The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 26, 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. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 12, 2001 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read a resolution honoring Donald A. Bell on his retirement and presented a plaque to Mr. Bell, resolution as follows:

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION HONORING DONALD A. BELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens the best services possible by hiring employees of the finest quality; and

WHEREAS, Donald A. Bell was hired on June 17, 1974 as a Courthouse Custodian/Service Worker, and

WHEREAS, Donald A. Bell will retire on June 29, 2001 after 27 years of service to Marquette County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully acknowledges its appreciation for the dedicated service of Don Bell since June of 1974; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all County Citizens, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wish Don a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

Proclaimed this 26th day of June, 2001
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 19) Change Order to Timberland Engineering, Inc. Contract, Item 20) Lease for Community Corrections Office with O'Dovero Properties, Item 21) Honor Camp Access Road, Item 22) Update on Jail Aide Program, and Item 23) Road Commission Status Discussion.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 15, 2001 through June 21, 2001 in the amount of $601,595.66 be approved.

The Committee considered a resolution to approve the Upper Peninsula Area on Agency FY 2002 Annual Implementation Plan. The Annual Implementation Plan contains objectives and budgets which designate funding for services and programs provided to elderly residents of the Upper Peninsula.

Comm. Tuominen noted that the Marquette County Commission on Aging has reviewed the plan and unanimously voted to support it.

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 the Resolution supporting the U.P. Area Agency on Aging Annual Implementation Plan for FY 2002.

The Committee considered the Marquette County Jail Inspection Report from the Michigan Department of Corrections. Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the facility items are being reviewed and worked on. The most difficult inspection finding to be addressed is health appraisals. The Sheriff is still seeking a physician to service the Marquette County Jail and is in discussions concerning compensation with a local doctor. Hopefully that issue will be resolved in the near future.
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place the jail inspection report on file.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that a public notice from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality regarding the replacement of a culvert on Whetstone Creek in Marquette Township be placed on file.

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It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that a communication from the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division regarding re-examination of their snow assistance policy be placed on file.

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The Committee considered a draft Resolution in Support of Five-Member Boards of Road Commissioners. Comm. Nordeen supports the concept of a Five-Member Road Commission, however thought that a paragraph should be added to the resolution requiring that all Road Commissioners be from townships and not from the cities. He noted that in Marquette County the Marquette County Road Commission does not maintain the streets and roads located within the city jurisdictions.

Comm. Bergdahl reported that in many smaller counties the county road commission does in fact maintain the roads and streets within small city limits. Comm. Moore felt that the resolution’s language should be broad at this time. Its main objective is to get the counties and our Legislature moving in the direction of a five-member road commission. Specific details can be worked on later.

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 adopt the Resolution in Support of Five-Member Board of Road Commissioners and that it be sent to all counties in the State of Michigan, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Michigan Township’s Association, and our Upper Peninsula State Legislators.

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The Committee considered an Administrator’s recommendation that they authorize him to approve baseline environmental assessments (BEA) for properties to be acquired by Marquette County at KI Sawyer. Administrator Powers noted the actual cost of a BEA will vary depending upon the size and complexity of a parcel of property, however the estimated cost for a BEA would be just under $5,000. BEA’s may be needed for six properties over the next twelve months with costs to be charged to the KI Sawyer Development Fund.

Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, explained Marquette County would needs BEA’s for protection with respect to the Michigan DEQ. The County, in agreement with the Air Force, can require remediation for any contamination up to certain levels, however the DEQ may require the remediation be done immediately. Under stricter criteria Marquette County would be responsible. A BEA will establish a baseline for the County and the Air Force.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, further noted that a BEA must be completed within 45 days of acquiring Sawyer property whether the County leases or sells such property. BEA’s will not be done in the PBT zone nor will any be done in the housing areas at Sawyer.

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 authorize the County Administrator to enter into contracts for individual BEA for properties to be acquired by Marquette County following the County Purchasing Policy with quotes requested only from qualified environmental firms.

