The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on September 25, 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 Departmental Budget Hearings and Budget Work Sessions held on August 27 and 28, 2001 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 11, 2001 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Sheriff Michael Lovelace, 17 Deer Lake Road, Ishpeming, was present and noted the world is a different place since the last time he spoke to the County Board regarding the FY 2002 Budget. In light of the tragic events of September 11th which brought international terrorism to the United States now is definitely not the time to make cuts in the Sheriff’s Department. As a result of the attacks two commercial jets on route to L.A. were diverted to our airport. Our Department along with the FBI, State Police, and bomb dog from Escanaba, searched the planes and cargo for explosives and interviewed passengers.

Sheriff Lovelace noted he has seven full-time General Fund Road Patrol Deputies in his department. Four of these deputies, along with one of the Sawyer deputies, have been assigned to provide security at the Sawyer International Airport. That leaves him three deputies which cannot come close to performing all the duties required which includes: transporting prisoners, performing court security, taking criminal and civil complaints, and serving warrants or civil process. There is no flexibility in the schedule to allow for vacations or sick time without paying tremendous overtime. Another deputy has been lost to callout by the United States Coast Guard for a minimum of 30 days and there is potential to lose another deputy and captain to callout by the U.S. Army. This would leave the Sheriff’s Department with no Road Patrol Deputies! Sheriff Lovelace noted he would be unable to operate at this level and cannot perform his Constitutional mandates.

Sheriff Lovelace further reported more information regarding the DARE Officer issue. Due to school district restructuring and a reduction in student populations throughout Marquette County, the number of schools taught DARE by the Marquette County Sheriff’s Office will be reduced from ten to six. The newly revised DARE curriculum as been changed from 17 weeks to 10 weeks which means only one School Resource Deputy would be required to teach the DARE program. The County also recently received a check in the amount of $52,168.87 from the KBIC for the DARE program. This check was received after the Committee’s vote to follow the Administrator’s recommendation and cut the DARE program. Sheriff Lovelace believes this check to be a demonstration of the KBIC’s continued support of the School Resource Deputies and the DARE program. He urged the County Board not to make the mistake of taking this vital prevention program away from the children of Marquette County.

Stuart Skauge, 450 Oak Street, Ishpeming, and a teacher at the Cherry Creek School in the Marquette Area School District, spoke in support of DARE. Mr. Skauge has been a teacher for 27 years and has been involved with the DARE program since 1989. He is also a past member of the Ishpeming City Council and realizes the County Board must make a tough budget decision. DARE may not be a mandated program but he believes DARE to be essential. He has watched DARE Officers for years and contended teachers cannot do what a DARE Officer does. DARE goes much deeper than just alcohol and drugs and youngsters open up to the DARE Officers regarding many problems. There is no data to support it but Mr. Skauge believes DARE is working for our fifth graders and should be maintained. There is no program that has come along that is better. He thanked the Board for their past years of support for DARE.

Scott Johnson, 159 Baker Street, Marquette, is currently serving as a Detective with the Sheriff’s Department. He noted that part of Marquette County’s Strategic Plan Planning Goals is to raise our children so that they can work here and live here, but if we cannot do it for our own employees how can we do it for our children? He noted that for two years he was an undercover detective and never once bought drugs or arrested a person who was a former DARE student.

Mark Ulvila, 225 E. Park Street, Neguane, is the newest Road Patrol Deputy hired by the Sheriff’s Department. Being the last one hired he may be the first one to lose his job. He wanted to
speak so the County Board can place a face with his name. He is a graduate of NMU Police
Academy, he attended school five years and likes his job. He married two weeks ago and is in
the process of purchasing his first home. He attended Dave Kent’s DARE class when he was 12 years old
as did his wife Megan.

Lowell Larson, 1405 Waldo Street, Marquette, is a Sheriff’s Deputy, third from the bottom in
seniority. He noted that laying off deputies will not solve anything. The Marquette County Jail is one
of the biggest responsibilities and liabilities that the County has. We currently have an 80 bed facility
but have as many as 98 inmates in jail at times. Marquette County could use a 300 bed facility.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by
voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: An Additional Resignation
Letter from Road Commissioner James Alderton to be added to Item 14 and Late Addition 16) Letter
from the Three Townships with representatives on the KI Sawyer Economic Development
Department.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by
voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 14, 2001 through September 20, 2001
in the amount of $1,385,016.25 be approved.

