The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 12, 2001, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Courthouse Complex, 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 May 22, 2001 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Mr. Joseph Pietro, representing the “Wall of Fame” Committee provided an update. The mural is done, materials have been ordered for the case, a carpenter is contracted to build it, and Peterson Glass will provide the windows. The Committee has spent $1,000 so far out of the $1,500 committed by the County Board for the project. The Committee has also received a $500 anonymous donation and another $500 donation is soon forthcoming. This provides for $1,500 on hand. The Committee needs a $3,000 loan from the County Board to complete the project. A dedication ceremony scheduled for June 16th was postponed until the Kelly Johnson Memorial Drive repairs are completed. The Wall of Fame display will include the name, rank, and branch of service for the military personnel being honored and similarly the aviation titles of non-military personnel such as Kelly Johnson. Mr. Pietro further noted a fundraising dinner will be held sometime in the future. He perceives no problem in raising the necessary funds for the Wall of Fame project.

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

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 16) Sawyer Construction Project - Parallel Runway Bid Award, Item 17) Technical Energy Audit of Courthouse Complex, Item 18) Agreement with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for 2% Gaming Revenues, Item 19) Request for Early Purchase of Property by KI Sawyer Processing, and Item 20) Amendment to the Lease with Searle Contracting/Mike Wills Excavating.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the Period June 1, 2001 through June 7, 2001 in the amount of $302,469.72 be approved.

The Honorable Michael J. Anderegg, Probate Judge, was present to report on an upcoming Balanced and Restored to Justice (BARJ) Conference on June 21, 2001 at Northern Michigan University Center, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. hosted by the Marquette County Juvenile Department, the Family Division of Circuit Court, and the Marquette-Alger Resolution Services. Judge Anderegg noted that the Juvenile Department received a $13,000 federal grant of which $2,400 of it will be used for the BARJ Conference. Eighty-seven people have registered so far and he invited Commissioners, and any interested citizen to also attend. BARJ is a theoretical approach to juvenile justice and is getting attention not just in Michigan but nationally. This balanced approach is more a philosophy of rehabilitating young offenders rather than punishing them. It is an approach that emphasizes victim participation and enhancing community involvement along with offender accountability. Three equally important objectives of the juvenile justice system in this model are: community safety, offender accountability including restitution, and assessment in competency and development in young offenders.

Most juvenile courts are already doing some of the things that the BARJ system encourages and implement a philosophy that emphasizes rehabilitation rather than punishment. Holding the BARJ conference was the number one priority identified by the Youth Violence Workgroup.

Commissioners thanked Judge Anderegg for the presentation and commended the Probate Court for their efforts in juvenile justice.

John Carlson, Marquette County Mine Inspector, provided an update. He has visited both the Tilden and Empire Mines during the last six weeks and has made a number of recommendations for safety improvements. He has traveled extensively over Marquette County and has discovered several pits that need
fencing or filling. He has received much help from Cheryl Hill of the Prosecutor’s Office. Often the landowner is not necessarily the mineral rights owner and it is very difficult to find who is the responsible party.

Mr. Carlson thanked the County Board for his new GPS System. He has now placed 50 abandoned mining sites on the GPS system and will add another 100. He thanked International Paper and Mead Corporation for assisting him in finding several abandoned mines on their property. After he completes a GPS inventory of the iron mining sites he wants to log in approximately 100 old gold mines in Marquette County. Mr. Carlson noted he will expend his entire travel budget by the end of July and have to request more travel funding.

Chairperson Corkin and Commissioners commended Mr. Carlson for his efforts and noted increased travel expenditures indicate he is attempting to do something on behalf of the citizens of Marquette County.

The Committee considered the 2001 Personal Computer Bid Award. Brent Nault, Information System Manager, was present and recommended awarding the PC bid to Computer Associates of Marquette in an amount not to exceed $14,475. Bids were received for eight personal computers, and one GIS work station. Computer Associates of Marquette met the specifications and are the low qualified bidder.

The 2001 Copy/Computer Fund budget has funds to replace five PC’s and purchase four new PC’s for various departments. The budget for these expenditures is $18,000 with an actual cost of $14,475.

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 award the Personal Computer Bid to Computer Associates of Marquette in the amount of $14,457.

The Committee considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation from May 22, 2001 to provide the Road Commission a permanent easement for an access road through the Honor Camp Property from M-553 in Sands Township. This recommendation was tabled at the June 5, 2001 Regular County Board meeting.

Comm. Tuominen has met with the Road Commission which has directed its staff to work with Sands Township on the proposal. When they are ready with the proposal they will come back to the County Board.

Chairperson Corkin declared that the Committee of the Whole recommendation will continue to lay on the table.

