The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on July 24, 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. Touminen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the July 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. Seppanan, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanan and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period July 13, 2001 through July 18, 2001 in the amount of $454,627.10 be approved.

The Committee considered the FY 2000 Audit Presentation from Anderson, Tackman & Co. John Blemberg, CPA, and Jamie Beauchamp, CPA, presented the audit information and answered questions.

John Blumberg explained that Anderson, Tackman & Co. audited the general-purpose financial statements of Marquette County for the year ending December 31, 2000 and have issued their audit report dated May 17, 2001. The County of Marquette combined statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, budget and actual general, special revenue, and debt services fund for the year ending December 31, 2000 show a fund balance of $564,306 in the General Fund. Actual revenues for FY 2000 amount of $15,333,948 which is approximately 1% or $111,000 less than budgeted. Expenditures amounted to $193,000 over budget or approximately 1%. Five percent is considered a very good variable therefore Marquette County’s General Fund 1% variable is excellent. It is generally recommended, although not required, that a fund balance of approximately 10% (in Marquette County’s case of $1.5 million) should be in place, however Marquette County has a number of special revenue funds including $397,000 in the Service Center Fund, $482,991 in the Insurance Fund, $469,900 in the Copy/Computer Fund, $869,478 in the Forestry Fund, and approximately $1.5 million in the Airport Fund as a result of the sale of the airport. These internal service funds when combined with a General Fund balance of $564,000 provide sufficient financial resources available for Marquette County.

Mr. Blemberg proceeded to review a series of graphs which illustrated Marquette County’s General Fund revenues, expenditures, millage distributions, internal service funds, retained earnings, and the component units in the 2000 fund balances. Mr. Blemberg also provided a graph showing a summary of activity of KI Sawyer funds showing revenue and expenses of over $6 million and a positive fund balance of $320,000. Marquette County’s FY 2000 audit on the whole is very positive and Marquette County is in good financial condition as of December 31, 2000.

Mr. Blemberg noted that Anderson, Tackman does recommend that the County District Courts and the Sheriff’s Trust and Agency Activity Accounts should be recorded in the County’s General Ledger. They recommend the County Treasurer and Accounting Department obtain bank statements on a monthly basis to include the financial activity for these accounts.

Chairperson Corkin thanked John Blemberg for the audit report for FY 2000 and also thanked the County Board for their financial diligence.

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 accept the FY 2000 Audit Report from Anderson, Tackman & Co. and direct staff to follow up and implement any audit recommendations.

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The Committee considered the FY 2002 Medical Support Enforcement Agreement for Friend of the Court with the Michigan Family Independence Agency. The Agreement is effective October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002. The Friend of the Court shall enforce medical support orders and seek modification of court orders to include medical support. The intent of these federal funds that the State
FHA is passing through is to enable the Friend of the Courts to identify the existing backlog of federal child support cases requiring medical support enforcement efforts. The grant amount is $36,596.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the FY 2002 Medical Support Enforcement Agreement for Friend of the Court with Michigan Family Independence Agency in the amount of $36,596.

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The Committee considered the 2001 Access Visitation Grant for the Friend of the Court. The contract in the amount of $21,612 which was effective the 1st day of January, 2001 and ends the 31st day of December, 2001 is between the State Court Administrative Office and the County of Marquette. The grant provides programs for Staff support to facilitate parenting time by non-custodial parents. It is the same program that was in place in the year 2000. Marquette County is fortunate to receive this funding to be able to provide this service again for 2001. The Staff and Child and Family Services are doing an excellent job in administrating the Access Visitation Grant.

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 of the 2001 Access Visitation Grant between the State Court Administrative Office and the Marquette County Friend of the Court in the amount of $21,612.

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The Committee considered the bid award for roof repair of Sawyer Buildings 830, 832, and 835. Three bids were received and the low qualified bidder was Menze Construction of Marquette in the amount of $53,131. The work consists of removing existing damaged roof and framing in affected areas and installing an engineering truss system, 5/8 deck sheeting, soffit and facia, and 25-year shingles. The work will be completed within 90 days of the contract award.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Agreement with Menze Construction for $57,131 for roof repairs to Sawyer Buildings 830, 832, and 835, the project is 100% Air Force funding through the Caretaker Program.

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The Committee considered the Contract Award for T-Hangar Construction with Boldt Builds. The FY 2001 MAP Program includes grant funding for additional T-hangars. The project was bid for construction of a 15 unit T-hangar for single engine aircraft, and a 10 unit T-hangar for twin engine larger aircraft. Six bids were received and Bill Malinowski of URI recommends award of contract to the low bidder Oscar J. Boldt Construction in the amount of $678,854.

Funding for the project is included in a $3,202,500 grant recently accepted by the FAA. The County’s share of $33,943 will come from the proceeds of the sale of the former County Airport.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the T-hangar Construction Contract to Boldt Builds in the amount of $678,854.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator regarding Sawyer Exit Strategy. The exit strategy was requested by the Committee of the Whole during the County's 2001-2006 Strategic Plan sessions. The KI Sawyer Management Team, Harley Andrews, and Jim Kippola prepared the exit strategy. The strategy provides a summary of the roles the County is filling at Sawyer and outlines recommended actions the County should take. What may be important to the Federal Government, the Townships, businesses or residents was not the primary consideration but rather how to best accomplish the goals of a financially viable airport and the reuse of the property not needed for the airport.