The Committee considered a proposal from the City of Marquette for a Linear Park along the old
railroad right-of-way now owned by Marquette City just north of the DeFant Building. Gerald Peterson,
Marquette City Manager, made the presentation on the park and distributed a colored diagram of the
park concept. The park will have a zamboni maintained refrigerated skating rink which would open in
early November and continue on through the end of March. There would be high quality restrooms
nearby, green space, and bicycle/ walking path which would wind its way down to the lower harbor and
connect with the path along the Ellwood Mattson Park.

Marquette City needs some conceptual approval from the County Board and is not looking for
any financial support. The Downtown Development Authority is financing the project. Parking will
have to be reconfigured around the DeFant Building and an agreement will be needed for the shared use,
operation, and maintenance of the parking lot. Presently Marquette County has 150 parking spaces and
under the new plan there will be 153 parking spaces.

Larry Gould, Facilities Manager, and Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning, met with the City of
Marquette and noted that the Linear Park concept will work. The financial burden for maintaining the
parking lot would be about the same as the County is presently paying. County staff sees no problems
with the Linear Park concept proposed by the City of Marquette.

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 give its conceptual approval
of the Linear Park proposal by the City of Marquette.

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The Committee considered the FY 2002 Budget Recommendation and line item adjustments made
during the August 27 and 28, 2001 budget hearings and work sessions. The FY 2002 General Fund
Budget revenues and expenditures are balanced at $16,427,576. The FY 2002 Capital Improvement
Budget amounts to $919,865.

Sue Vercoc, Finance Manager, noted that Administrator Powers’ memo summarized the
Committee of the Whole actions taken during the budget work sessions. Adjustments have been made to
reduce the 2002 Contingency to $69,000. This is approximately one-half of the 2001 Contingency,
however reserves are available to provide for unanticipated expenditures of a non-recurring nature or to
meet small increases in service delivery costs. Also, it is anticipated there will be a fund balance at the
end of 2001 which may be used to increase the 2002 Contingency in the first quarter.

The Budget Work Session actions include: Reinstating funding to the MSU Extension for its
Coordinator Position in the amount of $14,000, funds made available by reducing the Economic
Development appropriation by $7,000 and partially by transfer of $7,000 from the Forestry Recreation
Fund. Work Session action also included a 2% salary increase for 2002 for Elected Officials excluding
Commissioners and the Prosecutor ($5,300). Further revisions include an increase of $7,211 revenue
from Cigarette Tax and Convention/Tourism revenue, an increased expenditure for the Senior Officer
Contract adjustment not reflected in the budget ($4,500) and a December 17th distribution of the Cigarette
Contract adjustment not reflected in the budget ($4,500) and a December 17th distribution of the Cigarette Tax to the County Health Department ($37,213). This leaves a final adjusted Contingency in the amount of $68,883. The FY 2002 Budget contains a $560,000 fund balance which is not represented in the budget. Currently the 2001 Contingency has $130,000 but the cost of the increased airport security are unknown at this time.

Sue Vercoe acknowledged the County received a $52,000+ check from the KBIC for DARE, however the budget is still $60,000 short in revenues for 2001. Over several years the County has budgeted for the DARE Officers and has received funding from the KBIC and other donations on a delayed basis which did not completely cover costs, therefore part of the next year’s funding would be reverted back to the previous year. A deficit has accumulated. The Administrator’s recommendation is not to fund the DARE Officers for 2002 without a definite commitment for future funding.

Commissioners noted that 80% of the County Budget is mandated and only 20% is not mandated. Not mandated services include such functions at Road Patrol, Planning, Capital Improvements, and Economic Development. All of these programs are important and no one wants to cut any of these. It was further noted that K1 Sawyer has contributed $360,000 to the FY 2002 General Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Bergdahl) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the FY 2002 General Fund Budget in the amount of $16,427,576 and the FY 2002 Capital Improvement Budget of $919,865 at its Annual Meeting scheduled for October 9, 2001.

