The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 25, 2003, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. 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 Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 28, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Sheriff Michael Lovelace addressed the Committee regarding the impact of adopted 2004 budget. He explained the Sheriff’s Department budget reduction and the impact to the people of Marquette County.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 13) SAGE Building Transaction, and Item 14) Duplex Sale.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and carried on a roll call vote 8 Ayes and 1 Absention (Comm. Bergdahl) to approve Claim and Account No.330 payable to Bergdahl Farm & Equipment in the amount of $533.50.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 14, 2003 through November 20, 2003 in the amount of $485,334.34 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the informational memo from the Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow regarding pending appropriations Bill to help the U.P. recover from spring flooding be placed on file.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication regarding House Bill 4439 and continuation funding for E911 be placed on file.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried by voice vote that Sawyer Financial and Passenger Reports be placed on file.

The Committee considered approval of the Engineering Service Agreement presented by Hal Pawley, SIABC Director. Earlier this year the County received $1,275,300 of FY 2003 MAP Grant funding. This amount is the 90% federal share of the total estimated cost of $1,417,000 for three projects. These projects include insulation of hangar buildings; expansion of the fuel storage with the installation of two 25,000 gallon jet fuel tanks; and demolition of hangar 668, which is in deteriorated structural condition and unsafe for use.

Staff wants to proceed with design of these projects so the work can be bid in the first quarter of 2004 and the construction accomplished during the summer months. Mr. Pawley presented the proposed agreement with URS Corporation Great Lakes for the design of these projects. The price of $94,000 for the design work is 6.6% of the total estimated cost. The Bureau of Aeronautics Project Manager has provided documentation that the cost is reasonable for services to be provided, and recommends approval of the agreement with URS. The local share amount of $9,400 would be provided from proceeds from the sale of the previous Marquette County Airport.

URS provided the engineering design and construction management for previous projects for insulation of other hangar buildings and the installation of jet fuel storage tanks, and are thus familiar with existing facilities and project requirements. Mr. Pawley recommends approval of the Engineering Services Agreement.
Comm. Joseph questioned whether the bid process was used. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that URS was selected by the Board of Commissioners to provide engineering and design services for a multi-year period.


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The Committee considered a Contract for an Incubator Feasibility Study to LPA Associates. Marquette County was awarded a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant for $20,000 to conduct an Incubator Feasibility Study. A committee was formed comprised of Jesse Bell, Terry Thompson, Joel Holman, Amy Clickner, Anne Giroux, and Vikki Kulju. Comm. Arsenault served on the Committee as the Board’s Representative. The Committee issued an RFP nationally and received three proposals. Northern Michigan University and Northern Initiatives declined to respond. Vikki Kulju, SIABC Marketing Director, was present and explained the Committee recommends the Board award the Contract to LPA Associates based on the criteria in the matrix. It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board enter into a Contract for an Incubator Feasibility Study with LPA Associates.

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The Committee considered a Friend of the Court Advisory Committee. Steve Powers, County Administrator, distributed a plan regarding the Advisory Committee. He noted the limited usefulness that other counties have found with the Advisory Committee. The Committee is a good example of a mandate that should be repealed. While the intentions of the statute are admirable, the Legislature gave the Committee no authority to change Friend of the Court operations. The Friend of the Court is overseen by Circuit Court. By statute, the Advisory Committee is separate from the Friend of the Court and Circuit Court. No budget is recommended for the Committee. Staff support will be provided by the County Administrator’s Office. The purpose of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee is to advise the Court and the County Board of Commissioners on the Office of the Friend of the Court and its duties and performance. The Advisory Committee was designed to be representative of a cross-section of professionals and citizens who represent interest of the community and who deal with the local office of the Friend of the Court. The Advisory Committee shall be established pursuant to Michigan Public Act 366 of 1996.

The Advisory Committee is to be composed of nine members who are Marquette County residents. The members include the following: 1) An advocate for children; 2) A representative of non-custodial parent; 3) A representative of custodial parent; 4) An attorney who engages primarily in the family law practice; 5) The County Sheriff or the Sheriff designee; 6) The Prosecuting Attorney or Prosecuting Attorney’s designee; 7) The Director of Family Independence Agency or Director’s designee; 8) A mental health professional who provides family counseling; and 9) A member of the public who is an individual who could serve on the committee in the criteria listed. The County Board of Commissioners shall appoint the Citizen’s Advisory Committee members except for those members serving under Sections 5, 6, and 7. The County Board of Commissioners may advertise for qualified applicants through the newspaper, media, or bulletins. The County Board may then appoint members from the applicants.

Comm. Cihak explained he cannot support this Committee. Marquette County is in a difficult financial situation and he feels this is a mandate that should be repealed.


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The Committee considered an update regarding the YMCA Fitness Center. The County has an Agreement with the YMCA to operate the Sawyer Fitness Center. The YMCA is responsible for programming and operating costs. The County has paid the YMCA to operate the facility and has been responsible for major maintenance items. The 2004 County Budget includes no funding for the Fitness Center.

