The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 24, 2001, at 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Courthouse Annex, Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Bergdahl, Girard, Joseph, Moore, Nordeen, Seppanen, Tuominen, Wallace, and Corkin. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the April 10, 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 additions: Item 7a) Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum Grant Application, and Item 12) 2001 SIA Fire Training Grant.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 12, 2001 through April 19, 2001 in the amount of $752,419.13 be approved.

The Committee considered a report on Kelly Johnson Memorial Drive from Bill Malinowski, URS Greiner, and Hal Pawley, Manager, SIA. Bill Malinowski reported problems with the Sawyer entrance road stem from two sources, frost heaves and pavement failure. He spoke to each issue individually.

First, frost heaving of pavements. Coleman Engineering took borings to approximately six feet below the surface. Frost depths were found to be about four to five feet deep and in most cases where heaving occurred under the sub-base was found silty sand or clay to varying depths. These appeared to be isolated veins occurring randomly. During the construction excavation some thin layers of clay or sand were observed in the overburden and as a result about 20,000 yards of material was removed and backfilled. A two foot minimum base of class II sand was utilized and every attempt to assure a diligent job was made during construction. The Bureau of Aeronautics will accept the remedial action to correct the situation for payments from the 95% grant. Had this material been found during construction it would have been addressed and removed anyway.

Correcting the frost heave situation will require excavation to a 4 foot depth and backfill of class II sands. This work will start on June 4th and take approximately one week. The project configuration will allow for the County’s 5% to be taken from the contingency funds so the additional work should not cost Marquette County anymore.

The second issue is pavement failure. Coleman Engineering took several core samples in areas adjacent to pavement failures and noted that in each case the pavement was between 1-1/8 and 1-1/4 inch in thickness. Each core also exhibited the presence of 1/6 inch to 1/4 inch air pockets. The Asphalt Institute recommends that the thickness of the pavement be at least three times that of the maximum nominal size of the aggregate, which in this case is 1/2 inch, therefore requires at least 1 1/2 inches of asphalt. Another possible cause for early failure is over rolling the pavement during placement which may result in fine line cracks in the surface. This allows moisture to penetrate through the surface causing greater freeze-thaw reaction to the pavement. In summary, it is the opinion that the pavement failure was not the result of poorly prepared granular base or sub-base, but rather the result of too thin of pavement section for high speed traffic.

Coleman Engineering recommends removing the thin sections (and/or the temporary patch) to repave in the spring. The top coarse of pavement must be two inch minimum over the roadway to assure a minimum overall thickness of 3 1/2 inches.

Mr. Malinowski further noted that the paving contractor, Payne & Dolan, contends the pavement failure was the result of a poorly prepared sub-base; however the General Contractor, Lindberg & Sons contends that the pavement failure was the result of too thin pavement. This issue has not been resolved between the contractors.

Hal Pawley, Manager SIA, further explained that the excavation and removal of the silty sand and clay, replacement and patching will take approximately one week starting June 4th. The Sawyer Entrance Road will be closed for the one week period for cost efficiency and safety reasons. To properly remove the silts/clay down to a 4 foot level, backfill, and repave the area it would be best to cut the cross section across the whole road rather than do this in halves.

Hal Pawley further noted when the top course paving begins, about the middle of June, the roadway will be open for one lane traffic with flagmen controlling traffic flow. The roadway should be complete by approximately the end of June.
Mike Etelema, Engineer/Manager, Marquette County Road Commission, indicated they are prepared to accept the new Sawyer Entrance Road once it meets several criteria which include: Removal of the clay/silt to a depth of 4 feet and patching the road, paving to a minimum thickness of 3 1/2 inches, the installation of ground water monitoring wells and guardrails, and the Road Commission normally requires a bond with a two year guarantee. Once the Kelly Johnson Memorial Drive is complete with the proper maintenance it should last 15 to 20 years.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Bill Malinowski and Hal Pawley for their detailed investigation and report. The important thing is that the new road will be repaired and completed by the end of June.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee accept the report and place it on file.

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The Committee considered a $25,000 payment to Partners for Livable Communities to participate in a Creative City (county or region) Program. The funding is available in the $700,000 Economic Development Administration marketing grant which will end June 6, 2001. There is still $39,000 available in the grant.

