The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 14, 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. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on July 24, 2001 and the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting held on July 31, 2001 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 18) Hiring of Auctioner Col. Dan Sampson to Auction Off Remaining Personal Property at Sawyer, Item 19) Request from MACASU for a Price Adjustment in Phase 5 of Their Housing Development, Item 20) Revision to the Marinette Yacht Lease, Item 21) House Bill 4022, and Item 22) Road Commission Billing for Survey Work at Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 3, 2001 through August 8, 2001 in the amount of $550,277.58 be approved.

The Committee considered the Mid-Year 2001 Budget Amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present to explain the budget amendments and answer questions.

Revenue adjustments being recommended for the General Fund total $195,860 or 1% of a total budget of $16.2 million. Expense adjustments of $156,181 are requested with $39,679 being added to the contingency line item. Staff now recommends the County proceed with capital projects that were delayed until the mid-year budget review.

The General Fund Budget Amendment provides for $178,942 in the contingency line item. It should be noted that if expenditures continue at the current level the Child Care Fund will need another $54,000 by year end, also the Sheriff’s Department DARE contributions of $113,608 are still needed this year to cover budget expenditures.

The most significant budget adjustment is an additional appropriation to Probate Child Care Fund in the amount of $127,675 to cover the deficit balance that was created in 1999. This transfer is offset by $42,202 recapture of the 1999 appropriation to the Health Department in accordance with a Board resolution. The Health Department Director has notified the County that the 2001 appropriation of $106,600 budgeted for the Dental Clinic will not be needed. The Health Department’s Medicaid reimbursement revenue is substantially higher than anticipated.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, and Staff for the excellent job in monitoring the County’s mid-year budget situation and commended the Marquette County Health Department.

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 approve the Mid-Year 2001 Budget Amendments No. 17 General Fund, No. 18 KI Sawyer Development Department, No. 19 Airport Fund, No. 20 Sawyer Protection and Maintenance Fund, No. 21 Forest Recreation Fund, No. 22 Remonumentation, No. 23 MCTV, No. 24 Sawyer EDA III, No. 25 Central Dispatch Fund, No. 26, Search and Rescue Fund, and No. 27 Building Authority.

The Committee considered a Contract with Lakeshore Environmental Industries, Inc. in the amount of $73,200 for Building Maintenance Contract (mold abatement) for Sawyer Building 850 (the former hospital).

Bids were advertised in both Marquette and Escanaba newspapers and RFP’s were sent to at least five firms. This project is Air Force approved and funded through Caretaker. Lakeshore Environmental Industries, Inc. is the low responsive bidder. This firm has completed both mold and asbestos projects for the Air Force prior to base closure and for Marquette County since.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenaull, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of Sawyer Building 850 Maintenance Contract with Lakeshore Environmental Industries, Inc. in the amount of $73,200.

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The Committee considered an approval of a supplement to the FAA Lease. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, noted in June of 1999 the County Board of Commissioners entered into a Lease Agreement with the FAA for a site on the west side of the runway for construction/installation of a VOR/DME navigational aid. This electronic equipment is the navaid primarily used by incoming aircraft to locate SIA.

There have been a few instances where this navaid has been out of commission which adversely affects flights into the airport. The FAA intends to install two backup emergency systems to solve this problem. The FAA wants to increase the currently leased land area by .02 of an acre to provide the additional space needed to install the navaid equipment.

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 approve the supplement to the FAA Lease for an additional .02 acres to provide additional space for navaid electronic equipment.

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It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenaull, and unanimously carried by voice vote that a report from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, regarding the additional contractor work for the North Access Road to SIA be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee considered an Amendment to the URS Agreement for Engineering Services. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present to explain that Marquette County experienced problems with the North Access Road to SIA this past winter. URS was directed to determine the causes and corrective action. URS and Coleman Engineering, the consultant for soils, made borings in the problem areas, had samples analyzed, and reviewed the analysis to determine the cause which they detailed in their report.

An amendment is required to the agreement with URS for Engineering Services for payment of the costs incurred by URS and Coleman Engineering for the additional work they performed in investigating and correcting the frost heave problem. The amount of the amendment is $31,925. The AIP/MAP grant that funds this project includes funding for three other projects at Sawyer. The cost for all four projects is under budget and currently there is $425,000 available to cover the cost of the additional work. The County’s local share amount is based on the total grant amount and because actual costs are under budget the local share is already paid.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Arsenaull, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve an Amendment to the URS Agreement in the amount of $31,925 for engineering services for payment of the costs occurred for the additional work they performed in investigating and correcting the frost heave problem for the SIA North Access Road.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with the Marquette County Road Commission for the Sawyer North Access Road. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, explained the proposed Agreement with the Road Commission provides that Marquette County guarantees the North Access Road for two years. Jim Iwanicki, Engineer, Marquette County Road Commission, has inspected the paving on the North Access Road. The contractor has done a good job and the blacktop appears a little thinner than MDOT standards. Hal Pawley is comfortable that all clay and silt has been removed and recommends approval of the Letter of Understanding for the North Access Road.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Letter of Understanding which provides for a guarantee period of two years from the date of final acceptance of the improvements by the Road Commission for the SIA North Access Road.

