The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skeeper 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 April 23, 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 change: Item 17) Sands Township Letter regarding Zoning at KI Sawyer be deleted.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 3, 2002 through May 9, 2002 in the amount of $704,715.54 be approved.

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The Committee considered a Marquette County Road Commission request for a lease extension and conveyance of properties and buildings (Building 533 compound) at KI Sawyer and a recommendation by the County Administrator to negotiate an agreement with the Road Commission regarding the building 533 complex, building 330 and equipment. The agreement would be brought to the June 25, 2002 Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Bob Menard, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, was present to discuss the request and recommendation and answer questions. Several Commissioners noted the Road Commission has worked diligently and fairly with Marquette County since the closure of Sawyer and throughout the transition to improve the roads at KI Sawyer. They contended any agreement should not create an additional financial burden to the Road Commission. Negotiations should be a good faith effort by the County.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct the Chairperson to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to work with County Administrator and the Road Commission to establish an Agreement on the requested Sawyer buildings, property and equipment.

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The Committee considered a resolution from the Antrim County Board of Commissioners regarding an increase in the Diesel Fuel Tax from the current 15 cents per gallon to 19 cents per gallon and the distribution of these additional funds. Chairperson Corkin noted the Diesel Tax legislation would generate an additional $44 million for the Michigan Transportation Fund, however the Governor proposes to avoid the Public Act 51 formula and divert $33.8 million of these funds to the Michigan Department of Transportation. The Antrim County resolution calls for the additional revenues from the Diesel Tax increase to be distributed equitably to MDOT, County Road Commissions, cities, and villages based on the formula in Public Act 51 of 1951.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the Antrim County Resolution by adopting a similar resolution and also the resolution be distributed to our U.P. Legislators.

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The Committee considered a summary of current events impacting Pathways. Doug Morton, CEO, Pathways, and Don Curto, a member of the Pathways Board, were present to discuss the Pathways update and answer questions.

On October 1, 2002 Pathways will become the administrative agency for the whole Upper Peninsula of Michigan. A Regional Affiliation Agreement binds the five U.P. CMH's (Pathways, Hiawatha, North Point, Copper Country, and Gogebic) into a formal regional association. This regional entity will be directed by Pathways and the Pathways Board will be its governing body. Mr. Morton noted he will be the CEO of Pathways and the Regional Association which will be known as Northcare. The budget will increase from $34 million to approximately $65 million and funds will pass through the Pathway Board for distribution to other provider agencies in the Upper Peninsula. About 9 1/2 FTE employees will be assigned to the Northcare entity
and the five Upper Peninsula CMH Directors will serve as a management committee reporting to the Pathways Board.

Chairperson Corkin noted five years ago Marquette County’s CMH had the foresight to began mergers and put Pathways in the position it is now. He commended the Pathways Board Staff and thanked Doug Morton and Don Curto for the report.

Mr. Morton in turn thanked the County Board as key players through the past five years facilitating various mergers. There is still much work to do but Pathways Staff and Board are looking ahead.

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The Committee considered a letter from State Senator Don Koivisto regarding the status of special legislation that would allow Marquette County to convey land to the Teaching Family Homes Non-Profit Organization. Sen. Koivisto noted as per the County letter dated April 2, 2002, the County is requesting to have the reversionary clause in the deed revised to allow the entire 460 acres of land to be given to Marquette County for reuse with the understanding that 40 acres of it be conveyed to Teaching Family Homes.

In Sen. Koivisto’s discussions with his Staff and the Department of Management and Budget (DMB) it would be unlikely a conveyance of that size would find any support. He recommends we continue working with the DMB to draft legislation that would convey the 40 acres requested by Teaching Family Homes. Trying to convey more land than necessary would cause the proposed legislation to become hopelessly stalled. If more land was needed in the future it could be addressed on a case by case basis.

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 amend its legislative request and provide the description of the 40 acre parcel only that is to be conveyed to Teaching Family Homes.

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The Committee considered an FY 2002 State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police for the purpose of providing federal pass-through funding to help Marquette County obtain emergency equipment needed to enhance local capability in responding to terrorism weapons of mass destruction incidents.

