The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 22, 2001, 6:00 P.M., Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Courthouse, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.


Chairperson Corkin welcomed Comm. Tuominen back from hip surgery.

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 May 8, 2001 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 6a) Construction Code Administration and Enforcement.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 11, 2001 through May 17, 2001 in the amount of $314,752.94 be approved.

Colleen Carlyle, KI Sawyer Resident, made a presentation to the Committee regarding Green Space at KI Sawyer. Ms. Carlyle noted that her great great uncle Frederick Law Olmstead, who designed Central Park in New York City, was brought to Marquette to help design a city park. Mr. Olmstad toured Presque Isle and recommended that it be left as it is because of its natural unspoiled beauty. Ms. Carlyle related that the Community of Sawyer has many natural green spaces within the residential areas which are recognized as a natural treasure by Sawyer’s current residents. They are used for berry picking, bird watch, hiking, and serve as a great place for cross country skiing, snow shoeing, and snowmobiling. The green spaces also support a trail system that interconnects the neighborhoods and provides safe access to Little Trout Lake for children and adults. Ms. Carlyle has collected the signatures of over 200 Sawyer residents supporting the preservation of green spaces at Sawyer. Only five individuals would not sign the petition.

Comm. Nordeen reported that Forsyth Township and West Branch Township are both interested in taking ownership and preserving the green spaces at KI Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin explained a recreation plan for Sawyer will be coming to the County Board for its consideration. He thanked Ms. Carlyle on behalf of the County Board for caring enough to get involved in her community.

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The Committee considered a notice from the Michigan Bureau of Construction Codes regarding the administration and enforcement of the Michigan Building Code, Michigan Mechanical Code, and the Michigan Plumbing Code. The new construction codes become effective July 31, 2001 and the Act requires that the Chief Elected Official of a governmental subdivision sign the notice by June 21, 2001 of its intent to administer and enforce the codes.

Chairperson Corkin wanted this information brought before the Commissioners so they are aware of the changes in construction administration and enforcement. Since 1974 Marquette County has administered the construction codes. The State Construction Code Act provides that a local unit of government may administer and enforce the codes or elect to discontinue administration and enforcement, in which case the State would enforce and administer the construction codes. Also, a city or township can choose to administer and enforce their own construction codes (Ishpeming Township currently administers and enforces its own building code, however Marquette County enforces the mechanical, plumbing, and electric codes in Ishpeming Township).

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the Building Codes Department generated $397,800 in revenue for the year 2000 while expenses were $457,600. Using a 5-year average (1995 – 2000) from the cost of services analysis, construction code recovers 72% of costs including administrative expenses. County policy for the future is to slowly narrow that gap to eventually bring revenue equal to cost of services.

Comm. Seppanen noted that building contractors do not want the enforcement of the construction codes to be provided by the State of Michigan. Marquette County provides fast and timely service.
Comm. Arsenault reported a building contractor called him to lend his support to the Marquette County Building Codes Department. There may be a problem from time to time, but overall the Marquette County Building Codes Department does an excellent job.

Greg Sicotte, Building Official, explained Marquette County is one of the few counties in the Upper Peninsula that enforces and administers with all types of construction code inspectors. Not only are contractors in support of the County enforcing the building codes but also the building trades. There is no option for different code criteria, either the County enforces and administers the construction codes or the State of Michigan will do it. The new construction codes will be simpler for individuals who are doing their own construction. One book will be provided for residential construction and another book for commercial construction. Previously all codes were in the same manual.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanan, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct the Chairperson to sign the Notice of Adoption indicating that Marquette County will administer and enforce the Michigan Building Code, the Michigan Mechanical Code, and the Michigan Plumbing Code as established by law.

The Committee considered a proposal from Commissioner Nordeen that the County Board provide a permanent easement to the Marquette County Road Commission for an access road into the Honor Camp Property from M-553. He contended it is the Road Commission’s responsibility to deal with roads. By providing this easement Sands Township can deal with the Road Commission directly rather than the County Board. The easement would be a win win situation for Sands Township and the County.

Comm. Seppanan noted this access road has been in consideration for approximately 12 years. In the future this will become a primary road and this easement will be a good first step. Sands Township is split and needs this access.

Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, was present and explained that eight years ago Sands Township approached the County for easement into the Honor Camp Property for emergency vehicle purposes. The road at that time would have cost $210,000 to construct, however the County would only provide for a 10 year easement so the project was scrapped. Today’s costs for the same road would be approximately four times as much. Sands Township maintains a small fire station at the end of Silver Creek Road with one fire truck and two employees, however emergency responders must come from the Sands Township Hall. The distance to the Silver Creek Road from the Hall along County Road 480, Cherry Creek Road, and US 41 is approximately 12 miles, whereas through the access road the distance would be about 2 ½ miles. This is the only access to the Honor Camp from Sands.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, explained an easement is an actual interest in real estate, whereas a license would be granting permission for use. There should be no problem with Marquette County providing an easement for this property but title will be more difficult. The property was given to the County of Marquette by the State of Michigan and has some legislative restrictions.