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The Committee considered a proposal to enter into an agreement with Employee Benefits Agency, Inc. to begin the Michigan Gap Plan for non-represented employees, elected officials, and the Senior Officer’s Association.
Scott Erbish, Human Resources and Risk Manager, and Vince Rose, Employee Benefits Agency, Inc., were present to explain the Michigan Gap Program and answer questions. Marquette County’s Health Insurance Costs have increased an average of 24% in the past two years. Indications are that health insurance rates will increase another 20% percent for 2002. County Staff has been looking into ways to contain costs for health insurance and of all the options provided the Michigan Gap Plan provided the greatest guaranteed cost savings to the County with a minimal impact to employees. The Michigan Gap Plan is designed to fill in the deductible and coinsurance expenses that all employees would experience by going from a Community Blue 1 Plan to a Community Blue 4 Plan. The Community 1 Plan does not have a deductible or coinsurance but under the Community Blue 4 Plan there is a $500 deductible and a $1,500 coinsurance requirement for single coverage. The Michigan Gap Plan would pay this deductible and coinsurance so there would be no additional costs to the employees. This would require an extra step by the employee of submitting their explanation of benefits (EOB) statement from Blue Cross Blue Shield to the Gap agent. This claim would be processed at American Fidelity within two weeks and a check mailed to the employee for the deductible and/or the coinsurance cost. It is also important to note that if an employee goes out of the BC/BS network then the deductible would increase to $1,000 and the coinsurance becomes 60/40. Out of network service aspect should not be an issue because BC/BS network is nationwide. Furthermore, if assistance is needed outside the network all that is needed is an in network physician referral.

Vince Rose further explained the Michigan Gap Plan is new, but at least twelve organizations, both public and private have started this program in the Upper Peninsula including Gogebic Community Mental Health which has been on the program since March 2001. The program has generated a positive response. Two meetings for County non-represented employees, and elected officials were held to discuss the Gap Plan. Had Marquette County implemented the Gap Plan in January, 2001 with non-represented employees, elected officials, and the Senior Officers Association, the County would have realized a savings of $215,846. The downside to the program is that employees have to take responsibility to submit their EOB to receive the deductible.

Commissioners discussed the Michigan Gap Plan and asked questions. They requested more information on the BC/BS premiums, American Fidelity premiums, and other governmental units who have implemented the Michigan Gap Plan. Commissioners noted that if the Michigan Gap Plan is implemented in Marquette County then all employees should be put on the plan at the same time.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that if the County Board wants to wait for all County employees to participate in the Michigan Gap Program, staff needs the authority to negotiate with the representative groups regarding health insurance as soon as possible.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct staff to seek a consensus from the represented employees regarding the Michigan Gap Program, and further that more information be provided on the Gap Program from other units of government where it has been implemented and the Gap Plan effect on Marquette County Health Insurance premiums.

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The Committee considered a vacancy on the Concealed Weapons Licensing Board. County Clerk Dave Roberts noted as of August 14th three applications have been received. The Marquette County Prosecutor has declined to be a member of the Concealed Weapons Licensing Board, therefore, the County Board of Commissioners must make an appointment as a replacement for the Prosecuting Attorney. This appointment must be a firearms instructor who has the qualifications prescribed by P.A. 381 of 2000.

Clerk Roberts noted that of the three applicants Kenmore Goldsworthy, Ishpeming, has provided the proper documentation that he is indeed an NRA certified firearms instructor and meets the requirements of Sec. 5j(1)(c) of Public Act 381.


It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board accept and place on file the following informational items:

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14) Notice of County Road Commission Organizational Change
15) Notice that Comau PICO has moved to a new Sawyer location, 330 “C” Avenue, Gwinn, Michigan 49841.
16) Acceptance of Notice of Bid Award from Boldt Builds for T-Hangar Construction at Sawyer International Airport.
17) Michigan Supreme Court Recognition of Service Certificate Presented to Chairperson Gerald Corkin.

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The Committee considered an Agreement to hire Colonel Dan Sampson to auction personal property at Sawyer International Airport and Sawyer Business Center. Vicki Kulju, KI Sawyer Marketing and Development Director, was present and explained that KI Sawyer EDC approved this proposal last evening. On previous auctions Colonel Dan Sampson was the low bidder at a 14% commission plus expenses. This is considerably lower than the next closest auction bidder at 35% plus expenses.

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 the hiring of Colonel Dan Sampson to auction off remaining personal property at Sawyer International Airport and Business Center.

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The Committee considered a request from MACASU, Inc. for a price adjustment on their housing units. Vicki Kulju, KI Sawyer Marketing and Development Director, was present and explained that MACASU is in Phase V of their housing development. Phase V initially had 36 units, however MACASU would like that reduced to 17 units with the appropriate price adjustment with the remaining 19 units to be included as an addendum to the County’s RFP.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the MACASU request for a price adjustment for the 17 housing units in their fifth phase with the remaining units to be included as an addendum to the County RFP.

