The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Special Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 31, 2001, 4:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Sleswig Administration Building, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Combs called the meeting to order. Present: Comms. Aarnio, Amsen, Bergblad, Comyn, Girard, Joseph, Comyn, Moore, Comyn, Nordstrom, Comyn, Sinko, Steppan, Comyn, Tannewitz, and Comyn.

Chairperson Combs opened the meeting for public comment.

Sir Delahanty, Observer – The Marquette County Board has done a commendable job on the redevelopment effort at KS Sawyer. Marquette County has four basic elements that are attractive to potential employers including a skilled workforce, low tax, government assistance, and reasonable utility rates. Combined redevelopment at KS Sawyer must be abandoned and we must concentrate on providing these four elements. I am Delahanty and I own a private industry that takes over a utility. I mean already has immediate access to the rates. High rates will have a negative affect on economic development at KS Sawyer.


Les Thulander, Sawyer Village, Staff Title, also a member of the West Branch Township Board.

Mr. Thulander, Sawyer Village, Staff Title, also a member of the West Branch Township Board.

Mr. Thulander: Mr. Chairman, in reviewing the information, I see that the utility records for the County Board if it were to be any assistance. Currently the average cost in Sawyer Village pays about $214.00 a month which goes up to approximately $200 per month for years and seven, $250 per month for gas, and $370 per month for electricity. The forecast for next year is that gas and electrical rates may increase as much as $100. Sawyer Village itself shows that Sawyer has the least expensive rates and sewer rates in Marquette County.

Mr. Thulander further noted on the Township side, he had had discussions with the West Branch Supervisor. It has come to his attention there may be regulations for townships to approve a franchise agreement for any new utility that comes onto a township.

Sir Peters, Observer – He has always supported Sawyer redevelopment. He has been asked by several people to talk a concern regarding Sawyer. Marquette County must work with the Sawyer redevelopment without all of the County residents. There is a perception by many ratepayers that taxpayer dollars being asked to help develop Sawyer for which all residents in the County are paying. Mr. Peters commented that the citizens outside of the Sawyer area are just as important as those inside the area.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Combs closed this part of the meeting.

It was moved by Comyn, Aarnio; seconded by Comyn, Steppan, and unanimously carried by voice vote to approve the agenda as presented.

It was moved by Comyn, Moore, seconded by Comyn, Nordstrom, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Finance and Accounts for the period May 19, 2001 through May 26, 2001 be approved.

The Committee considered the recommended disposition of the various utility systems at KS Sawyer. Chairperson Combs pointed out on June 20, 2001 the Conference of the Whole directed Staff to review and analyze the findings and recommendations made by the Marquette Design Group for the disposition of the utility systems at KS Sawyer, keeping all options open for further consideration at a Special Committee of the Whole meeting. Chairperson Combs reviewed the Marquette Design Group recommendations and then moved the meeting over to Compliance, Administration, and Staff Powers for the staff recommendations.

Administrator Powers read the following Staff recommendations:

Staff Recommendations

To assist the committee, staff is providing a recommendation. Using the same bottom evaluation criteria used by Marquette Design to rank the various disposition options, and the Committee of the Whole’s decision to keep all options open remains in effect, priority order:

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: None.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. ?>
8. PUBLIC COMMENT.
9. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
10. ADOPTION.