The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 28, 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 August 14, 2001 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 17) Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics Air Services Awareness Grant, Item 18) Sawyer International Airport Control Tower Operating Agreement with FAA, and Item 19) Agreement with AMCAB for Meals on Wheels 2% KBIC Gaming Funds.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 17, 2001 through August 23, 2001 in the amount of $485,087.32 be approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Corkin opened the public hearing regarding Michigan Renaissance Fund (Community Development Block Grant) consisting of a grant in the amount of $662,000 to the County of Marquette to be used for building improvements to Sawyer Building 740 at the former KI Sawyer Air Force Base near Gwinn. The building is currently occupied by Superior Extrusion, Inc. Chairperson Corkin opened the hearing for comment. Linda L. Howlett, Chief Planner, CUPPAD Regional Commission, was present to comment on the closeout public hearing. She noted that this is not a complete closeout on the Community Development Grant but rather a partial closeout. The purpose is to relieve Superior Extrusion of further reporting requirements and also Superior Extrusion wants to purchase the building they presently occupy and expand the business.

Superior Extrusion in May of 1997 received $662,000 in funding for Sawyer Building 661 which was later switched to Sawyer Building 740. Superior Extrusion has been operating since December of 1999 and has invested their own funds, $1 million into the project. They have currently 48 employees working on two shifts. Superior Extrusion has invested well. Superior Extrusion also paid the $75,000 local match required of Marquette County. All that is required of the County at this point is a letter regarding the local match, explaining the net cost to Marquette County was zero dollars.

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

There being no further public comment, the public hearing was closed.

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The Committee considered a proposed Marquette County Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Policy. John Greenberg, Management Analyst, and Scott Erbisch, Human Resources/Risk Manager, were present to discuss the proposed policy and answer questions. It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the proposed Drug and Alcohol Policy be sent to the County Employees for their review and then be brought back to the Committee of the Whole in the future for consideration.

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The Committee considered the bid award for Construction Code Vehicles. Greg Sicotte, Building Codes Department Manager, was present and explained that bids were received for two small pickup trucks to replace a 1995 Chevrolet S10 (100,000 miles) and a 1997 Chevrolet S10 (85,000 miles).
Frei Chevrolet, Inc. of Marquette was the low bidder for one 2002 S10 2-wheel drive regular cab pickup and one 2002 S10 4x4 extended cab pickup. Total bid price - $24,874.31. Bid award includes trade-in allowance.

The 4-wheel drive vehicle is recommended to meet a growing need to reach remote building sites. These vehicles will also be available for occasional use by other departments such as Equalization.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the vehicle purchase bid award with Frei Chevrolet, Inc. in the amount of $24,874.31 (including trade-in) for two Construction Code vehicles.

The Committee considered the award of the Passenger Loading Bridge Site preparation. Larry Coelhoorn, SIA Assistant Manager, was present and explained that the FY 2001 AIP Grant includes funding for site work in preparation for construction of the passenger loading bridges. Three bids were received and the recommendation is to award the contract to Clark Construction, the low bidder in the amount of $56,225. Ron Lebbon, Engineer for the Bureau of Aeronautics, has concurred with this recommendation.

Funding for this project is included in the $3,202,500 grant recently accepted from the FAA. The bid price is less than the funding provided and less than the engineer’s estimate. The local share of the project is $2,811.25 to come from passenger facility charges.

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 award the SIA Passenger Loading Bridge Site Preparation Contract to Clark Construction in the amount of $56,225.

The Committee considered a Contract Award for Caretaker Funded Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS) repairs. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that only one bid was received from O’Boyle & Co. of Marquette in the amount of $89,773. Hitch, Inc. the architect/engineer for the project is preparing the contract which should be completed and reviewed by Risk Management and Civil Counsel and ready for signature at the September 4, 2001 Regular Board Meeting. The project is for removing, repairing, replacing, and refinishing approximately 7,000 sq. ft. of existing EIFS systems on five buildings at KI Sawyer. The project is Caretaker Funded.

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 of the Caretaker Funded EIFS repair contract with O’Boyle & Co. for $89,773 contingent upon review by Civil Counsel.

The Committee considered a Change Order for Sawyer Avenue “A” improvements with Timberland Engineering. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that additional work is being required for AFBCA Environmental Coordinator’s approval. The Environmental Coordinator has approved this project with the contingency that we evaluate and fix an erosion problem at the outfall of the storm sewer connecting to the Avenue “A” drainage.

The scope and costs appear to be reasonable and the Change Order increases the original Contract Agreement by $6,500.

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 a Change Order in the amount of $6,500 for the Avenue “A” Improvement Contract with Timberland Engineering.

The Committee considered a Change Order to the Engineer’s Contract for mold abatement for Sawyer Building 725.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the original agreement was brought verbally to the County Board as a late addition several weeks ago. The original area to be cleaned was not identified until after the contract was written and approved. The original contract amounted to $18,600. This Change Order increases that Contract by $5,100 to a total of $23,700.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Change Order to the Mold Abatement Contract with Lakeshore Environmental Services for Sawyer Building 725 in the amount of $5,100 bringing the revised contract to a total of $23,700.
The Committee considered a communication from Howard Heideman, Director of Tax Policy Analysis, Michigan Department of Treasury, regarding the Tri-County Convention Facilities Tax/4% Statewide Liquor Tax. The total amount of liquor and cigarette tax distributions that Marquette County must use to reduce their tax base rate for the 2001 Truth-In-Taxation Hearing purposes is $273,376.

