The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, February 13, 2002 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.


It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 22, 2002 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the deletion of item 6) Status Report on Mental Health Presented by Don Curto; and the addition of item 13) Sale of Building 531 to Paris Contracting; and the addition of item 14) Sale of Building 522 & 9.9 acres to MCEDC.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 1, 2002 through February 7, 2002 in the amount of $390,082.22 be approved.

The Committee welcomed Michael S. Gokey, Director, Economic Development, Lake Superior Community Partnership, Economic Development Corporation of Marquette County. Mr. Gokey gave Commissioners an overview of the following:

Activities from 2001:
- American Eagle
- Delphi
- CANUSA
- Negaunee Township Projects
  A. Construction is moving ahead
  B. Additional project – Negaunee Hardwoods
  C. Steel making partnership in former Pellestar facility
  D. State of Michigan should approve $700,000 grant
  E. EDC will look to fund remaining $200,000
  F. Additional prospects looking at site

Louisiana Pacific
  A. Working on expanding Renaissance Zone
  B. Looking at additional companies related to LP

Technology
  - Supporting the Link Michigan Initiative
  - Supporting UGLETI on local initiative

Forest Products
  - Focusing on Value Added Companies

Health Care
  - Working Bell Memorial and MGH on expansion opportunities

The Committee considered Adoption of the Marquette County Recreation Plan 2002-2006. This Plan replaces the County’s current five-year recreation plan which is effective through December 31, 2002. A public hearing was held during the Marquette County Planning Commission held on February 6, 2002. The purpose of the public hearing was to consider a draft of the Plan. The Planning Commission reviewed the plan for consistency with the public’s participation in the Marquette County recreation survey for 2001, the strengths and weaknesses identified from the survey results, and local input regarding the recreational needs of the County. The Planning Commission also determined that all information included in the draft plan follows the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Community Recreation Plan Guidelines, which is an eligibility requirement for grant funding under the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
programs. Once adopted, the proposed plan would qualify the County to apply for funding for Marquette County owned recreation facilities.

The Marquette County Planning Commission adopted the Marquette County Recreation Plan 2002-2006. They are asking the County Board to approve a similar resolution by adopting the Plan as the Board’s recreation document.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Marquette County Recreation Plan 2002-2006 and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Resolution.

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The Committee considered Marquette County Remonumentation – Survey Firm Selection. The State Survey and Remonumentation Act, Act 345 of 1990, provides for remonumentation of property controlling corners throughout the State. Implementation of the program is facilitated at the County level through grant administration by County Administrator, Steve Powers, and data collection management by Larry Bussone, County Board appointed representative.

Critical to a successful program is selection of the survey firm which will perform the field work. The process is a Qualification Based Selection (QBS) as set forth in House Concurrent Resolution 206 (June, 1987). A term of County Staff consisting of Pat Manley, Register of Deeds, Larry Bussone, appointed Remonumentation Representative and Senior Planner, Al Feldhauser, considered proposals submitted. The utilized criteria which assessed the survey firm, number and experience of surveyors assigned to the project, work on related projects as well as a schedule favorable to the County in meeting grant obligations. The result of this process was the selection of STS Consultants.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the County Representative to prepare a three-year contract and negotiate fees for the remonumentation work.

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The Committee considered 2001 Year End Budget Amendments #39-#47 for the General Fund, Airport Fund, K.I. Sawyer Development Department, Caretaker, Insurance Fund, Law Library Fund, S.O.D.A. Fund, Friend of the Court, and the Probate Child Care Fund as follows:

#39-General Fund – Preliminary Year End figures for the General Fund reflect expenditures for 2001 of $16,364,291.00, approximately $90,000.00 under the amended budget approved at the third quarter review. Revenues for the year total $16,355,371.00 with the accrual of $110,000.00 of 2% Gaming Revenue to cover the DARE deficit for 2001. The required use of Fund Balance for the year will be less than the $86,540.00 budgeted. These numbers are not the final audited figures, but no anticipated significant changes.

#40-Airport Fund – This amendment accommodates a number of necessary line item adjustments. The recommended budget increase of $162,000.00 results from the airport mediation settlement. It is recommended that Sale Proceeds be used to fund this expense.

#41-K.I. Sawyer Development – Expenditure increases of $33,500.00 are offset by revenues increases. The salary increase is the result of Tom Rumora’s final payoff for vacation and sick leave and also from approximately $14,000.00 for Scott Erbisch that was charged to KISDD.

#42-Caretaker Fund – Increased Caretaker expenses of $379,000.00 are funded by the Caretaker Grant. The $224,000.00 increase in Building Maintenance was for mold abatement, roof repair, and EIFS replacement.

#43-Insurance Fund – An earlier amendment to the General Fund approved a transfer of $200,000.00 to fund increased hospitalization costs. This amendment is the offset of that, and approves the transfer from the Insurance Fund.

#44-Law Library Fund – This amendment increased the General Fund appropriation by $1,100.00 to cover the increased costs for Books & Periodicals.
#45-S.O.D.A. Fund – This amendment will approve an increased appropriation to the S.O.D.A. Fund to cover additional hours for the Diversion Specialist. The additional appropriation of $12,000.00 will be offset by a grant from Pathways in the amount of $5,400.00.