Mr. Bradley, Marquette City Mayor, brought Mr. Robert McNaulty, President of Partners for Livable Communities, to Marquette for a series of presentations regarding the U.S. 41 corridor from Chocolay to Koski Corners. Mr. McNaulty was very impressed with Marquette County and invited Marquette County's participation in the Creative Cities Program. The $25,000 from the EDA Marketing Grant would be the first year payment of a $50,000 total. The Marquette Community Foundation and the Lake Superior Community Partnership are responsible for the additional $25,000 next year. The Creative City Program is a 3-year program which assists participants to use their assets to improve their community image, stimulate new business development, generate tourism strategies, make downtowns lively, revitalize and marginalize neighborhoods, develop outreach programs for at-risk youth, and narrow the socio-economic gap between communities. The program is eligible for EDA funding and the first event is scheduled for May 22, 2001.

Mr. Bradley introduced Don Ryan, representing the Lake Superior Community Partnership, and Craig Stien, representing the Marquette Community Foundation. Mr. Ryan noted that the Lake Superior Community Partnership focus has been on economic development for Marquette County. The LSCP has a contract with Marquette County for administrating the EDA Marketing Grant. If further funds were not available during next year's program the project would be discontinued, however he is very confident that through the efforts of many individuals and volunteers that Marquette County will be able to participate in the full 3-year program. He is very excited about this opportunity.

Craig Stien further explained that the role of the Marquette Community Foundation is more than just providing grants, it also acts as a convener which means "to take the lead" in community development. The program would require a tremendous amount of effort including non-profit organizations getting involved, multiple governmental partners, and citizen involvement.

Mr. Bradley emphasized that a community cannot just pay $50,000 and automatically participate in this program but must be invited. Some of the participants include Orlando, Florida, Kansas City, Missouri, St. Paul, Minnesota, however this would be a unique opportunity for Marquette County because we would be the only small community participant. Mr. McNaulty gives two to three speeches per week. The Board of Partners for Livable Communities includes governors, senators, and magazine publishers, and would provide national attention to the Marquette County area as one of America's most livable communities.

Commissioners were receptive and supportive to this proposal. They requested Administrator Powers provide information on other options for the remaining EDA marketing funds at the next County Board meeting before final approval.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allocate the $25,000 payment to Partners for Livable Communities for participation in the Creative City Program.

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The Committee considered a Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant Application on behalf of the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum. Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends that Marquette County apply on behalf of the museum provided the grant match is guaranteed by the museum and the museum agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County from grant requirements and activities funded by the grant.

The Upper Peninsula Children's Museum is asking Marquette County for assistance in applying for a Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant in the amount of $100,000. The grant would be used for major building maintenance such as roof and window replacement and heating and ventilation air conditioning maintenance and improvements. The U.P. Children's Museum serves the entire County.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenaux, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board apply for a Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant on behalf of the Upper Peninsula Children's Museum, and authorize acceptance of the
grant provided the Museum guarantees the funding match and indemnifies and holds harmless the County from grant requirements and activities funded by the grant.

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The Committee considered the first quarterly budget amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, noted that all County departments were requested to review their revenues and expenditures through March. Budget amendments 6 through 14 were prepared based upon the information from the departments and staff review.

Budget amendment No. 6 – General Fund. The most significant adjustment is $141,450 reduction to State shared revenue. Estimated State shared revenue for 2001 is $86,499 less than the amount received in 2000. Chairperson Corkin noted he was recently in Lansing and legislation is in place to hold seven counties including Marquette harmless for 2001 revenue sharing reductions due to the 2000 census. Marquette County has received $26,000 of a $91,000 difference so far but should receive the remaining $65,000 in the future.

Other general fund budget impacts include, on a positive note, the Michigan Supreme Court projects State funding will exceed the budget amount by $67,992. The general fund will be impacted by the change from Defined Benefit Retirement to the Defined Contribution Plan. The cost of the rollover is approximately $240,000 which is payable over four years. This year’s cost to the general fund is $41,145, however the expense is offset by projected savings of $94,000 in retirement contributions. Unemployment expenses increased by $9,000. The amendment also reflects an extension of the Drug Enforcement Grant in the amount $43,444. Sue Vercoe also recommends the transfer of $75,000 from the Forestry Fund to the General Fund. A recent study completed by a forestry consultant recommends maintaining a $500,000 fund balance in the Forestry Fund which has a current fund balance of $684,000 and is projected to be $741,000 by year’s end.

Commissioners Bergdahl and Seppanen expressed concern over transferring this $75,000 from the Forestry Fund into the General Fund. This could set a precedent for future transfers.

Budget Amendments No. 7 through 14 are for the various departmental funds which are as a result of changes to the General Fund. All these budget amendments will be recorded in detail in the County Board minutes after approval on May 1st.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes to 4 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Joseph, Seppanen and Tuominen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the First Quarter Budget Amendments No.’s 6 through 14.