The Committee considered the renewal and revisions to an Agreement with the Marquette County EDC/Lake Superior Community Partnership. The 2001 General Fund Budget includes $68,000 for economic development. The Agreement continues County support for Economic Development/Lake Superior Community Partnership as the County-wide private/public nonprofit development organization. The previous agreement between the County and the LSCP and between the County and the EDC are combined into one agreement. In addition to economic development services, the recommended agreement provides compensation to the EDC/LSCP on behalf of Marquette County should they secure leases or purchase agreements for specific buildings at Sawyer.

The term of the Agreement is for June 20, 2001 to June 30, 2002. The Agreement requires the EDC/LSCP to provide a detailed work plan with activities and goals for the upcoming year.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve of the renewal and revisions to the Agreement with the Marquette County EDC/Lake Superior Community Partnership.

The Committee considered an amendment to the Sawyer International Airport Budget of $27,000. The Marquette County Airport Fuel Farm closure account has a cash balance of $27,000. Staff recommends the use of up to $10,000 for the purchase of one lawnmower for KI Sawyer with the remaining funds for monitoring and testing of the fuel farm.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the debt for the fuel farm at the former airport has been paid off and our monitoring plan for the site has been accepted by the Michigan DEQ. The remaining $17,000 should be used for ongoing monitoring and testing. The current cost is $3,500 per year and the need for monitoring and testing is determined by the DEQ on an annual basis, for how long is unknown at this time.

Mr. Pawley further noted that the County owned land within the Airport Park and Business Center is not being properly mowed. The caretaker lawnmowers are fully used for areas owned by the Air Force. The appearance of the Industrial Park and the Business Center will deteriorate without proper equipment. No additional staff is needed for the mowing. Of the four lawnmowers being utilized by Airport Staff, one is used for parts
because it is beyond repair, and the other three are of the approximate same age. Soon all of them will have to be replaced.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a budget amendment for Sawyer International Airport utilizing $10,000 for the purchase of one lawn mower with the remaining funds for monitoring and testing of the former airport fuel farm.

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The Committee considered a Construction Contract for renovations to hangar 400. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that an FY 2000 MAP Grant included funding for replacement and upgrading the aged electrical system and installation of insulation for Sawyer Hangar 400. A letter enclosed from URS, the engineer for the project, recommends the award of the construction contract go to Premeau Construction in the amount of $599,400. This is less than the budgeted grant amount for the project with the use of sale proceeds from the Marquette airport to fund the County’s 10% local share. (Approximately $560,000 in uncommitted funds are left from the sale of the airport).

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Seppanen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Construction Contract for renovations to Sawyer Hangar 400, contract to go to Premeau Construction in the amount of $599,400.

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The Committee considered approval of the Marquette County Strategic Plan for 2001 through 2006 as prepared by Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc. Steve Powers, County Administrator, also distributed a memo which he intends for distribution of the Strategic Plan to elected officials and department directors/managers. Administrator Powers intends to use the plan in the 2002 budget process in developing work plans for departments which are accountable to the Board of Commissioners. The Strategic Plan will also be discussed at upcoming Department Director meetings to develop ideas for wider use of the plan.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Strategic Plan 2001- 2006 as prepared by Lyle Sumek Associates, Inc.

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The Committee considered an award of a Construction Project for repairs to the parallel taxiway “A”. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the FY 2001 MAP Grant included funding for these repairs. The recommendation from the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics is to award the contract to the low bidder, Scodeller Construction, South Lyon, Michigan in the amount of $99,364.87. This is less than the grant budget amount and the local 5% share is eligible for payment from passenger facility charges.

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 Contract with Scodeller Construction for repairs to Parallel Taxiway “A” in the amount of $99,364.87.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from Larry L. Gould, Facility Manager, for a Technical Energy Audit (TEA). Mr. Gould explained that the first phase of the Michigan School and Local Government Energy Initiative (SLGEI) was completed at no cost to Marquette County by Kevin Cook of G-Energy (State Consultant). Outlined in the report are several items that need detail study to identify cost effective changes of equipment or operations to make use of energy more efficiently and save on utility costs.

Mr. Gould explained that Marquette County has solicited proposals from the State’s pre-qualified list of energy consultants and received five bids. Consumer Energy, Flint Michigan, has provided the proposal with the least cost. Mr. Cook did an extensive review of Consumer Energy’s proposal including checking several private and public facilities where they have previously performed studies and received very good reports on their work. The Consumer Energy price quote of $9,928 is within the range for this type of study and Mr. Gould recommends the County enter into a contract for the TEA, by taking advantage of the State’s six month repayable grant for the project cost. There are no funds designated for the project but Mr. Gould believes the County should move forward with the project to identify cost savings and paybacks for energy conservation.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted there is $20,000 budgeted in the facilities manager priority fund. The cost of the project could be paid from that fund with part also to be paid from the Defant Building Authority CIP Budget. Commissioners questioned whether or not the Health Department Service Center could also be included in the technical energy audit. The Health Department will have to pay a prorated amount for their
share of the study. Mr. Gould indicated that the TEA project in ongoing and there should be no problem to have them included.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Technical Energy Audit for the County Courthouse Complex and the DeFant Building at the Consumer Energy price quote of $9,928 and further that the Health Department Service Center be included should the Health Department agree to pay the additional cost.

