The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, November 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. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on November 13, 2001 be approved with the following correction: On the last page of the minutes under Commissioner Comments, Randy Girard also noted the following: "...and quality of screening service" regarding his commending the SIA Security Staff.

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 16th through November 20th, 2001 in the amount of $135,184.53 be approved.

The Committee considered a summary of House Bill 5357 as introduced on October 29, 2001 and the testimony of the Honorable Thomas L. Solka, 25th Circuit Court, to the Joint Senate Judiciary and House Civil Law Committee regarding a proposal to eliminate a Circuit Court Judge in Marquette County.

The Honorable Thomas Solka, Circuit Court Judge, was present and noted that on November 20th a unified effort amongst the Judges, the County Board, and the Administrator to oppose the legislation that would eliminate a Circuit Judge in Marquette County was successful. This afternoon the House Bill came out of Committee with an amendment that removes Marquette County from the list of counties where judgeships are being proposed to be eliminated.

Judge Solka testified that Marquette County's data was incorrect and we were placed in with the model of larger counties which have considerably more court staff. He noted Marquette County's presence at the hearing was a key factor. Marquette County was the most prepared of all counties giving testimony. He also commended State Representative Stephen Adamini who was very effective on behalf of Marquette County at the Committee Hearing.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Judge Solka, along with Judge Anderegg and Judge Weber, and Administrator Powers for attending the Committee hearing on behalf of Marquette County.

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

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Sheriff’s Department for three new Ford road patrol vehicles, one Chevrolet Impala for the Under Sheriff’s vehicle and a further recommendation for the installation of video cameras in the three new road patrol vehicles. Chairperson Corkin broke the Sheriff’s recommendation down into three parts, each one considered separately. Capt. Dave Lemire, Law Enforcement Services, was present to discuss the bid and answer questions.

Six bids were requests were sent out for the Ford road patrol vehicles with only one bid received from Crown Motors. The Crown Motor bid price for the three full-size four-door police package Crown Victoria patrol cars was $64,497 minus three vehicle trade-ins totaling $18,200 for a net cost of $46,297. This amount is considerably less than the capital improvement fund budget of $70,500 for the Sheriff’s patrol vehicles.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Crown Motors bid price with trade-in of $46,297 for three new Ford road patrol vehicles.

Six bids requests were sent out for the Chevrolet and two bids were received. Frei Chevrolet met the bid specifications and is the lowest bidder for one mid-size four-door police package administrative vehicle, Frei Chevrolet bid price - $19,997.40 minus the one vehicle trade-in of $4,700 for a net cost of
$15,297.40. This price is less than the capital improvement fund budget for the Under Sheriff's vehicle of $23,000.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Frei Chevrolet bid for the Under Sheriff vehicle, net price $15,297.

Due to the bids being under budget, Capt. Lemire explained the Sheriff's Department requests that video cameras be installed in each of the three new road patrol vehicles. Currently two Sheriff's patrol vehicles have been equipped since 1994 with cameras, however the technology is somewhat antiquated. Marquette Township recently equipped two road patrol vehicles with cameras as did one of the Kl Sawyer cars making a total of five Sheriff’s patrol vehicles equipped with video cameras. Video cameras have been a proven law enforcement tool when making arrests and also may reduce the number of lawsuits. The total price for the three video cameras is $13,710. There is a possibility of a 50% matching grant through MMRMA for the cameras. Either way, with or without the grant, the total cost for the cameras and the vehicle switchover cost would make the road patrol vehicles still under budget.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve the installation of video cameras in each of the three new road patrol vehicles.

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The Committee considered an invitation from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for participation in a kickoff event for the LinkMichigan Regional Telecommunications Planning Program. The Michigan EDC recently launched LinkMichigan which is a four-prong effort to transform Michigan's telecommunications infrastructure into the most advanced in the nation. The Michigan EDC will host a one day conference in East Lansing on December 4, 2001 at the Kellogg Conference Center, MSU, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend the conference. Follow-up regional workshops will also be held in 2002 with one at Northern Michigan University on January 10, 2002.

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

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The Committee considered award of a Construction Contract for the replacement of hangar doors for Sawyer Building 661, 663, and 667. Larry Coehoorn, SIA Manager, was present to discuss the construction contract and answer questions.

The FY 2002 MAP Grant includes funding for the replacement of large aircraft access doors on three hangars and other building improvements. The existing doors are old and worn so opening them is difficult and unsafe. URS lists the five bids that were received for the construction project and recommends awarding the contract to the low bidder, Preumeau Construction, in the amount of $1,496,508. The engineer's estimate cost for the project was $1.6 million. The amount of funding available is $1,762,000 with a local share of $149,650 to come from the sale proceeds of the former County Airport.

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 award the Replacement Hangar Door Contract to Preumeau Construction in the amount of $1,496,508 for Sawyer Buildings 661, 663, and 667.

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The Committee considered a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Sontec, Inc. for Building 813. Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, was present to discuss the agreement and answer questions.

Approximately three months ago Sawyer Staff presented a recommendation to enter into a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Sontec for Sawyer Building 501, however a new opportunity involving Building 501 as a portion of a larger project has developed. Sontec is instead willing to utilize Sawyer Building 813. Sontec is a provider of medical instruments and will employ 12 people.

The appraised value of the building is $225,000. This assessment assumes certain improvements to the facility are made including heat conversion, asbestos removal, and building code improvements. Heat conversion is being covered by the Air Force. Asbestos removal will be recovered by Sawyer’s budget, however this cost may be absorbed or partially reimbursed by Caretaker Funds. Sontec is willing to do the construction provided the purchase price is appropriately reduced.

Staff recommends the County Board enter into a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Sontec according to the following terms:

1) Purchase price shall be $175,000
2) Terms will be 6% amortized over 20 years with a balloon payment after two years. This equates to a monthly rental rate of $1,253.75 for 24 months with a final payment of $165,367.64 in the 25th month.

3) Sontec is purchasing a 30-year old company from Denver and is planning to close in January. The lease would be contingent on a successful purchase of this company.

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 enter into a Lease/Purchase Agreement with Sontec, Inc. for Sawyer Building 813 as outlined by Staff.

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Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, was present and provided a Marketing and Development Department Report. Ms. Kulju also distributed merchandise bags with the Sawyer International Airport Logo on them. These bags will be used in the Coffee/Gift Shop at the Airport Terminal for merchandise such as t-shirts, hats, and also distributed at various trade shows.

The Marketing and Development Report included a list of projects pending and also proposals for the 2001/2002 Marketing Plan for Sawyer International Airport Awareness.

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

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Seppanen recently visited the Health Department and was surprised to discover the Environmental Health Division is not tied-in with the County’s GIS System, however Health Department Staff would like to be. He thought the County’s GIS software would be able to accomplish this and requested Staff to review the matter.

Comm. Corking noted a number of complaints have been received regarding snow removal and Commissioners are following up on the matter with the Road Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 27, 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.
6. Proposal to Add and Eliminate Judgeships.
8. Link Michigan Regional Telecommunications Planning Program.
10. Revised Lease with Sontec.
12.
13.
14.
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.