The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 8, 2001, 6:00 P.M., Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Courthouse, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the April 24, 2001 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 5a) Recognition of Ellwood Mattson, Item 15) Agreement with the Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol Use of County Land, and Item 16) Teaching Family Homes Proposal.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 27, 2001 through May 3, 2001 in the amount of $116,600.45 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following letter in recognition of Ellwood Mattson.

April 17, 2001

Ellwood Mattson
355 E. Ridge
Marquette, MI 49855

Dear Ellwood:

As the elder statesman of the central Upper Peninsula, you have probably encouraged, let, funded, and/or otherwise supported more causes, programs, agencies, and initiatives than anyone else in this area. In addition, you have personally been involved in guiding and helping many local business people who today enjoy success only because you had faith in their integrity and ability to excel.

On a wide variety of issues, you have thought expansively, let quietly, contributed mightily, tolerated patiently, sacrificed personally, and contributed continuously to improving the quality of life in the U.P., and always maintained a humble, positive, and cooperative attitude. You have scrupulously avoided blaming, accusing, gossiping, passing rumors, conspiring, or making judgmental comments about critics, and never once cursed anyone or anything.

You have steadfastly favored long-term evolution rather than short-term revolution, and always emphasized cooperation and respectful relationships among people—never intimidation, deception, retaliation, or any action which might create or worsen rivalries which damage future generations. An ancient philosophy advises one-year investors to focus on growing rice, 20-year investors to focus on growing trees, and 100-year investors to focus on growing people. Perhaps you could be a keynote speaker on the subject of community activism and commitment to excellence.

At K.I. Sawyer (which skeptics said would grow only wild blueberries), you encouraged steady cooperation among state, county, township, and business leaders, which may have seemed inconsequential if not nearly impossible at the time, but which later proved crucial in "growing" hundreds of jobs and residents at the former base.

As you wind down your enormously productive career, you are proudly remembered as a dignified visionary, an honest businessman, a compassionate mentor, and a sincere friend to most civic and elected leaders in the community. You have contributed in extraordinary ways to bettering the community for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. You are truly the community's grandfather.
We salute and thank you, Ellwood, for all that you have given and sacrificed so that current and future generations might live a better life...in a better place.

Sincerely,

MARQUETTE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson Corkin along with Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, presented Ellwood Mattson a framed collage of pictures with Ellwood in the Center. On the bottom was a quote by Ellwood “We may be down but we are not out... Those who predict a ghost town have little understanding of the human spirit” June 27, 1993.

Ellwood Mattson thanked the County Board for their recognition. He noted that many people have done so much on behalf of Marquette County. He was present for the ground breaking ceremony of KI Sawyer Air Force Base and he was also present when the last plane left KI Sawyer. Over the years 33 colonels and one general operated KI Sawyer and Ellwood got to know all of them. A 1992 study showed the economic impact of KI Sawyer amounted to $157 million with 1,026 secondary jobs being provided. He suggested that a follow up study be done on Sawyer’s present economic impact. Over the years he has enjoyed his work very much and appreciates the County’s kind words and recognition.

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The Committee viewed a presentation of the Marquette County Community Information System (CIS) from Dotty Lewis, Planning Staff. Ms. Lewis provided an overview of the website technology and answered questions.

Marquette County is one of three counties chosen to participate in the project called Information Technology for Intergovernmental Cooperation. This is a pilot project that demonstrates a new approach to improving communications between local units of government and counties. The local units of government, Lake Superior Community Partnership, CCI, Semco Energy, MAISD, the County of Marquette, and the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) provided funding for this grant project. LIAA is a federally approved 501C-3 nonprofit corporation located in Traverse City which assists local communities in developing a Community Information System (CIS). The CIS contains electronic maps with user friendly geographic analyst capabilities. From these maps local units of government are able to determine the best land use decisions based upon natural capabilities such as soil, slope, and surrounding land uses. The information on the CIS can be updated and maintained on a regular basis. Planning Staff is providing training to interested ICC members. Each of the local units of governments in the County agree to maintain their portion of the information on the CIS and have received a computer for that purpose. Staff will continue to facilitate awareness about the CIS plus provide training and technical support for the next 18 months. Staff will be assessing the effectiveness of the CIS based on the community’s interest and maintaining the quality of information provided. The County will seek qualified entities to take over management of the CIS in the future.

Commissioners were impressed with the amount of information available on the CIS. Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, thanked Dotty Lewis for the presentation and commended the project.