Comm. Tuominen noted that the Marquette County Road Commission’s next meeting isn’t until June 14th. They must officially accept this easement.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide the Road Commission a permanent easement for an access road through the Honor Camp Property from M-553 in Sands Township.

The Committee considered the Annual Application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Corrections Funds. The Community Corrections Advisory Board approved the application on May 10, 2001.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the application requests $94,500 for Marquette County to provide community corrections programs and $47,085 for residential substance abuse treatment services. There is no County match, however the State requires Board of Commission approval of the application. The Community Corrections Advisory Board approved the application on May 10, 2001.

Services funded by the grant include case management and administration of community service, adult education, work release, and electronic monitoring. The grant also funds probation residential services provided by Great Lakes Recovery Centers.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanan, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Corrections Funds.
The Committee considered a letter from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Health Department Director, to State Representative Stephen Adamini regarding the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Community Health consideration of eliminating the $821,000 (2%) increase for Local Public Health Operations (LPHO) in the Michigan Department of Community Health’s Budget. A recent survey of Local Health Departments demonstrates that LPHO represents one-third of all State funding for local health departments. Two percent funding increase for LPHO is “core funding” and should not be confused with “provider increases.” Although the State House of Representatives has restored the 2% funding, he urged Rep. Adamini to contact Senate members for support of reinstatement of the 2% increase for LPHO funding.

Comm. Wallace further noted that the 1978 Public Health Code requires the State of Michigan to pay 50% of the cost for mandated services. Only once since the Public Health Code was adopted has the State met this requirement. Cutting the 2% LPHO increase will cause a severe hardship on local Health Department operations.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee send a letter to State Senator Koivisto urging reinstatement of the 2% increase for LPHO funding and that Dr. Johnson’s letter be accepted and placed on file.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept and place on file a Notice from the Marquette County EMS Medical Control Authority of their appreciation and awards program to be held Wednesday, May 23, 2001, 6:30 P.M., MGH Conference Room #1. The program is part of 2001 EMS Week for which the County Board has previously adopted a resolution.

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Richard Hendrickson, Real Estate Broker, White Water Realty in Marquette, presented a Waterfall Park Plan for Marquette County. Mr. Hendrickson explained if Marquette County hired him he would inventory about 30 waterfalls in Marquette County, seek out the owners of those properties and negotiate for their transfer to county ownership in exchange for approximately 4,000 acres of County forestlands. He would act as broker for the land transfers, his fee based on the value of the land transferred by the County, which could be paid with property. These waterfalls would then become a County waterfall park. Tourists would spend two to three days in Marquette County visiting the waterfalls and generate more revenue than would the sale of timber.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee suggest Mr. Hendrickson present his waterfall park plan to the Marquette County Planning Commission for their review.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Lyn Nelson, Community Corrections Coordinator, and also Sands Township EMS Coordinator, thanked the County Board for the recommendation to grant the Road Commission easement so Sands Township can have access through the Honor Camp Property. Ms. Nelson also thanked the Committee for approving the application to the Michigan Department of Community Corrections for its annual funding.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin noted that May is a five Tuesday month so there is no Board meeting on May 29th. He wished Commissioners a good Memorial Day weekend.

Chairperson Corkin further noted that he will attend the National Forum on Economic Development in Washington, D.C. along with Comm. Arsenault and Tom Rumora, Sawyer Development Director, May 29 through 31, 2001. Marquette County will receive an award at a luncheon on Wednesday, May 30th as the winner of the Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) Award for Excellence in the category of Rural Economic Development.

Chairperson Corkin reminded Commissioners that they are invited to attend an open house in celebration of the Ishpeming City Hall, Friday, June 1, 2001 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Comm. Wallace reported that he will be going to Tampa, Florida to attend a National Public Health Forum regarding preparedness training on bioterrorism.

County Clerk Dave Roberts reported that the Apportionment Commission approved a 9 Commissioner District Plan at its meeting Friday, May 18, 2001. A black and white map of the 9 District Plan along with
the written description was provided in Commissioner mailboxes. Clerk Roberts noted many plans were reviewed utilizing County Planner Bill Rowe and our GIS system. The intent of the Apportionment Commission was to approve the most responsible plan in the interest of Marquette County with no intent or forethought as to which Commissioner Districts would be eliminated.

County Board consensus was that the Apportionment Commission did an excellent job and have approved a responsible plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, May 22, 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. Green Space at Sawyer Housing (no packet materials).
8. Application to Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Correction Funding.
9. Info – Letter from Dr. Randall Johnson, Health Department Director, to State Representative Steve Adamini regarding Funding for Local Public Health Operations.
11. Presentation on Waterfall Park Concept (no packet materials).
12. Advertisement for Haskell & Coddington
13. 
14. 
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.