Mike Zorza, County Emergency Manager, was present to discuss the Equipment Grant Agreement and answer questions. The initial Equipment Grant Award of $41,236 would provide funding to help reimburse eligible expenses incurred for specialized equipment and decontamination capability in the Marquette County area. Marquette County would not be required to provide matching funds under this program although budgeted capital funds may be needed to augment the project. The equipment to be provided is from a list established by the Federal Department of Justice.

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 of the FY 2002 State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police.

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The Committee considered the award of a construction project using FY 2002 AIP Entitlement Funds for SIA runway concrete slab replacement. Larry Coehoorn, Airport Manager, was present to discuss the contract and answer questions. Bids for the project were opened during the monthly MDOT bid proceedings on April 5, 2002. The Bureau of Aeronautics recommendation is to award the construction contract to the low bidder, Associated Constructors in the amount of $367,014.10.

Mr. Coehoorn noted approximately 4,800 feet of the runway will be closed during the concrete slab replacement, contractors will work around the clock for eleven days to get the project done as quickly as possible. Associated Constructors, LLC, has provided most of the concrete work over the years at KI Sawyer and is very experienced with these projects. A 5% local share of $18,350 would be funded by Passenger Facility Charges.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Construction Contract for the replacement of cracked concrete slabs at SIA to Associated Constructors, LLC, in the amount of $367,014.10.

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The Committee considered the IBM AS/400 Upgrade Bid Award. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present to discuss the bid award and answer questions. Staff recommendation is purchasing the IBM AS/400 upgrade from DelComp/Softek Corporation in the amount of $46,000 to be paid from the Copier/Computer Enterprise Fund which contains $55,000 for this expense for FY 2002.

Mr. Nault noted eight bids were solicited to replace the Court’s IBM AS/400 system to various IBM business partners throughout Michigan and Wisconsin. Of the eight bids solicited, four responded with two
meeting the specifications. Two were disqualified because they did not quote the communications equipment for the Ishpeming District Court. DelComp/Softek Corporation of Escanaba met all specifications and is the low qualified bidder.

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 award the purchase of the IBM AS/400 Computer System to DelComp/Softek Corporation of Escanaba.

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The Committee considered the FY 2002 Personal Computer Bid Award. Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present to discuss the Computer Bid Award and answer questions. Mr. Nault noted each year Marquette County purchases personal computers as replacements for current equipment and new equipment for those departments identified through the annual capital budget process. For 2002 Marquette County will purchase five new PC's and 18 replacement PC's. Bids were solicited for Intel Pentium Based Computers made by Compaq, Dell, IBM, and Hewlett Packard. Four qualifying bids were received and Staff recommends purchasing 24 personal computers from Northern Networking of Escanaba in the amount of $34,992. These funds are to be paid from the Computer/Copier Fund which contains $40,000 for this expenditure in 2002.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and carried by voice vote 9 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Moore), that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the purchase of 24 personal computers to Northern Networking of Escanaba in the amount of $34,992.

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The Committee considered the First Quarter Budget Amendments from Susan Vercoe, Finance Manager. All County Departments were requested to review their revenues and expenditures through March and the Budget Amendment Recommendations were based on the information provided by the various departments for staff review. Ms. Vercoe noted the General Fund Budget Amendment No. 4 has been adjusted for labor contract changes and increased retirement contributions for Defined Benefit participants. Effective January 1 BCBS rates increased 7% for current employees and retirees. Some savings did result from implementation of the GAP plan on March 1st which will offset the increase for current employees. The GAP Plan is not currently available for retirees.

Ms. Vercoe also noted the DARE Program was not budgeted in 2002 but this amendment now establishes a $79,750 budget for the DARE Program that covers two officers from January through June and one officer from September through December funded by 2% gaming contributions.

The Health Department ended 2001 with a $21,000 fund balance and in accordance with policy the County appropriation to the Health Department has been reduced by that amount.

State shared revenue has been reduced by $31,844 and Court funding has been reduced by $84,000 in accordance to State projections. Indirect revenues have been increased by $86,000 based upon charges established in the 2000 Cost Allocation Plan. In addition, the County has received $18,300 revenue from tax reverted lands that was not originally budgeted. The budget amendment also establishes a budget for the Next Generation Court Implementation Grant and the Children’s Museum Grant.