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The Committee considered a resolution opposing new National Fire Protection Association standards. A memo from John Greenberg explained that after conversations with Tom Belt, City of Marquette Fire Chief, and Gary Johnson, Central Dispatch Supervisor and Fire Chief for Chocolay Township, he has concluded the County should show its support for local units of government by passing this resolution. The new NFPA standards impose unfunded and unwanted mandates on local governments in terms of minimum manpower, response time, as well as increased liability. Mr. Greenberg further noted that local departments are already covered by sufficient safety standards and capable of making their own decisions regarding the safe delivery of services within those standards.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution opposing the proposed new National Fire Protection Association standards.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, regarding the restructuring and consolidation of the KI Sawyer Development Department and the Sawyer International Airport. This consolidation was recommended by the April 10th Committee of the Whole, however was tabled at the April 17th County Board Meeting. It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the matter be removed from the table for further discussion.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, provided additional information regarding the budget amendments and the proposal to reorganize/consolidate the KI Sawyer Development Department and Sawyer International Airport. He believes that the consolidation is appropriate and provided the additional information in response to questions and comments heard during previous discussions.

Administrator Powers noted that the bottom line budget impact of the consolidation would be a $21,000 transfer from the KI Sawyer Development Fund marketing line item to the Sawyer International Airport. The number of positions would be reduced from 7 to 6. The total personnel costs for the positions would also be reduced from $445,557 to $419,500.

The reorganization includes a County funded and professionally staffed marketing and development program dedicated to KI Sawyer. The County Board is the LRA and must have a Sawyer focus to accomplish the goals of an airport which does not require general fund dollars, 2002 jobs, and facilitates the reuse of the surplus federal property. Administrator Powers emphasized that “bureaucracy” is actually being reduced. Currently KI Sawyer is two departments but one department will be eliminated. The reorganization combines the resources, decision making, and staff into one. Anticipated organizational changes over the next two to four
years will fit in with a Sawyer Exit Plan. The size and scope of the administration need to change over time. The County Board will continue to have final say as to what is needed in the future through the budget process as responsibilities change or end. As responsibilities decrease or change the budget and positions at Sawyer should also change accordingly.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Nordeen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board remove the recommendation from the table and approve the restructuring/consolidation 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.

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The Committee considered the 2001 Fire Training Grant. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained this is the usual grant agreement for fire training funding required annually. The Michigan Department of Transportation will pay up to $4,000 through this agreement with the cost to the airport about $1,500. This is a budgeted item and is required every year for airport certification.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the annual contract for aircraft rescue and firefighting training grant funding with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

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The Committee considered a communication from the Timber Producers Association of Michigan and Wisconsin regarding the passage of Public Law 106-393, a law to stabilize the 25% payments to counties from the Federal Government where timber sales have been reduced. The impact on Marquette County would be minimal. The average monies received are $12,100 annually and are currently split between school districts and townships that contain federal forest properties. The townships are to use their half for road maintenance and repair. This law would be helpful to those counties who receive more than $100,000 in timber sale revenues, however the best interests of Marquette County and its local units of government would be to stay under the old plan. Staying under the old plan requires the County to do nothing.

A memo from Gary Yoder, County Treasurer recommends the County do nothing. If in the future timber sales increase substantially the County always could opt into the new method.

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

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin, during a recent visit to Lansing has received assurances from our Legislators that Marquette County, along with six other counties will be held harmless due to our decline in population for revenue sharing for 2001.

Chairperson Corkin also reported he presented Marquette County’s resolution and plaque at the banquet recognizing Excellence in Education Week. The top 48 students in Marquette and Alger Counties were present along with teachers and parents, and it was a very impressive event.

Comm. Seppanen reported there has been a snag in the 800 Mgz system because the Governor is reconsidering what the State is going to do in regards to data transmission. This has created a temporary problem with the purchases.

Comm. Wallace noted he will be attending a National Public Health Leadership Development meeting in St. Louis on behalf of Marquette County.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, distributed a report from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager. March 2001 was the best in three years for the number of airline passengers. We are currently on track for 90,000 passengers in 2001. The Houghton County Airport will be closing for two weeks which will also divert additional passengers through Sawyer International Airport.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]
David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, April 24, 2001, 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 APRIL 10, 2001.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. Payment to Partners for Livable Communities.
8. Quarterly Budget Amendments.
12. 2001 Fire Training Grant
13. 2001 Fire Training Grant
14. "Mid County in Arts Grant Application"
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.