The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 26, 2002, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Courthouse Annex, 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 February 13, 2002 Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: 16) Letter of Appreciation to Representative Adamini, and Item 5a) Resolution regarding a Freedom of Information from the Register of Deeds.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 16th through February 22nd, 2002 in the amount of $566,466.54 be approved.

The Committee considered a Resolution in Support of the LaPeer County Register of Deeds in their efforts to prevent the loss of County revenue under the guise of an FOIA request.

Pat Manley, Marquette County Register of Deeds, was present and explained an outside company has requested copies of public records which are controlled by statute and include a fee established by the legislature. If this outside company obtains the LaPeer County Register of Deeds records they can in turn undermine their fees and revenues and sell documents to the public.

Register Manley noted that approximately 86,000 pages were copied in 2001 in the Marquette County Register of Deeds Office generating revenue of approximately $25,000 to $26,000 per year.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a Resolution in Support of the LaPeer County Register of Deeds regarding an FOIA request for statutory records.

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The Committee considered the Operations and Maintenance Agreement with UPPCO for electrical service at KI Sawyer. Scott Erbisch was present and explained this is the final version of an interim agreement which covers the period January 1, 2002 through March 30, 2002. This agreement has gone through many revisions and County Staff feels it is ready for County Board approval. The agreement does not address all concerns, such as eliminating the unmetered electrical costs, but projected monthly costs will be reduced by $8,000. The $3,000 monthly maintenance fee to UPPCO has been eliminated (services are still the same) and UPPCO will now compensate the County $5,000 for the duration of this agreement.

UPPCO would not agree to longer terms, however operations and maintenance will continue on a month to month basis after March. UPPCO is waiting for a final decision regarding the ownership of the utilities at KI Sawyer. Marquette County is presently in the process of taking ownership of the utilities, however final County direction will be more clearly known after March when Matrix makes its presentation to the Committee of the Whole.

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 Sawyer Interim Operation and Maintenance Agreement with UPPCO for the period January 1 through March 30, 2002.

The Committee considered a 2002 Budget Amendment for the Sheriff's K-9 Program. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and noted the County Board approved the K-9 Program on February 5th and requested that a budget be established. The projected cost of the K-9 Program for 2002 is $32,590 for which the Sheriff has received donations of approximately $13,000 and a grant from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority of $1,000. The budget amendment provides for a line item transfer of $18,590 from the Road Patrol to the K-9 budget to cover the difference.

Jack Schneider, Undersheriff, was present to explain that Deputy Oslund will still be on Road Patrol and the dog will be considered his partner and an additional tool for the Sheriff's Department. Deputy Oslund will be the only handler and trainer and in turn will train others on using the dog during an investigation. Deputy Oslund will take the dog home, it will become a part of his family. Deputy Oslund and the dog have to attend a four week
training session. The Sheriff’s Department views the budget as the dog becoming a part of the Road Patrol rather than funding for Road Patrol being transferred to another program.

Several Commissions expressed concern about the transfer of funds from Road Patrol to the K-9 Program because during the budget process the Sheriff spoke against cuts in the Road Patrol. It was noted, however that the Board approved the K-9 Program on February 5th with the understanding the Sheriff stays within his budget. In fairness to the Sheriff he is within budget.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Moore, Arsenault, Bergdahl, Seppanen, Wallace, and Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Girard, Joseph, and Tuominen), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 2002 Budget Amendment No. 1 for the Sheriff’s K-9 Program.

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The Committee considered a Space Needs Study proposal recommendation from Facilities Manager Larry Gould. Mr. Gould was present and noted that Retired Judge and “Next Generation Court Grant” Administrator Patricia Micklow, Jim Kippola, Planning Manager, and himself formed a team and established a draft RFP to do a Space Needs Study.

Six responses were received to the RFP and team members reviewed and individually ranked the firms by price, RFP requirements, and other criteria. Summerville & Associates, although not the low bidder, is a multifaceted company with years of experience. Their proposal stated they would perform the study based on existing data, however they need to collect additional data before making final recommendations. The two lower bidders did not have any in-house architectural or engineering staff to complete the study and would have to hire outside assistance. The Space Needs Study will include all County buildings including the jail, the DeFant Building, the Health Department, the Ishpeming District Court space, the Courthouse, Youth Home, and several buildings at KI Sawyer. The Next Generation Court Grant will provide $30,000 in the funding and the remaining $29,000 is budgeted in the Capital Improvements Fund.

Mr. Gould also recently went to Shawano, Wisconsin, one of Summerville’s references, to review their work. Shawano was very pleased with Summerville’s work. All Marquette County Judges have reviewed the proposal and concur with Staff recommendation to award the Space Needs Study Agreement to Summerville & Associates, Marinette, Wisconsin.

It was moved by Comm. Moore, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Staff recommendation and award the Marquette County Space Needs Study to Summerville & Associates at a cost of $59,000.

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The Committee considered the purchase of a Resource Manage Fleet Vehicle.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, noted only one bid was received, and that was from Frei Chevrolet in the amount of $15,899.28 for the purchase of a 4x4 S-10 Pickup. This price includes trade-in. The 2002 Capital Budget has funding for this truck at $19,000. This new vehicle will replace an undepliable high mileage Building Codes vehicle which will help the Department to continue to increase its quality of service to customers.