The net of the proposed revenue and expense adjustments to the General Fund results in a $2,800 increase to the contingency account.

Other budget amendments being recommended by staff provide adjustments to the Public Improvement Fund, the Airport Fund, the MCTV Fund, the Commission on Aging, Probate Child Care Fund, Friend of the Court, Insurance Fund, and the FIA Child Care Fund.

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 the First Quarter Budget Amendments No. 4 General Fund and No. 's 5 through 11 for various funds as presented by Staff.

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The Committee considered a memo from Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel regarding the Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol Bike Race. The Ski Patrol is requesting permission for the race to cross the Honor Camp Property. The Board has granted its permission in prior years and has developed a license agreement which is signed by the parties and contains appropriate insurance requirements, indemnification provisions, and other protections for the County.

Civil Counsel Andrews noted that a new wrinkle has been added this year because it appears the trail may cross the easement which the County recently granted to the Road Commission. He has contacted the Road Commission to determine whether this is the case and if so whether the Road Commission would join in and become a party to the license agreement.

It was noted that the next Road Commission meeting is scheduled for June 17th and the Bike Race is scheduled for June 23rd. Not much time. Mr. Andrews forwarded the information to the Road Commission, but for some reason it was not discussed at their last meeting. He will follow up on the matter.
It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the License Agreement with the Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol to cross the Honor Camp Property pending Civil Counsel’s contact with the Marquette County Road Commission regarding the easement.

The Committee considered the process for establishing Township speed limits. Comm. Arsenault noted he received complaints in Ishpeming Township of cars traveling up to 55 mph among the residential streets. These streets are not posted with speed limits and by default the speed limit is 55 mph.

Bob Menard, Road Commission Chairperson, explained there is a process to be followed in establishing proper speed limits. If it is a state or federal road it would begin with the Michigan Department of Transportation, township residential streets the process could start with the County Road Commission.

Comm. Arsenault will follow up with Ishpeming Township officials to initiate the speed limit posting process.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen and unanimously carried by voice vote to place a communication on file from Kathryn Koryba, Community Development Specialist, MSHDA, regarding the monitoring of Ishpeming NPP Housing Grants.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Moore, and unanimously carried by voice vote to place a communication on file from Pam Clark and Evie Whitman, Co-Race Directors, for the Annual Big Bay Relay from Marquette to Big Bay to be held Saturday, May 18, 2002.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin reported on the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners meeting held in Escanaba last Friday and Saturday, May 10th and 11th. All of the U.P. Legislators were present and reported there are serious State budget shortfalls. An additional $400 million in cuts for 2002 will be considered by the Legislature this week. Also, the State of Michigan has borrowed millions of dollars through bonding for roads which will have to be paid back starting 2005 through 2020.

Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, reported that the five person sub-committee reviewing the KI Sawyer’s housing proposals has been moving along. They are waiting for more information and will bring their recommendation to the Board in the near future.

Comm. Moore, FIA Liaison, reminded Commissioners of the dedication of the Marquette County Alzheimer’s Unit on Thursday, May 16th, at 7:00 P.M.

Comm. Nordeen noted Sands Township will hold a public hearing on the same night, May 16th, regarding Teaching Family Homes.

Comm. Girard reported the Airport Zoning Board of Appeals met last night (Monday, May 13, 2002) and held its organizational session.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, May 14, 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.
7. Antrim County Resolution regarding PA 51 Transportation Fund Distribution Formula.
8. Pathways Update.
10. State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant Agreement.
11. AIP Entitlement Grant for SIA Runway Concrete Replacement.
12. IBM AS/400 Upgrade Bid Award.
14. First Quarter Budget Amendments.
15. License Agreement for Marquette Mountain Ski Patrol Bike Race.
16. Township Speed Limits (no packet materials).
17. Sands Township Letter regarding Zoning at KI Sawyer.
18. Info: Memo from Kathryn Koryba, MSHDA, regarding Monitoring of Ishpeming NPP Grants.
20.
21.
22.
23. PUBLIC COMMENT.
24. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
25. ADJOURNMENT.