#46-Friend of the Court – This amendment increases the General Fund appropriation of $50,000.00. This is largely the result of additional indirect charges of approximately $27,000.00 being allocated to the Friend of the Court. The increases in salary expense are needed to cover a shortfall in the original budget and also to cover the cost of temporary help utilized during extended leaves experienced by the department during the year.

#47-Probate Child Care Fund – Preliminary numbers show the Probate Child Care Fund will end the year with a Fund Balance of approximately $40,000.00. This amendment reduces the amount of the General Fund appropriation by $37,000.00 and accommodates necessary adjustments between line items.

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 adopt the 2001 Year End Budget Amendments as presented.

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The Committee considered Change Order 13 for Building Improvements for AMR. The Change Order will add a Dust Collection Booth to Building 608. The booth has been requested by AMR to be used for sanding and will improve indoor air quality as well as increase the capabilities of AMR. The improvement will remain the property of SIABC. Funding is available in the CBGD for the project.

Premeau Construction, Inc. will be directed to make the following changes in the Contract Document: Oversee installation of DCP-6+ 12 OP Dust Control Booth per Premeau Construction, Environmental Air Control and Northcentral Electric’s proposals in the amount of $99,031.23.

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 Change Order 13 as requested by AMR to add a Dust Collection Booth to Building 608 with Premeau Construction, Inc. overseeing the work. Amount of the Change Order is $99,031.23.

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The Committee considered a Revised Renewal of a Lease for the Radio Tower. The agreement is with David & Joyce Savolainen, Range Telecommunications, to provide for a renewal of the lease with Central Dispatch for a radio tower in Champion. David & Joyce Savolainen agreed to revise the lease to 18 months to expire September 30, 2003 for the same monthly charge ($591.66) as listed in the first draft.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Lease Renewal with Range Telecommunications for the Radio Tower in Champion, in the amount of $591.66 per month.

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The Committee considered the Sale of Building 531 to Paris Contracting. Staff has been working with Dave Paris Contracting towards a potential purchase of Building 531 (the old civil engineering building). On January 29, 2002, Mr. Paris sent a letter offering to purchase Building 531. Paris states that after “careful inspection” the building would require several modifications and improvements in order for him to occupy. Based on the need for these improvements, Mr. Paris offered $25,000 for the property.

Staff has asked County Engineer, Steven Schenden, to review the letter and Mr. Schenden estimates the cost of repairs to be in excess of $350,000. The assessed value of the property in 2001 was $150,000. Because of the expenses required to update the facility, the business plan had assumed that the building would be demolished.

Marquette County has not made any investment in the building. The building has not and will not be heat converted via the heat conversion program. The building will be sold as-is. The deal terms have a positive net effect on the business plan.

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 sell Building 531 to Paris Contracting for $25,000 to be paid at closing.

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The Committee considered the Sale of Building 522 and approximately 9.9 Acres to the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation. The Marquette County Economic Development Corporation has submitted a purchase offer of $300,000 for the building. Sawyer Staff has been working with Menze to consolidate operations at Sawyer. Currently the company has a research and development facility in Harvey where it designs joysticks, electronic controls and harnesses and employs 4 people. It has existing patents and patents pending on its designs. One of the company’s largest clients is Boss Snowplow.

Currently the company contracts with several manufacturers to produce its products. These companies are located outside of Michigan. The company intends to take control of the manufacturing that is currently outsourced. To do this, the company will need a much larger facility suited for manufacturing. The company plans on keeping the Harvey location for continued research and development and would like to purchase Building 522, which sits on approximately 4.9 acres and approximately 5 acres adjacent to that property.

The facility requires over $500,000 in improvements. Additionally the company is seeking additional upgrades. Sawyer’s budget cannot absorb the costs of these improvements. The EDC has agreed to purchase the facility from Marquette County for $300,000. The EDC will make the necessary repairs and upgrades through traditional financing methods. Menze will lease the property from the EDC for one to two years with the intention of purchasing the facility thereafter. Menze expects to create between 50 and 75 jobs over the next two years.

Menze anticipates the need for rail spur access. Staff has been working on the creation of a Sawyer wide rail spur/loading dock. Community Development Block Grant funds can be used in conjunction with this process to help expedite the creation of this rail spur. During the closeout of the Superior Extrusion CBDG project, the State earmarked approximately $250,000 to be reinvested at Sawyer. This amount can be used as the match for the rail spur project. At this time, all the costs associated with the rail project have not been identified. MEDC will continue to work with the County to help facilitate this project. If Menze should fail to obtain sufficient financing, the EDC will proceed with purchasing the building.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Sell Building 522 and approximately 9.9 acres to the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation for $300,000 to be paid at closing.

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

Chairperson Corkin announced they attended the MAC Legislative Conference in Lansing this past week. He updated Commissioners regarding a Bill being introduced regarding County Road Commissions.

Comm. Moore reported on Revenue Sharing cuts and the remark of counties being held harmless.

Comm. Joseph reported on the upcoming layoffs of 7 employees at the Marquette County Road Commission and the offer of 6 early retirement buy-outs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branan
Deputy County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
WEDNESDAY, February 13, 2002, 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.
10. 2001 Year End Budget Amendments.
11. Change Order for Building Improvements for AMR.
12. Renewal of Lease for Central Dispatch Radio Tower.
13. Sale of Building 522.99 acres to MCCDC for $200,000.
15. 
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.