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

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee place on file an announcement from the Michigan Department of Transportation that a meeting will take place on August 29, 2001, 3:30 P.M., Marquette Holiday Inn, to allow local officials and community members an opportunity to comment on the MDOT’s Long Range 20 Year Transportation Plan.

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It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee accept and place on file a Notice from the Michigan Public Service Commission that they will conduct a Consumer Forum on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, 6:00 P.M., to present information on “Customer Choice Programs” to enable customers to choose their natural gas and electric suppliers.

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The Committee considered approval of a Bureau of Aeronautics Agreement for an Air Services Awareness Grant. Larry Coehoorn, SIA Assistant Manager, noted this is an annual grant from the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics used to increase public awareness of the airline passenger service available at Sawyer International Airport. The amount of the grant is $25,000 and the local share is $2,778 which is already included in the Airport budget.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Agreement with the Bureau of Aeronautics for the Air Services Awareness Grant.

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The Committee considered a Staff recommendation that the County Board sign an Operating Agreement to open the Sawyer International Control Tower under an FAA Contract Tower Cost-Share Program.

Larry Coehoorn, SIA Assistant Manager, was present and reported he began looking into opening the control tower at Sawyer as early as September 1999, however by September of 2000 it appeared that SIA was significantly short of activity to get 100% FAA funding. We could however continue in the cost-share program but based on initial analysis the benefits were not sufficient for the costs involved.

Mr. Coehoorn further reported that since September 2000 three significant events changed the feasibility outlook for opening the tower:

First, after discussion with various FAA departments an error was discovered in the data input to the benefit-cost model used by the FAA. The takeoffs and landings of the airlines were omitted due to the relocation of the airport. The operations were credited to MQT, not SAW. Using official FAA data, the benefit-cost model recalculated was significantly approved.

Second, thanks to U.S. Senator Carl Levin and Congressman Bart Stupak, $300,000 has been appropriated for tower equipment in the FAA FY 2001 authorization. Marquette County has received a verbal update the $300,000 is now available for equipping the tower and very shortly we will receive a cooperative agreement.

Third, the latest County goals and Strategic Plan, exit strategy endorsed by the Board of Commissioners, and the organizational changes at Sawyer are all consistent with the growing airport. Opening the control tower is key to future economic development at Sawyer.

By opening the control tower airline safety at Sawyer International Airport will be greatly improved. County redevelopment expansion, especially with an aviation company will result. Large airplanes carrying people or expensive cargo won’t land at an uncontrolled airport. Also, the military won’t allow their planes to land at an uncontrolled airport. With a control tower they will land, and when they do they buy lots of fuel, sometimes 100,000 to 120,000 pounds at one time. The cost-share program will provide the SIA control tower 79% federal funding, however with increased air traffic Staff is confident within a year or two the control tower will be 100% funded.
Commissioners thanked Larry Coelhoorn for his efforts to open the SIA Tower and also thanked Sen. Leven and Congressman Stupak. This is a major item in the redevelopment of KI Sawyer and the economic development of Marquette County.

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 an Operating Agreement to open the Sawyer International Control Tower under the FAA Contract Tower Cost-Share Program.

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The Committee considered a resolution for the appropriation of funds pursuant to the Activities or Services for Older Persons Act, P.A. 39 of 1976 et. seq. The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community will give to the County of Marquette the sum of $5,000 as part of its 2% gaming payment obligation to be used for the AMCAB Meals on Wheels Program.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve an Agreement with AMCAB for Keweenaw Bay Indian Community 2% gaming funds in the amount of $5,000 for the Meals on Wheels Program.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin thanked the County Board for their work on the budget and especially thanked Administrator Powers and Staff. It is unfortunate the County does not have enough funds to provide all needs to all departments.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, in turn thanked the County Board for their work and comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, August 28, 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 AUGUST 14, 2001.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. Closeout Public Hearing regarding Superior Extrusion Portion of CDBG
Funded Improvements at KI Sawyer.

8. Proposed Marquette County Drug and Alcohol Policy.
10. Sawyer International Airport Jet Bridge Site Work Bid Award.
12. Change Order to Engineer’s Contract for Sawyer Avenue “A” Improvements (FAA
Funded).
14. Information from Michigan Department of Treasury regarding Tri-County Convention
Facilities Tax/4% State Liquor Tax.
15. Notice of Michigan Department of Transportation Meeting Schedule to Review 20-Year
State Transportation Plan.
16. Michigan Public Service Commission Consumer Forum regarding Telephone, Natural
Gas, and Electric Services – Tuesday, September 11, 2001, 6:00 P.M., Marquette
Senior Center, Spring Street, Marquette.
17. Air Service Awareness Grant
18. FIA Control Tower under FAA Contract Tower - Short Answer
19. Make a wheel request

20. PUBLIC COMMENT.
21. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
22. ADJOURNMENT.