Inc. in the amount of $44,729 for the boiler weather shield project.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole award the Boiler Weather Shield Bid, should Industrial Maintenance Services refuse the contract, to Closer Construction & Sales in the amount of $69,750.

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The Committee considered the sale of County personal property to Mike Wills Excavating & Trucking in the amount of $25,000. Larry Coehoorn, Airport Assistant Manager, was present and noted that the County Personal Property Policy outlines the procedure. If Airport equipment is surplus because of personal property acquired from the Air Force, and no other County Departments including the Road Commission, are interested in the equipment, then the property can be advertised for sale. Three bids were received. Van Dam Farms was the high bidder but then notified the County they changed their mind. The next high bidder is Mike Wills Excavating & Trucking for $25,000. The surplus property includes two small front end loaders, a broom truck, rear engine for broom operation, 14 ft. sweeper broom, snow blower, and rear engine for snow blower.

Mr. Coehoorn further noted that the personal property was advertised in the Mining Journal one time which is the requirement in the County policy. Commissioners felt that surplus property of this value should have been advertised at least three times similar to State of Michigan bid advertising.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the sale of surplus County
airport personal property to Mike Wills Excavating & Trucking, Inc. in the amount of $25,000 with the
proceeds to be deposited in the Airport Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Roberts, and unanimously carried by voice
vote that the County policy for disposal of surplus personal property be amended to require advertising
the sale of surplus property for three consecutive days if the value of the surplus property is estimated to be
$5,000 or more.

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The Committee considered and Airport Update Report. Larry Coelhoorn, Assistant Airport
Manager, was present and distributed an updated airline passenger numbers through September.
Some flight cancellations due to weather, primarily in Detroit and Milwaukee, contributed to a slightly
lesser number of passengers this September when compared to 1999, however the total number of
passengers for the year since relocating to Sawyer is 5.25% higher than the previous twelve month period
at the former County Airport.

Mr. Coelhoorn further reported that there has been some delay in the construction of the North
Access Road to Sawyer International Airport because of asphalt plant breakdowns. What is needed is five
days of good weather and the project will be complete. The road has a solid two inch base and if we don’t
get the good weather the road can still be used during the winter. With good weather the North Access
Road should be completed by Friday, November 3rd.

It was moved by Comm. Roberts, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice
vote to place the Airport Update on file.

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The Committee considered a communication from Orrin E. Bailey, CEO, Michigan Works! The
Job Force, regarding an extensive career development environmental scan of the Upper Peninsula
including the counties of Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Iron, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft. The Job
Force Board would like each county to review the “first release” of the scan an offer feedback, with the
hopes that the County can adopt a resolution in support of continuing to improve a work force
development program for the Central Upper Peninsula

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by voice
vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution in support of
the development of a community strategic plan for an improved work force development system for the
Central Upper Peninsula.

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The Committee considered an update on the unmetered electrical costs at KI Sawyer. Steve
Powers, County Administrator, noted that the unmetered electrical bill for July 28th through August 29th,
2000 was $8,876, a $1,700 reduction from the previous month. He noted the County has received no final
word from the Air Force on the 50% assistance with unmetered electrical costs from January 1 to June 30,
2001. The matter is still under consideration in Washington, D.C. The County continues to install meters
on Sawyer buildings and Sawyer Building No. 600, 661, 662, and 666 meter installation will be completed
in the near future.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Rapport, and unanimously carried by
voice vote to accept and place on file the unmetered electrical cost report from Steve Powers and commend
Sawyer and County Administrative Staff for the team effort in reducing unmetered electrical costs.

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Chairperson Corkin, a member of the MAC Board of Directors, read a memo noting that the
Michigan Association of Counties is opposing State Proposal 2 which will appear on the November 7th
election and would require a 2/3 vote for legislative issues affecting local governments.

Chairperson Corkin read a letter to the editor which explains how Proposal 2 would allow a
small minority (only 1/3 of the either the Michigan House or Michigan Senate) to block legislation,
instead of the majority needed to pass a measure. This means a small group of people could stop
legislation deemed beneficial to most of Michigan. Also, the language in the ballot proposal is very
vague which means issues would inevitably end up in the court system blocking the legislative system
while costing Michigan taxpayers.

It was moved by Comm. Rapport, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by
voice vote that the Committee of the Whole support Chairperson Corkin submitting the letter to the
Mining Journal Editor opposing Ballot Proposal 2 regarding the 2/3 majority vote issue.
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Roberts noted the UPCAP Board of Directors has announced the distribution of funds to the Upper Peninsula as a result of the tobacco settlement. Marquette County will receive approximately $34,000 for adult daycare, $4,000 for elder abuse, and the Commission on Aging will receive $15,000 for respite care.

Comm. Wallace noted that he has received some complaints regarding road signs from KI Sawyer. There apparently is no sign indicating the direction to Marquette.

Comm. Wallace further reported that he is the President Elect for a 1-year term of the National Association of Local Boards of Health. He will be making a presentation in Columbus, Ohio regarding national performance standards. Comm. Wallace has also been appointed to a 4-year term on a task force to implement the Surgeon General’s recommendation to improve oral health.

Comm. Bergdahl reported 542 cords of jack pine were cut and burned during the construction of the North Access Road. The timber was estimated to be worth $50 a cord, however Comm. Bergdahl contends the timber to be worth $62 per cord making the loss in revenue to be approximately $33,600.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, October 24, 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 OCTOBER 10, 2000.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Road Commission Proposal to Provide County Remonumentation Representative
Services.
7. Summary of Revenues and Expenditures through September.
8. PA 511 Community Corrections – Day Parole Program.
9. Budget Amendments Related to Community Corrections Adjustments and Perkins Park
Phase II Project.
12. County Request to KBIC for Two-Percent Gaming Revenue Distribution.
13. KI Sawyer Boiler Weather Shield Bid Award.
15. Updated Airline Passenger Numbers through September.
16. Michigan Works! The Job Force Board Career Development Environmental Scan
Resolution.
18.
19.
20.
21. PUBLIC COMMENT.
22. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
23. ADJOURNMENT.