The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 10, 2001, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 26, 2001 and the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 28, 2001 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 7) AIP/MAP Grant, Item 8) Lease with A. Voyager, Inc., Item 9) Lease Agreement with Northern Excavating, Inc., Item 10) Listing Agreement with Elder Agency, Inc., Item 11) Agreement with Wells Fargo for Servicing of IRP Revolving Loan Program, Item 11a) Approval of IRP Loan Terms to Northern Excavating, Inc., and Item 11b) Ki Processing Rent Deferral.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 29, 2001 through July 5, 2001 in the amount of $311,025.90 be approved.

The Committee considered the Concealed Weapons Licensing Board vacancy as a result of Prosecutor Gary Walker’s decision to withdraw from the CCW Board under Sec. 5a(1)(a) of Public Act 381 of 2000. Prosecutor Walker was present and noted the statute specifically states that the County Board shall appoint a certified firearms instructor who meets the qualifications prescribed in Sec. 5j(1)(c) as his replacement to the Gun Board. The firearms instructor must be certified by a state or national firearms training organization. It is Prosecutor Walker’s belief the State will designate the NRA and the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to certify firearms instructors.

Prosecutor Walker further noted the Concealed Weapons Board can proceed to operate with two members. There is no emergency, the processing of CCW applications will take approximately 6-8 weeks for the fingerprint and background checks.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Wallace) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board begin the appointment process for filling the vacancy on the Marquette County Concealed Weapons Board with a qualified firearms instructor, directing the Clerk to advertise the position with applicants to be considered at the August 14, 2001 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Committee considered the FY 2001 AIP/MAP Grant offer of $3,202,500 for the following projects:
- Installation of two passenger boarding bridges
- Construction of T-Hangars
- Replacement of doors on three large hangars
- Master Plan update to develop Wildlife Management Plan

Larry Coehoorn, Assistant Airport Manager, was present and explained that the Marquette County share for the projects are estimated at $319,283 to be funded from Passenger Facility Charges and the sale of the former Marquette County Airport. The Agreement has received legal and Risk Management analysis and Staff recommends the grant offer be accepted.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Grant Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for $3,202,500 of FY 2001 AIP/MAP funds for Sawyer International Airport projects.
The Committee considered a Lease Amendment with A. Voyager Inc. (a/k/a Frank the Mover).

Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, noted that A. Voyager, Inc. has a lease on Building 420 and is behind in their rent and utility bills. The County has worked out a plan with them for assistance on the short term by reducing the rent then increasing it later. The County will retain its revenue stream and get back all funds owed.

Mr. Rumora further explained that A. Voyager, Inc. has been hurt by recent high fuel prices and has not been allowed to bid on certain defense contracts because of a fire protection problem. The fire protection problem has since been resolved and A. Voyager, Inc. has put together a refinancing plan with Wells Fargo on a three-year timeframe.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board enter into a Lease Agreement Amendment with A. Voyager, Inc.

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The Committee considered a Lease Agreement with Northern Excavating, Inc. Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, was present and explained Northern Excavating, Inc. would like to utilize a building which is essentially a pole barn, with no heat and no bathrooms. This building will remain a County building and will allow the tenant to improve the building in exchange for reduced rent.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a Lease Agreement with Northern Excavating, Inc.

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The Committee considered a Listing Agreement with Elder Agency, Inc. for the marketing of buildings 502, 730, and one bay of building 725. Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, was present and noted the Agreement will have a 30-day “out” clause for both parties. Also, only building 502 will be for sale, buildings 730 and 725 will be marketed for lease. Elder Agency will be paid the standard rate that real estate brokers receive for sales or leasing buildings.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Listing Agreement with Elder Agency, Inc.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with Wells Fargo for servicing on the IRP Loan Program. Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson of the KI Sawyer EDC and also a member of the IRP Loan Committee, noted that it would be much easier to all parties involved if Wells Fargo handled the loan portfolios.

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 an Agreement with Wells Fargo for servicing the Sawyer IRP Revolving Loan Program.

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The Committee considered an IRP Loan for Northern Excavating, Inc. and the terms and conditions of the loan. A $50,000 loan would provide $30,000 for building improvements and $20,000 in working capital. It is a 5-year loan personally guaranteed.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of a $50,000 IRP Loan for Northern Excavating, Inc.

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The Committee considered a KI Processing Lease Amendment. Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, explained that several weeks ago the County Board agreed to an Early Purchasing Agreement with KI Processing. If that early purchase occurred today KI Processing would have to pay Marquette County $117,000. Currently KI Processing is paying the County approximately $5,000 per month in rent with the payments going towards the reduction of the purchase price. KI Processing is requesting a deferment in the payment of rent until January 28, 2002 or the closing on the purchasing of the building, which ever comes first.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, noted that the purchase of the building has been held up by the completion of the survey. The survey will provide the required legal description of the property which
must go on the deed before the purchase can be closed. The County Road Commission is responsible for surveying the property.

Comm. Arsenault, KI Sawyer EDC Chairperson and Member of the IRP Loan Committee, noted that the rent deferment was not mentioned several weeks ago because an IRP Loan was pending. Since then the loan has been denied. Deferment of rent will be a minor matter to Marquette County but is a major consideration for KI Processing. This is a fair way to help KI Processing for several months.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, further noted County Staff has been pushing the Road Commission to complete the surveys on the Sawyer housing which is now 99% complete. They now can concentrate on the surveying which effects the legal description of the property to be purchased by KI Processing. The County will receive all of its funds either through rent or the final purchase price of the building.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow KI Processing to defer their rent until January 28, 2002 or closing on the property, whichever comes earlier.

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

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

Vicki Kuju, Sawyer Marketing Director, announced that the Marquette County Area is on a list of four possible locations for the filming of a motion picture based on Stephen King’s novel entitled “Dreamcatcher”. Janet Lockwood, Michigan State Film Board, is acting as a liaison between Michigan and Castle Rock Productions. What the filmmakers are looking for is approximately 10 acres of heavy pine forest with a dirt road going through it. If any County Citizen knows of such a site please let her know. It would be wonderful to have a major film produced here in Marquette County and a great economic boost to the area. An article will appear in Wednesday’s newspaper.

Chairperson Corkin reported that Vice-Chairperson Arsenault will be making a five minute presentation on behalf of Marquette County at the public hearing on steel dumping to be held Sunday, July 15th at the Northern Michigan University Great Lakes Rooms County (Chairperson Corkin will be out of town attending a previously scheduled meeting). Comm. Arsenault is scheduled to speak at 1:30 p.m. The public hearing will be held from noon until 7:00 p.m.

Comm. Moore urged all County citizens to attend the Stand Up for Iron Ore Rally to be held at the NMU Superior Dome, Sunday, July 15th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, July 10, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Concealed Weapons Board Vacancy Due to Prosecutor’s Resignation.
7. [Handwritten note: AID MAP GRANT]
8. [Handwritten note: Rex. Leave #1 AVinge Inc (also from #2 more)]
9. [Handwritten note: Rex. Lease agent for Northern Excavating Inc]
10. Voting agent for Senior IRP Program
11. County Police Surge agent Senior IRP Program
12. PUBLIC COMMENT.
13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.

[Handwritten note: g) Leave to Nor Mo. Ex. Inc]
[Handwritten note: b) KE Processing lease Amnt]