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The Committee considered an Agreement between the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the County of Marquette for 2% gaming revenues in the amount of $5,500 to support the South YMCA at KI Sawyer.

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 approve the Agreement with the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the 2% Gaming Revenues.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from the KI Sawyer Economic Development Committee to allow for the early purchase by KI Processing of buildings and attached property.

Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Department Director, was present and gave a brief outline of KI Processing to date. In October, 1998 the County Board approved a four year lease to KI Processing for a potato processing plant. If the plant was operating after four years and the lease payments were up to date, the property would be conveyed to KI Processing with the rent applied to the purchase price of $175,000. Since this agreement a milk processing plant has been added which increased the total purchasing price to $210,000. KI Processing now needs early title to the property to start the milk processing plant. Their financing is contingent upon having title. KI Processing will take out a loan and when the loan closes they will then proceed to pay the County the $210,000 and the current lease will terminate. In the meantime, the deed to the property will be held under an escrow agreement. If the loan does not proceed the lease will in effect continue under the present terms.

Civil Counsel Harley Andrews explained there are two items in this process that are not in Barry Bahman’s control. One is a document from the Air Force titled Grant of Easement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants. Once that document is filed then a 60 day timeframe to close the loan seems reasonable.

The other item not in Mr. Bahman’s control is the realignment of Avenue “B” which will take part of the parcel under consideration. Therefore a new legal description will need to be drafted and a smaller parcel will have effect on the final purchase price.

Comm. Joseph expressed some concerns about the KI Processing Project, including the number of jobs created, the realignment of Avenue “B”, originally the project was for potato processing now the project is a milk production/distribution project.

Barry Bahman was present and noted that KI Processing will have invested approximately $1 million without any funds from the County or the State. The only outside funds were federal funds for heat conversion. He has taken one of the worst buildings at KI Sawyer and now turned it into one of the best buildings. There is still some work to do but KI Processing has come a long way. He has done everything that has been asked of him. The potato processing plant has been side railed because of the wastewater treatment issue. Mr. Bahman contends he is not going anywhere and is committed to making this project work. The title to this property is the last step in his business plan. He invites any Commissioner to visit with him personally to review his business plan.

Comm.Arsenault, Chairperson of the KI Sawyer EDC, noted that the Committee unanimously supported KI Processing’s request. He believes Marquette County’s philosophy should be to encourage investment at KI Sawyer. He would like to allow Barry Bahman the opportunity to try. If he fails at least he had a chance to try. Hundreds of businesses fail in this country.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board allow the early purchase by KI Processing of the buildings and attached property by entering into a purchase agreement which includes an escrow agreement with KI Processing for the property.

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The Committee considered a recommendation from the KI Sawyer EDC to amend the lease with Searle Contracting and Mike Wills Excavating and Trucking. Tom Rumora, KI Sawyer Development Director, was present and explained that Searle Contracting wants out of the lease for Sawyer Building 408. Mike Wills Excavating and Trucking will continue with the lease with the same terms and conditions as provided in the original lease.
It was moved by Comm. Arsenaught, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board amend the lease for Sawyer Building 408 with Searle Contracting being deleted leaving Mike Wills Excavating and Trucking as the only leaseholder.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin noted that Congress has appropriated $300,000 to equip the Sawyer International Airport tower thanks to efforts by Sen. Levin. This will allow SIA to participate in the FAA’s Contract Tower Program. In the program, the FAA uses a cost/benefit ratio to determine the portion of operating costs that are the Airport’s responsibility. For SIA the location operating portion is 21% which is estimated to cost Marquette County $75,000 for the first year to operate. The benefits of the tower include increased possibility for air cargo operations and military fueling. Larry Coelhoorn is working with FAA representatives and Sen. Levin’s staff. A more complete update and recommendation will be provided possibly at mid-year budget review or as part of the 2002 budget process.

Comm. Bergdahl noted with pleasure the number of passengers flying in and out of Sawyer International Airport has increased dramatically.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, June 12, 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. Marquette County Balanced and Restorative Justice Conference, June 21, 2001, 9-3 P.M., University Center, NMU.
7. Update from John Carlson, Marquette County Mine Inspector (no packet materials).
8. Update on SIA Terminal “Wall of Fame” Project.
11. Renewal of Agreement with Marquette County EDC and the Lake Superior Community Partnership.
12. SIA Budget Amendment: Lawn Mower Purchase and Monitoring of Fuel Farm.
13. Bid Award for Renovation of Sawyer Hangar 400 ($ MAP).
15. Strategic Plan.
16. Sawyer Construction Project Parallel Runway (Bid Award)
17. Tech Energy Audit
18. Agent VIPs 2001 2002 2003
19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.