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The Committee considered the FY 2001 AIP and MAP Grant Funding for the following projects: Passenger boarding bridges, constructing general aviation t-hangars, replace nose dock hangar doors, and ALP update/wildlife management plan.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and noted the projects estimated costs are approximately $3,648,000 with anticipated start dates for July, 2001. The Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics provides project administration services and 5% state share for the projects eligible under their policy guidelines. The agreement has received administrative and legal review.
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 enter into a contract for the development of Sawyer International Airport for FY 2001 AIP and MAP Grant funding in the amount of $3,648,000.

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The Committee considered approval of the Engineering Services Agreement with URS Corporation Great Lakes for the FY 2001 AIP/MAP projects.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that SIA is proceeding with the design of the passenger boarding bridges, construction of the general aviation t-hangars, and the replacement of the nose dock hangar doors in an attempt to complete the construction for use before the upcoming winter season. The proposed Engineering Services Agreement with URS Corp. Great Lakes is to perform the engineering design, contract administration, and construction inspection for these projects at a total cost of $181,500 which is far less than the estimated construction costs.

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 approve the Engineering Services Agreement with URS Corporation Great Lakes for administering the FY 2001 AIP/Map Grant funded projects.

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The Committee considered the bid award of a contract for the passenger boarding bridges with DEW Bridge in the amount of $750,840. Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, explained that our FY 2001 AIP/MAP programs include grant funding for two passenger boarding bridges which will allow passengers to walk between the terminal and aircraft without being exposed to the outside elements. Mesaba and American Eagle Airlines would each have a bridge at their gate, Skyways would not have a bridge at this time because their aircraft are not compatible. The two passenger boarding bridges will be heated in the winter and air conditioned in the summer and meet ADA specifications. Completion date for the project is early November, 2001.

Commissioners noted the passenger boarding bridges will be a welcome addition at Sawyer International Airport.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, 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 DEW Bridge in the amount of $750,840 for the construction of two passenger boarding bridges at Sawyer International Airport.

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The Committee considered a bid award to Rapid Electric Sales and Services, Inc. for electrical services upgrade for 20 wastewater lift pump stations at KI Sawyer. The engineer’s estimate for the cost of the project was $148,000. Five bids were received with Rapid Electric Sales & Service being the low bidder at $71,348.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and further explained that the project will reduce unmetered electric use and allow electricity costs to be charged to the wastewater program. The work includes removing existing pumps, piping controls in one lift station and replacement with a new submersible pump system with controls. Installing new external alarm beacons on one lift station control panel. Installing new electrical services with feeders, watt hour meters, fusible disconnect switches to 17 lift stations, and a stormwater lift station. The work will be completed on or before October 1, 2001. The lift stations are located at various sites throughout KI Sawyer. The project will start standardizing lift pump stations and the project is funded by the Air Force through caretaker funds.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the contract with Rapid Electric Sales & Service, Inc., the low bidder for the electrical services upgrade for wastewater lift pump stations at KI Sawyer in the amount of $71,348.

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The Committee considered a contract for concrete block repair to buildings 860, 861, and 634 with Closner Construction Company, Inc. for the amount of $7,695.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and noted that the Air Force is satisfied that the price quoted is fair and equitable for the work involved. The project is funded from Air Force Caretaker Funds. Although Closner Construction was the only bidder they have been involved in the masonry phase of construction for the past 35 years. This project can be started immediately and be completed
within 30 days. Their bid is a price for the repair of 140 concrete blocks on two buildings at a total cost of $7,695. If additional blocks over the 140 are needed they will cost $55 per block. Mr. Pawley noted if additional blocks are required it should not be a significant number and the Air Force is satisfied with the price.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Concrete Block Repair Contract award to Closner Construction Company, Inc. for Sawyer buildings 860, 861, and 634 at an amount of $7,695 (140 blocks) with an additional $55 for each additional block over 140.