The Committee considered a FY 2001 Terrorism Consequence Management Preparedness Assistance Grant Agreement for $1,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice. Mike Zorza, County Emergency Manager, was present to discuss the grant and answer questions. Since the Marquette County Emergency Services Division has completed the Local Domestic Preparedness Assessment and met the U.S. Department of Justice requirements, we are now eligible to receive this grant which will provide funding assistance for eligible expenses incurred in preparing and submitting the Terrorism Needs Assessment. No matching funds are required.

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 FY 2001 Terrorism Consequence Management Preparedness Assistance Grant Agreement.

The Committee considered the FY 2002 Community Corrections Contract Agreement with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Lyn Nelson, Community Corrections Coordinator, was present to discuss the agreement and answer questions. The Michigan Office of Community Corrections will provide $92,900 to Marquette County for Community Corrections Programs and $47,085 for Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Services. No County match is required. The State is reducing Community Corrections funding for case management, however for 2001 sufficient Day Parole Program revenues will be collected to fund the difference of $3,000. In 2002 a reduction of $11,000 may require some changes in Community Correction Programs to accomplish expenditure reductions.

The Community Corrections Advisory Board and the County Board of Commissioners has previously approved the application which has now resulted in the Agreement. The State requires that Community Correction funds be used for the implementation and operation of programs designed to reduce admissions to prison of nonviolent offenders, improve utilization of jail facilities, open jail beds to increase utilization of pretrial release options, reduce readmission to prison of parole violators, and reduce admission or readmission to prisoner offenders. Funds appropriated for residential substance treatment can only be used to treat felony offenders.

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 approve the Community Corrections Contract with the Michigan Department of Corrections Office of Community Corrections for FY 2002.

The Committee considered Amendment to an Agreement with the Bureau of Aeronautics. A memo from Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, noted that in November of 1999 the Board of Commissioners approved an Agreement with the Bureau of Aeronautics for Rehab of Taxiways on the South end of the runway and construction of taxiways for future t-hangars. When the bids were received in May of 2000 for construction they were higher than the amount budgeted in the BOA agreement.

The BOA has provided an amendment to the Agreement which increases the project funding by $20,079 for the higher construction cost. The agreement increases FAA grant funding by $18,071 and our local share by $2,008. The local share would come from an increase in authorized passenger facility charges.
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 Amendment to the Agreement with the Bureau of Aeronautics for the Rehab of Sawyer Taxiways.

The Committee considered payment of $31,948 to the Marquette County EDC. The Marquette County EDC/LSCP built a garage for Delphi adjacent to the Company’s testing facility at SIA at Marquette County’s request. The garage was built to meet Delphi’s timeline and payments for the garage were added to the lease between the County of Marquette and Delphi at the Company’s request. The EDC had to borrow money to build the garage and the lender is now requiring payment. Payment by the County would prevent the EDC from having to borrow additional funds to make payments on the garage.

An amendment to include the garage in the existing lease has been provided to Delphi and when Delphi approves the agreement payments for the garage, including past due payments, will be made.

Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, noted that Phil Mann of Delphi has submitted the funding request and hopes to have the signed amendment and check for June, July, August, and September payments to the County by the end of September.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board make payment to the Marquette County EDC of $31,948 for construction of the Delphi Garage at SIA.

The Committee considered a letter from the Negaunee Township Board indicating they will no longer plow roads. Their decision was not made lightly, however they can no longer afford to plow. The Marquette County Road Commission will do the job. Negaunee Township was the last Township in Marquette County that plowed its own roads.

Comm. Tuominen, County Board Liaison to the Road Commission, noted this will not cause a major problem to the Road Commission. Negaunee Township roads will continue to be maintained. Plowing had been done under contract with the Road Commission by a pass-through contract which totaled $25,000.

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

The Committee considered a letter from the Negaunee Township Board expressing concerns over the Marquette County Landfill being closed over the Christmas and New Year Holidays.

Comm. Tuominen explained there was a misunderstanding with the landfill schedule by the Township. The landfill will be open on Monday morning Christmas Eve and Monday morning New Year’s Eve to accept garbage collections. The matter has been resolved.

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

The Committee considered letters of resignation from John P. Farrell and James R. Alderton from the Marquette County Road Commission. Mr. Alderton’s term expires December 31, 2002 and Mr. Farrell’s term expires December 31, 2004. Both Mr. Farrell and Mr. Alderton indicated they are willing to serve until the end of 2001.