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Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS     COUNTY OF MARQUETTE     NOVEMBER 25, 2003

AFCO/TELKITE’s Letter of Intent to lease and purchase property at KI Sawyer includes the Fitness Center. Rich Weidel and Stew Harrison from AFCO/TELKITE remain interested in purchasing the Fitness Center and ask that the building be protected and not diminish in value during the due diligence period. Mr. Weidel and Mr. Harrison have also stated AFCO/TELKITE’s intent to retain existing tenants. Steve Powers, County Administrator, has discussed the YMCA’s needs and AFCO/TELKITE’s request with the YMCA Director Kim Harron. Mr. Harron and Mr. Powers think if the County provides the funds budgeted for the facility, the YMCA can continue to operate during the due diligence period. To accomplish the goals of protecting the Fitness Center and keeping the YMCA as the operator, Mr. Powers is requesting authorization to negotiate an extension of the Operating Agreement. Funding would be from the 2003 budget for the facility.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Administrator negotiate an extension of the Operating Agreement for the YMCA Fitness Center.

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The Committee considered the SAGE Building transaction. Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, explained that Stew Harrison from Telkite and Rich Weidel from AFCO spent several days here last week meeting with prospective and existing tenants and with County Staff in furtherance of their due diligence activities. They also gave a brief presentation at the Sawyer Operating Authority meeting. They remain genuinely enthusiastic about the potential of the Sawyer Project. Per the terms of the Letter of Intent signed on November 3, 2003, AFCO/TELKITE or the Limited Liability Company they are going to form was to take title to the SAGE Building within 30 days, or by December 3, 2003. Because of heavy business commitments primarily on the part of Mr. Weidel, AFCO and Telkite have not been able to complete the legal documentation relating to their relationship, so Mr. Weidel has asked for a 2-week extension of that deadline for the acceptance of the building. The new deadline would be December 17, 2003.

Bearing in mind that the County’s desire to transfer the building promptly was to avoid having to incur the winter utility costs, Mr. Andrews advised Mr. Weidel that he did not believe the 2-week delay would be problem if AFCO/Telkite would agree to be responsible for utility costs starting November 1, 2003. The County agreed to make available the sum of $50,000 to be applied toward the utility costs for that building during the first year. Under the revised scenario, instead of the County paying the utilities from its own funds until December 17th, then starting payment of the $50,000 commitment, the payments being made by the County for utilities consumed in November will be applied toward the $50,000 commitment. This will result in some savings to the County. Mr. Weidel indicated that would be acceptable to AFCO/Telkite. Staff recommends the Board approve a revision to the Letter of Intent extending the deadline for acceptance of the SAGE Building to December 17, 2003.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a revision to the Letter of Intent, extending the deadline for acceptance of the SAGE Building to December 17, 2003.

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The Committee considered a request from George DeVries to purchase one duplex (units 249 and 251). The County of Marquette owns three duplex structures. Two are pending a closing date with Integrity Asset Management, LLC. Staff informed all Sawyer housing and commercial developers that it would like to sell the vacant duplex structure and asked that any interested parties submit a letter of offer by November 21, 2003. A base price of $20,000 per unit was requested. George DeVries was the onlyrespondent and exceeded the base price requirement in the amount of $40,700. Staff recommends that Marquette County proceed with the sale of the home.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board proceed with the sale of duplex (units 249 and 251) to George DeVries for a total price of $40,700.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Phyllis Loonsfoot, City of Marquette, addressed the Committee once again regarding Road Patrol cuts.
There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

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

Comm. Cihak commented regarding an Instrument Landing System for runway 19. He explained that Airport Manager, Keith Kaspari, has requested an FAA funded cost benefit study for an Instrument Landing System for runway 19. The FAA requires this analysis before considering funding. The ILS was one of the capital project priorities approved by the Board of Commissioners for Sawyer.

Comm. Corkin briefly updated Commissioners on the State Budget. The State is expecting $1 billion in budget cuts. Cuts at the local level are going to continue.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, expressed good news regarding the FAA funding bill. It was approved by the Senate and going to the President for signature. He also expressed AFCO/Telkite’s excitement regarding the KL Sawyer Project.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board wished all citizens of Marquette County a Happy Thanksgiving.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, November 25, 2003, 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. Informational Memo from Michigan Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow regarding Pending Appropriations Bill to Help the U.P. Recover from Spring Flooding.
7. Communication regarding House Bill 4439 and Continuation Funding E-911.
8. Sawyer Financial and Passenger Reports.
9. Approval of Engineering Services Agreement.
10. Recommendation on Incubator Study (a complete copy of the study is available for inspection in the County Clerk's Office).
11. Friend of the Court Advisory Committee.
12. YMCA Update (no packet materials).
13. Sage Bid/Transaction
15.
16.
17. PUBLIC COMMENT.
18. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
19. ADJOURNMENT.