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The Committee considered a Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics Air Services Grant Award in the amount of $8,000 for two Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) cabinets, plus associated equipment and training of personnel.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the Bureau of Aeronautics has approved the State portion of $7,200 with the local match of $800 available in this year’s airport budget. The airlines have been looking forward to the acquisition of AED equipment and are training their own people so 24 hour coverage will be available at the SIA Terminal.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics Air Services Grant in the amount of $8,000 for the acquisition of two Automatic External Defibrillators for Sawyer International Airport.

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The Committee considered a Change Order to the Timberland Engineering, Inc. Contract for the electrical system upgrade to the lift pump stations at KI Sawyer.

Hal Pawley, Airport Manager, was present and explained that this is an Air Force approved and funded change for additional work to the original contract. The Change Order is in the amount of $1,255.90 to add surge arrestors and an additional flashing red beacon to each of the lift pump stations.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of Change Order Request No. 2 in the Contract with Timberland Engineering, Inc. for the electrical service upgrade to Sawyer Lift Pump Stations.

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The Committee considered a lease with O'Dovero Properties for Community Corrections office space.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted that the State Office of Community Corrections is funding the lease. The annual rent will be $6,300 for 500 square feet, utilities included. No County funds are needed.

Lyn Nelson, Community Corrections Coordinator, has received approval from the State Office of Community Corrections to relocate the Community Corrections Office outside of the jail. The proposed move would be to 290 Rublein Street, Marquette which would allow Community Corrections to offer a pretrial monitoring program. The space will also improve client and agency access to community corrections.

The lease is being prepared by Larry Gould, Facilities Manager, and will be reviewed by Civil Counsel prior to signature. The lease will be between O'Dovero Properties and the County of Marquette.

Should the State ever cut its funding to Community Corrections then the County would have to terminate the lease. Furniture is also funded by the grant and no additional telephone lines would be needed. The space was previously occupied by Lutheran Social Services. Community Corrections personnel would be responsible for cleaning their own office space.

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 of the Lease for Community Corrections Office Space with O'Dovero Properties.

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The County Board considered a recommendation from Road Commission Staff regarding an easement into the Honor Camp Property in Sands Township. Comm. Tuominen noted that Road Commission Staff met with the Sands Township Supervisor and recommends a that a three way
agreement between the Road Commission, the County Board of Commissioners, and Sands Township be prepared which would include the following points:

- The County Board would grant the Road Commission the right-of-way.
- The Road Commission would not be required to spend any money to build, upgrade, or maintain the road until it is accepted as a county road and further, the road will not be accepted until it is built to the County Road Commission specifications.
- The Road Commission would give a permit to the Township to allow them to use, build, and maintain a right-of-way as an access road.
- The Township and others would have the financial responsibility to build the road up to County Road Commission specifications before it was accepted into the County Road Commission system.

Comm. Tuominen further contended that another point should be included in the agreement and that is Marquette County and the Road Commission would be held harmless for any liability as a result of the right-of-way access provided to Sands Township.

Comm. Nordeen strongly urged the Committee to grant the Road Commission the right-of-way. As far as he is concerned the remaining points in the recommendation are between Sands Township and the Road Commission.

Comm. Seppanen believed that granting the easement would be a step in the right direction, however wanted to emphasize this access road through the Honor Camp Property will not be a road for the general public. The road is only to be used for Sands Township Emergency Vehicles.

Comm. Joseph contended all the points recommended by Road Commission Staff in the agreement are necessary. The Road Commission will not accept easement into the Honor Camp Property unless the three way agreement is signed.

Comm. Moore felt the three way agreement is a step towards the County granting the Road Commission the easement. We need this agreement first, the easement comes afterward.

Harley, Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, pointed out that the Road Commission does not want to be granted an easement until there is a commitment made to build the road. To grant an easement to the Road Commission would be encumbering this property. What the Board is now discussing is a three way agreement between the Road Commission, the County Board, and Sands Township which has to be drafted and signed. This would be one document. Once the agreement is completed then the legal document for the easement would have to be prepared.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct Staff to meet with the Road Commission and Sands Township to work out the details of the three-way agreement for County Board consideration.