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 accept the resignations of John P. Farrell and James R. Alderton from the Marquette County Road Commission effective as of December 31, 2001 with regret and fill their vacancies through the annual appointment process.

The Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, September 25, 2001, they considered a budget amendment for increasing the appropriation to the Family Independence Agency Child Care Fund by $105,000. Julia Hadas, Director of the Family Independence Agency, Hon. Michael J. Anderegg, Probate Judge, and Beth Paceseny, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, were present to discuss the budget amendment request and answer questions.

Julia Hadas explained that over the past five years the County’s cost for service to children under the Family Court jurisdiction has averaged $85,000 per year. The FIA Child Care budget is for out-of-home placements for children who are at risk for abuse and neglect. The Court refers these children to the FIA. The FIA or Family Court has no control over the number of out-of-home placements. It is the parents who neglect/abuse their children that control these expenditures.
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Judge Anderegg further noted that this fund for abused and neglected children is different from funding for juvenile delinquents. The cases of the 18 children funded by the Child Care Fund have been carefully reviewed to see if the status of any has changed but none were found. The FIA has done an excellent job and he supports their request.

Beth Paczesny, Assistant Prosecutor, further reported these cases referred to the Prosecutor’s Office are very very serious cases. These are children who are suffering physical or sexual abuse. Both the FIA and the Family Court understand the County’s budget limitations and Ms. Paczesny has had prior experience as the Ontonagon County Prosecutor regarding budget matters. Steps have been taken to carefully manage the funds appropriated for Child Care expenses. Each case is being reviewed to determine if services could be decreased, children returned to their home, or a less costly placement be made.

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 approve the Child Care budget amendment increasing the appropriation for the FIA Child Care Fund by $105,000 with $80,000 to come from the FIA Agency fund balance and $25,000 to come from the General Fund Contingency, and further that the Child Care master voucher check of $21,717 which was approved at the September 19th Board Meeting under Claims and Accounts (but held back) be released.

The Committee considered a communication from the Supervisors of the three townships that comprise KI Sawyer; Barry Bahman, West Branch Township, Joe Minelli, Forsyth Township, and Earl Yelle, Sands Township. The communication reported that Forsyth, Sands, and West Branch Townships have made a decision not to participate any longer in the current KI Sawyer EDC Committee and urged the County Board to dissolve it. They believe the Committee no longer serves any legitimate purpose and pertinent township issues or concerns are rarely addressed and never resolved. The positions of the townships on pertinent issues are not being fully translated effectively to the County Board though the Committee structure suggests the townships are in agreement with issues brought before the KISEDCC. There is often not ample time for discussion or information available to make legitimate recommendations by any member of the committee.

The supervisors also noted that the public format the Committee must abide by does not allow for good give and take among Township and County representatives. They believe a more closed forum among County Staff and Township would be a more effective manner to reach consensus on issues that affect all parties.

Comm. Arsenault, Chairperson of the KI Sawyer EDC, has chaired this Committee for the last 3+ years. Their meetings have always been open with informal discussion. He has always asked for any items Committee members wanted to discuss to be placed on the agenda. The opportunity has always been present for input by the townships. He noted the majority of the time the Township Supervisors never attend the meeting. This Committee must operate in an open public forum like all public bodies.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board dissolve the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee and that KI Sawyer issues now be dealt with by the County Board Committee of the Whole.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Sheriff Michael Lovelace contended his office will be Constitutionally unserviceable and 9,562 complaints were received by his department last year. He requested no programs be cut. Who will investigate these complaints?

Sheriff Lovelace noted he will continue to seek DARE funding.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARRIQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, September 25, 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.
7. FY 2001 Terrorism Consequence Management Preparedness Assistance Grant Agreement.
10. Payment to Marquette County EDC for Delphi Garage at Sawyer.
11. Negaunee Township Board Decision to Stop Plowing Roads.
12. Negaunee Township Board Concerns regarding Marquette County Landfill Holiday Schedule.
14. Family Independence Agency Child Care Budget Amendment.
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17.
18.
19.
20. ADJOURNMENT.