In summary Administrator Powers noted the recommendation is that Marquette County remain the owner/operator of Sawyer International Airport. An additional recommendation is to authorize the County Administrator to enter into contracts that are fully Caretaker funded, are for less than $20,000, do not exceed one year, and can be terminated on less than a 90 day notice. Civil Counsel and Risk Management will review the contract/agreements.

Administrator Powers further noted there has been a shift in the primary emphasis from jobs creation to divesture of properties with the objective being the financial self-sufficiency of the County
Airport. Future jobs and employment opportunities will come from companies that are providing the revenues.

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 the recommended Sawyer Exit Strategy.

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The Committee considered a resolution to relinquish jurisdiction and control of the Raney Creek Drainage District. Mike Farrell, Marquette County Drain Commissioner, was present and noted that several months ago the County Board of Commissioners approved the transfer of the Raney Creek Drainage District to the City of Marquette. The City of Marquette now has accepted the drainage district and has adopted the appropriate resolution. Marquette County Civil Counsel recommends the County Board adopt and approve a similar resolution.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Resolution Relinquishing the Jurisdiction and Control of the Raney Creek Drainage District to the City of Marquette.

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The Committee considered House Bill 4960, a Bill proposing to amend the Governmental Immunity Act to codify a Supreme Court decision creating strict liability for trespass - nuisance arising from sanitary and storm water drains. Mike Farrell, Marquette County Drain Commissioner was present and explained that the Michigan Association of County Drain Commissioners (MACDC) oppose this legislation. Drainage districts do not have insurance coverage provided as set forth in Section 25 of the Drain Code, therefore any resulting judgment arising from a flooding incident would have to be assessed to the taxpayers and municipalities in the districts.

The proposed language in HB 4960 removes the trespass protection requiring proof of gross negligence by the drainage district. Drainage districts cannot buy liability insurance, however counties can. The need for insurance is not necessary unless HB 4960 passes. It is feasible that the 100 year storm level could be surpassed with flooding resulting in damage to private properties. Under HB 4960 the drainage district would then be liable. Drain Commissioner Farrell requested that the County Board send a letter to their legislative representatives as soon as possible urging opposition to HB 4960.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board go on record opposing House Bill 4960 and further that a letter be forwarded to our State Legislators urging their opposition to HB 4960.

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The Committee considered a Staff recommendation regarding rental rehabilitation and forgivable loans. James Kippola, Manager of Planning, was present and explained for the past eleven years Marquette County has participated in Community Housing Programs. These programs have brought in an estimated $6 million in rehabilitation dollars to moderate/low income housing stock in Marquette County. The Michigan State Housing Development Authorities (MSHDA) now has the philosophy in order to improve all facets of a neighborhood we must be successful and rehabilitating the rental component of our neighborhoods and implementing on a trail basis a forgivable lien if warranted. The impact on the County’s budget is a potential loss of $125,000 in future program income which would normally be invested in county housing stock.

Mr. Kippola further explained the County’s Community Development Program, Resource Management/Development Department administers a multi-faceted housing rehabilitation program in a targeted neighborhood within the City of Ishpeming known as MSHDA’s Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP). It not only includes homeowner rehabilitation and neighborhood-wide beautification and public improvements but also must be committed to rehabilitate rental units in an effort to improve all types of housing. The rental rehabilitation is funded at $125,000 of the $609,700 program. In order to participate in such a program a landlord must contribute 25% of the rental rehabilitation cost for the unit. In Ishpeming the NPP has several homeowner projects either completed or underway and it is expected that all funds allocated for homeowner rehabilitation will be spent, however participation in the rental rehabilitation has not been good. There was some landlord interest early on but only one landlord is currently committed to repair two units and another landlord is interested in applying to repair three units. The Ishpeming City Manager has sent at least one direct mailing to all landlords owning property in the NPP of which about 40% are rental units and has received a little response.
Marquette County currently requires rehabilitation loans to be paid back when the property is sold. In order to be more successful with this important facet of neighborhood revitalization MSHDA has recommended the Marquette County Board revisit its non-forgivable loan policy for the Ishpeming rental rehabilitation activity. The City of Ishpeming has also supported MSHDA’s recommendation. It is the opinion of County Resource Management Staff that if we do not include the philosophy of forgivable loans for Ishpeming’s Rental Rehabilitation Program we may be jeopardizing future funding for other housing rehabilitation.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the request for consideration of forgivable loans for Ishpeming’s Rental Rehabilitation Program in their Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) target area.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Powers, County Administrator, reported that Central Dispatch has received State grant funding approval for its new 800 Mhz counsels.

A Special Committee of the Whole meeting Tuesday, July 31, 2001, 6:00 P.M. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex to consider the disposition to the various utility systems at KI Sawyer.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, July 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 JULY 10, 2001.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. FY 2002 Medical Support Enforcement Agreement for Friend of the Court with
   Michigan Family Independence Agency.
8. FY 2001 Friend of the Court Access Visitation Grant.
9. Agreement with Menze Construction for Roof Repairs to Sawyer Buildings 830, 832,
   and 835.
10. Contract with Boldt Builds for T-Hangars at Sawyer International Airport.
11. Sawyer Exit Strategy Recommendation from County Administrator.
12. Resolution to Relinquish Jurisdiction and Control of the Raney Creek Drainage
    District.
14. Request for Consideration of Forgivable Loans for Ishpeming's Rental Rehabilitation
    Program in the Neighborhood Preservation Program Target Area.
15.
16.
17.
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
   SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING, TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2001
   TO CONSIDER THE DISPOSITION OF THE VARIOUS UTILITY SYSTEMS AT KI
   SAWYER.
20. ADJOURNMENT.