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Comm. Seppanen noted that Rich Rossway, member of the Marquette Area Public Schools (MAPS) Board of Education has found a replacement provider for the Marquette County Jail Adult Education GED Program which is PAL, a Michigan Works education program.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct Staff to write a letter on behalf of the County Board to the Marquette Area Public Schools thanking Rich Rossway for his assistance for the Jail Education Program.

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The Committee considered a discussion of the Road Commission status.

Comm. Nordeen explained he is concerned about the Road Commission’s financial shortfalls and noted if the County Board had not appointed Mr. Menard to the Road Commission last December, we probably would still be unaware of their financial problems. He believes the Road Commission Manager is being made scapegoat for these financial problems. Many others should have known or said something about this, especially the Road Commissioners themselves. He suggested that the County Board replace the remaining two members of the Road Commission.

Comm. Tuominen, Road Commission Liaison, noted that the Road Commission Manager has been placed on paid administrative leave. A four person administrative/financial team is temporarily replacing Mr. Etelamaki. In the past ten days they received the financial records of the Road Commission noting several different scenarios. They will have a struggle but the team is working hard to
get a handle on the finances. Comm. Tuominen is confident they will resolve the matter. There may be some road projects that cannot be done this year.

Comm. Joseph, also a Road Commission Liaison, agreed. There are serious financial problems with the Road Commission, however we know more today than we did two months ago. The present Road Commissioners are aware of the problem, they have taken responsibility for them, and are working hard to resolve the issues. It is not all doom and gloom with the Road Commission. One of the problems with a three-member Road Commission is that if two of them get together to talk about Road Commission matters it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. This is another reason why a five-member Road Commission would be much more desirable.

Comm. Seppanen attended the last Road Commission meeting and as a result his level of concern has been reduced. The Road Commission admits that mistakes have been made. Dumping the Road Commission would solve nothing, in fact may create more problems.

Comm. Moore felt that removing Mr. Farrell and Mr. Alderton from the Road Commission is far too harsh an action. These are responsible people who are working hard to resolve the matter.

Chairperson Corkin agreed that the County Board must hold the Road Commission accountable. They will have to do a better job and improve their business practices, however they are on the right track. Both Comm. Joseph and Comm. Tuominen have been doing a good job as Board Liaisons. They have requested financial information on several occasions but have had difficulty getting it. We must give the Road Commission time to work through their difficulties.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Tuominen pointed out that in May the Commission on Aging RSVP Program volunteers provided 29,820 hours of service. Translating this into present wages this would cost approximately $328,000.

Comm. Wallace noted he recently toured the Base with Sawyer Staff Planners Pat Gruber and Eric Anderson and had an opportunity to view the Sawyer green spaces.

Comm. Wallace further reported last week he was in Lansing attending a meeting of the Local Public Health Accreditation Committee.

Steve Powers, County Administrator reported the County Board's request to testify at the Public Hearing to be held at Northern Michigan University regarding Steel Dumping has been forwarded to the Department of Commerce.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, June 26, 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 JUNE 12, 2001.
   * Resolution Honoring Donald A. Bell on His Retirement.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
7. Marquette County Jail Final Inspection Report from Michigan Department of Corrections.
9. Communication from Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division that FEMA will Re-examine Their Snow Assistance Policy.
10. Resolution in Support of Five Member County Road Commissions.
11. Memo from Civil Counsel regarding Sawyer Electric Utility Issues.
12. Baseline Environmental Assessments for Sawyer Properties to be Acquired by County.
13. Aeronautics Agreement for FY 2001 AIP/MAP Grant Funding of $3,648,000.00 for Various Sawyer Projects.
15. Bid Award to DEW Bridge for SIA Passenger Boarding Bridges.
17. Contract Award to Closner Construction for Repair of Concrete Block to Sawyer Buildings 860, 861, and 634 (Caretaker Funds).
18. MI Bureau of Aeronautics Air Services Grant for Two Automatic External Defibrillators.
19. Charge Order to Tinkerhead Eng., Inc. Contract
20. Letter to Commissioner Office
21. Honor Corp. Endorsement/Endorsement Test
22. PUBLIC COMMENT.
23. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
24. ADJOURNMENT.