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The Committee considered revisions to the Marinette Yacht Lease approved last week by the County Board. Vicki Kulju, KI Sawyer Marketing and Development Manager, noted that Marinette Yacht requested the terms of their lease be extended from 5 to 10 years. They also would like an option to expand at any time during the first three years of the initial term of their lease into a minimum of approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of the remaining available square footage adjacent to their initial premises. The tenant shall activate such option by notifying the landlord in writing 120 days prior to its desired occupancy date. The expansion space shall be transferred on an as is condition. If the tenant fails to exercise this option to expand during the first three years such option becomes null and void.

At any time during the first three years the landlord should notify the tenant in writing of its desire to lease the adjacent space next to Marinette Yacht to a third party, Marinette Yacht would then have the first right of refusal within a 30-day period to notify the landlord if it desires to lease such space upon the same terms and conditions to the third party. If the tenant fails to respond within 30 days then all first rights of refusal are null and void.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the revisions to the Marinette Yacht Lease terms at Sawyer Building 725.

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The Committee considered House Bill No. 4022 regarding the Michigan Vehicle Code. Comm. Seppanen noted that House Bill 4022 would provide for a committee that determines the speed limit on roads and highways to include a member of a township board, the county road commission, and the Michigan State Police. Further, if the road is within 1,000 feet of a school the superintendent of the school district affected would also act jointly in determining a reasonable and safe speed limit. Chocolay Township has been attempting for some time to get the speed limit lowered near the Silver Creek School.

Comm. Seppanen further reported that Rep. Adamini has included language in this Bill reflecting local involvement in the establishing of speed limits and the HB 4022 has unanimously been adopted by the House Committee on Transportation. HB 4022 is now being referred to the Senate. Comm. Seppanen has spoke with Sen. Koivisto’s office urging their support of HB4022 as it stands. The
Michigan Association of Counties supports a unanimous vote of the Committee rather than a 2/3 vote as currently written. Comm. Seppanen contends this would keep the State in control of local speed limits. He urges support for HB 4022 as it stands with a 2/3 vote rather than a unanimous vote.

Comm. Wallace noted this legislation could be very helpful in the development of the residential areas at KI Sawyer. Chairperson Corkin, who sits on the MAC Board of Directors, supports HB 4022 as it stands and is not sure why MAC opposes the 2/3 vote.

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 support House Bill 4022 as it stands which would provide for a committee including a township board member, the county road commission, and a State Police member to jointly determine the appropriate speed limit on County and State highways, and further if the trunk line or highway is within 1,000 feet of a school district the Committee shall also include the superintendent of the school district affected.

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The Committee considered the Road Commission billing for survey work at KI Sawyer. Comm. Tuominen explained there is two years work at Sawyer and in order to assist the Road Commission cash flow they would like to bill the survey work on a monthly basis rather than on a quarterly basis. This may also assist in getting the work done faster.

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 of a monthly billing rather than a quarterly billing for Road Commission survey work being done at KI Sawyer.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, will be leaving for a new job in San Antonio, Texas at the end of the month. The transition for Tom’s departure has been planned and the Sawyer team will consist of:

- Hal Pawley will be Director, Sawyer International Airport and Business Center
- Hal Pawley will be assisted by Larry Coehoorn, Operations Director
- Vicki Kulju, Marketing and Development Director
- Ann Giroux, Finance and Administration
- Scott Erbisch will begin Monday, August 27th at KI Sawyer overseeing the utility disposition project

Chairperson Corkin noted that Tom Rumora did an excellent job and his leadership and expertise will be missed. He has full confidence in the new Sawyer team.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, August 14, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skews Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING HELD ON JULY 24, 2001 AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE

3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

7. Contract for Mold Abatement for Sawyer Building 850 (Hospital).
   8. Supplement to FAA Lease for Runway Site for a VOR/DME Navigational Aid.


10. Amendment to URS Agreement for Engineering Services for Sawyer North Access Road.


13. Concealed Weapons Licensing Board Vacancy (Applicant Information Forthcoming at
     Meeting).

14. Notice of County Road Commission Organizational Change.

15. Notice that Comau Pico has Moved to a New Sawyer Location: 330 “C” Avenue,
     Gwinn, MI 49841.

16. Acceptance of Notice of Bid Award from Boldt Builds for T-Hangar Construction at
     Sawyer International Airport.

17. Michigan Supreme Court Recognition of Service Certificate Presented to Chairperson
     Gerald Corkin.

18. Hire Dan Sampson to audit property at SIA & survey out

19. Must receive Request for price adjustment including units to an agenda

20. Maineelle Yacht Co. lease revisions

21. PUBLIC COMMENT.

22. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
    *County Board Meeting Next Week Has Been Changed to Wednesday, August 22, 2001,
    7:00 P.M.

23. ADJOURNMENT.