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The Committee considered a request from Dwight Sunday, Equalization Director, for continuation of a temporary geographic information system position through July, 2001. The temporary position assists the Equalization Department with mapping property and ownership parcels. Mike Cushman is hand mapping property parcels in Champion, Ely, and Ishpeming Township. He has completed Michigame, Republic, and Humboldt Townships. Hand mapping is the first step in creating digital property parcel information needed for GIS. This mapping will improve the accuracy and quality of the County’s existing property maps. Of the 22 local governments the parcel layer is complete in eight and partially complete in ten. The parcel layer is scheduled to be complete December 31, 2002.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends the position request be approved with a budget transfer for $3,000 from salary regular and benefits line items to the salary part-time line item in the equalization budget. The Equalization Director position was vacant for three months during 2001 and funds are available in the salary and benefits line item to continue a temporary position. An additional $2,000 will be transferred from the Salary and Regular Benefit Line Items to the General Fund Contingency Line Item. County financial policy and the Budget Appropriation Act require Board approval of budget transfers involving personnel. The Appropriation Act allows the County Administrator to transfer personnel line items amounts to the General Fund Contingency.
It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the continuation of a Temporary Geographic Information System position in the Equalization Department with the appropriate line item budget transfers.

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The County Board considered a recommendation from the Marquette County Planning Commission to oppose the transfer of $75,000 from the Forestry Recreation Fund to the County General Fund. A memo from Ken Salo, Chairman, Marquette County Forestry Commission, summarized the finances of the Forestry Fund which shows a total of $757,785 in expenditures that must come out of the Forestry Fund in 2001.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, expressed confidence that the fund will continue to grow even with the transfer. The County Board must look at the big picture when considering County General Fund balance, however this $75,000 transfer was recommended as part of the first quarterly budget report. If the transfer is not approved then he will use general fund balance for the first quarter and the general fund balance will be revisited during the mid-year budget review.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the transfer of $75,000 from the Forestry Fund to the General Fund. The motion died for lack of support.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore and carried by voice 8 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Wallace) that the $75,000 be kept in the Forestry Fund and direct the Administrator to look for funding alternatives at the mid-year budget review.

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The Committee considered the Commission on Aging Director Employment Agreement renewal. A memo from Scott H. Erbisch, Human Resources Manager, noted that the Commission on Aging Board is recommending the renewal of Jackie Boxer-Silta’s Employment Agreement until March 22, 2002. The Commission on Aging Board has further recommended entering into a 3-year Employment Agreement beginning March 23, 2002. According to the COA Constitution the “hiring and dismissal of the Director is the duty of the Commission on Aging subject to final approval by the County Board of Commissioners.”

Jackie Boxer-Silta, Commission on Aging Director, and Doreen Takalo, Commission on Aging Chairperson, were present. Chairperson Corkin commended Jackie Boxer-Silta for her excellent work.

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 renew Jackie Boxer-Silta’s Employment Agreement as the Director of the Commission on Aging until March 22, 2002, and if written notice is not given by either party to this agreement to the other 60 days prior to the termination date of 3/22/2002, this agreement shall be extended on the same terms and conditions for an additional period of three years.

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The Committee considered a resolution in support of the Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging and the Upper Peninsula Aging Network. Chairperson Corkin noted this resolution was adopted by the UPCAP Board of Directors on April 20, 2001 and copies were forwarded to each County Board Chairperson. Both the UPACC and UPCAP Boards are encouraging individual counties to adopt a similar resolution.

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 adopt a resolution in support of the Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging and the Upper Peninsula Aging Network.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from John Greenberg, Risk Manager, to support the “Save a Life” Project. The American Heart Association contends that many lives could be saved if Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) were more widely available to first responders such as police officers and firefighters. Defibrillation is most effective when administered within the first few minutes of cardiac arrest and can increase the survival rate by 30 to 49 percent. The “Save a Life” Project is attempting to acquire 60 AEDs with the County receiving about 10 of these for its vehicles and buildings. Marquette County could use even more, however 10 is a very good start.

Undersheriff Jack Schneider noted that one individual in his department is already qualified to train others in the use of AEDs. He plans to have at least one more AED trainer. Training takes 3 ½ to 4 hours and is done in conjunction with CPR training. The request at this time is for County “moral” support of the “Save a Life” Project on behalf of County citizens and employees. Hopefully the mid-year budget review will reveal some funds that could be used for monetary support as well.
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 support the “Save a Life” Project on behalf of County citizens and employees for the acquisition of 60 AEDs with Marquette County receiving approximately 10 for use in its vehicles and buildings.

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It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place on file a memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding legislation to increase jury fees. The MAC Board of Directors supports the concept of increased jury fees provided the State of Michigan fund 100% of any additional costs occurred.

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It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file a communication from State Representative A.T. Frank regarding the FY 2001 County Hold Harmless Legislation (PA 291 of 2000) applies to Marquette and eight other counties. Chairperson Corkin asked the Administrator to check out any legal claim that Marquette County may have.