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 purchase of a Resource Management Chevrolet 4x4 S-10 Pickup at a cost of $15,899.28 (with trade-in) from Frei Chevrolet.

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The Committee considered a request from Dotty Lewis, Marquette County Planner, for a letter of support for a grant from the Rotary Foundation for signage on the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN). The NTN trail system is a year around 58 mile interconnecting trail project which includes five trail heads and 12 trail clusters throughout Marquette County. The network includes a loop through Ishpeming, Negaune, and Marquette with connections planned to all 12 trail clusters in Gwinn, Big Bay, Harvey, and other areas.

The Ishpening and Marquette Rotary Clubs along with people involved in NTN will be requesting a grant of $10,000 from the Rotary Foundation for permanent signage on the trail network. To support their petition for funding the group is requesting a letter of support from the County Board indicating their approval for the grant submission.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide a letter of support for the grant from the Rotary Foundation for signage on the Noquemanon Trail Network.

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The Committee considered a memo from Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, regarding the Honor Camp Road Easement and potential access to the Teaching Family Homes Facility.

Comm. Seppanen noted that Chocolay Township is in support of the proposed use of the Honor Camp Property for the Teaching Family Homes Campus, however they support the concept with the understanding

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that the access road to the property would be constructed off of County Road 553 and no traffic from the Teaching Family Homes Campus would utilize Silver Creek Road. The Honor Camp Road which connects to Silver Creek Road would provide easement for emergency services only and Comm. Seppanen noted the County would have to amend its resolution thereby amending the easement on the Honor Camp Road.

Comm. Tuominen recently spoke with representatives from the Teaching Family Homes. They currently have surveyors defining the property that they desire and when they create a description of the parcel they will submit this description so that the request for the easement at the same time will have the appropriate property descriptions and be contained all in one package. Meanwhile State Senator Don Kovisto and State Representative Steve Adamini are drafting the appropriate legislation to allow the transfer of the Honor Camp Property by Marquette County to the Teaching Family Homes.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the information be placed on file and that the matter be tabled until Teaching Family Homes comes forth with the parcel description and the official request for an easement to the property.

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The Committee considered a Grant Agreement for Art Services on behalf of the Upper Peninsula Children’s Museum. Cheryl Hill, Civil Counsel, reported the County Board will be applying for a Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Grant on behalf of the Children’s Museum with the condition that the museum agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County from Grant requirements and activities funded by the grant. The grant has now been awarded and in anticipation of the County executing the grant Civil Counsel Hill would like to present the Children’s Museum with the indemnification agreement and if an agreement is reached allow Chairperson Corkin to execute and sign the grant documents.

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 Grant Agreement for Art Services with the U.P. Children’s Museum as recommended by Civil Counsel.

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It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee accept and place on file a Sawyer Financial Report from Anne Giroux, SIABC Finance Manager.

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It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept and place on file the KI Sawyer Marketing and Development Department from Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director.

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The Committee was to consider proposals from SLP Development, LLC, and Minervini Group for Sawyer housing proposals. Because of the winter storm the Minervini Group could not get out of Traverse City and desires to make a media presentation and distribute additional materials to the County Board at a future date. Chairperson Corkin asked the Committee as to whether they should proceed this evening or reschedule the presentations for next week?

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the proposals on the KI Sawyer Housing will be made by the Minervini Group and the SLP Development LLC at the March 5th County Board Meeting.

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The Committee considered a letter to State Representative Steve Adamini from the County Board expressing its appreciation for his efforts and assistance in excluding Marquette County from a list of Counties where the elimination of judgeships was proposed (HB 5357).

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 send a letter of appreciation and thank you to Representative Steve Adamini, signed by all Commissioners, and that the letter be included in the minutes of the County Board Meeting of March 5, 2002.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Bill Pesola, SLP Development LLC, noted that should any Commissioner have questions regarding his proposal before the next meeting please feel free to contact him.
Les Thatcher, West Branch Township Trustee, noted that five people came to the County Board meeting this evening during this winter storm to hear the presentations on the Sawyer Housing. He requested the housing matter be placed first on the agenda at next week’s meeting.

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

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Corkin noted he will be attending the National Association of Counties Conference in Washington D.C. this Friday until next Tuesday and requested if there are any legislative issues from Staff or Commissioners he will bring to Washington with him.

Chairperson Corkin also noted he will be back for next Tuesday night’s Board meeting but then will be attending the Stand Up for Steel Rally in Washington D.C. next Thursday.

Comm. Wallace noted he will be out of town for the next two County Board meetings: The first he will be on vacation, the second he will be attending an Emergency Preparedness Workshop in San Antonio, Texas.

Comm. Moore noted the Hospice choice issue is on the FIA Board meeting agenda tomorrow night. This issue must be resolved. She thanked Civil Counsel Hill for her legal opinion which was provided to Commissioners regarding liability if this issue is not resolved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, February 26, 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.
6. Operation and Maintenance Agreement with UPPCO.
10. Letter of Support for Noquemanon Trail Network Signage Grant Request to the Rotary Foundation.
11. Honor Camp Road Easement.
13. Sawyer Financial Reports.
15. Sawyer Housing Proposals (no packet materials).
17. (Rec. on File)

18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.