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Chairperson Corkin read the official announcement from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, informing that Marquette County – KI Sawyer International Airport Industrial Park has been selected as the winner of the Economic Development Administration Award for Excellence for Economic Development in the category of Rural Economic Development. The presentation of the award will be made during the EDA’s National Forum on Economic Development in Washington D.C., May 29 through 31, 2001. The ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2001 at an awards luncheon to be held at 12:30 P.M. in the Washington Hilton Hotel. Congressman Bart Stupak, Sen. Carl Levin, and Sen. Debbie Stabenow will be invited to attend the luncheon and join in the presentation ceremony.

Chairperson Corkin noted that himself as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Arsenault, along with KI Sawyer Development Director Tom Rumora will be attending the awards luncheon on behalf of Marquette County.

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The Committee considered a request from the Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol for use of County lands for its annual Marquette Mountain Bike Race.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommends the County Board allow use of County lands for the Mountain Bike Race. A standard agreement with the Ski Patrol will be drafted by Civil Counsel. 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 use of County lands by the Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol for its annual Mountain Bike Race.

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The Committee considered a proposal from Teaching Family Homes (TFH) to initiate a centralized Upper Peninsula Facility for Juvenile Development. Jerry Staffeld, CEO, TFH, was present and explained that TFH is interested in a piece of property owned by the County known as the Honor Camp, which was deeded to Marquette County from the State of Michigan. They hope to initiate an Upper Peninsula Facility for Juvenile Development which would consist of a day treatment program for youth for juvenile development. TFH has secured a $500,000 grant from Lions Clubs International for development of this project but must act soon or may lose this funding. Should the County Board decide to provide the needed property for this valuable program it must be passed through the State Legislature. Sen. Don Koivisto has indicated he would introduce the land transfer if the Marquette County Board concurs.

Mr. Staffeld further explained that TFH has contacted professional fundraisers to help them raise an additional $2.5 million over the next five years. During that period they will build 4 to 5 group homes, a school, a day treatment center, and office space. TFH would employ approximately 60 people. This would be good for Marquette County and potentially could save the County many dollars for youth residential placement costs. Judge Anderegg has indicated his interest for such a program.

Administrator Steve Powers explained that Marquette County cannot just transfer this property to TFH because of statutory restrictions. Also, there is asbestos in the buildings and a decision would have to be made whether they be torn down or boarded up. There is also a pit that needs filling. All of these costs are unknown at this time.
Comm. Seppanen noted a meeting was held 1½ weeks ago regarding access through the Honor Camp Property. In order for the TFH facility to be successful they need access, however Silver Creek Road is not up to appropriate road standards. He conceptually supports the project.

Comm. Nordeen contended that Sands Township and TFH will bear the cost of the road construction, but access will be through County Road 553 out of Sands Township.

Comm. Bergdahl noted Sands Township rejected a 10 year road easement from Marquette County. They are concerned should they spend money for an access road only later not to be granted further easement. Also, the road Sands Township was proposing would be gated and used only for emergency vehicles.

Comm. Joseph questioned why the County Board is discussing an access into the Honor Camp Property? This matter falls on Road Commission authority, and should be addressed between Sands Township, the Road Commission and TFH.

Comm. Moore felt more information was needed from Judge Anderegg. She had an opportunity to speak with him about TFH and he does have some concerns. Before Marquette County commits to transferring of this property she would like more information on the proposal. There is nothing in writing between Sands Township and TFH regarding the access road which is the critical component to this proposal.

Chairperson Corkin also believes that Teaching Family Homes is an excellent program, however he would like to see the proposal to use the Honor Camp Property in writing first. Is this the best use of this land for Marquette County? The Board hasn’t addressed the Honor Camp Property for 10 years.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board generally support the concept of a Teaching Family Home proposal pending further information with no definitive Board action at this time.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, May 8, 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 April 24, 2001.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. CIS System Presentation by Planning Staff. (No Packet Materials).
7. GIS Budget Amendment.
8. Forestry Fund Transfer Recommendation.
9. Renewal of Commission on Aging Director Employment Agreement.
10. Resolution in support of Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging and the Upper
Peninsula Aging Network.
12. Information on MAC Position regarding Proposed Legislation to increase Jury Fees.
13. Information from State Rep A.T. Frank on FY 2001 County Hold Harmless Revenue
Sharing.
14. Marquette County – Sawyer International Airport Selected as Winner of the Economic
Development Administration Award for Excellence.
15. Mgt Mnt Ski Patrol use of County Lands
16. Teaching Family Homes
17.
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.