The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, December 9, 2003, 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skevis 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 November 25, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Pastor Greg Floars, Sawyer Free Will Baptist Church, requested to speak under Item 14. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 15) A-87 Central Services Cost Allocation Plan, Item 16) Lease for Central Dispatch Tower Space, Item 17) Management and Professional Employees and Elected Official's 2004 Compensation, and move Item 14 to No. 6 and No. 6 to Item 14.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period November 26, 2003 through December 4, 2003 in the amount of $290,290.59 be approved.

The Committee considered a request from Sawyer Free Will Baptist Church. In 2001, the Michigan State Missions Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists agreed to purchase Building 503 for $226,755. Rev. Rex Evans is requesting the purchase price be reduced to $80,000. Rev. Evans is requesting a $40,000 credit for rent paid and a $20,000 credit for improvements to the building made by the church, resulting in a cash payment of $20,000 to the county. Building 503 is 10,000 square feet, located on Avenue A, and has an assessed value of $238,444.

A response highlighting the reasons why $80,000 is unacceptable was sent to the church with a counter offer of $130,000 which is justified by subtracting federally funded heat conversion work, rent paid, and a deduction for roof repairs made by the church.

Mr. Powers, County Administrator, explained that if Michigan State Missions is unable to complete the purchase at $130,000, there are options available to the County. The building could be included in the Telkite/AFCO project. The County could auction the building if Telkite/AFCO project does not proceed.


It was then moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board sell Building 503 to the Church for $80,000 less $60,000 for a total of $20,000 as the church requests. Motion failed on a roll call vote 5 Nays (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Girard, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin) to 3 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, and Comm. Nordeen).

Commissioners discussed the actual value of the building. It was explained that an appraisal has never been done.

It was moved by Comm. Girard, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct staff to obtain an outside appraisal of Building 503, at County expense, to be completed as soon as possible.

Jim Olson, Maximus, Inc., presented the Committee of the Whole with an overview of the Friend of the Court and Prosecuting Attorney 2002-2003 performance. Mr. Olson explained that the five factors in the performance evaluation were the Paternity Establishment Level, Support Order Performance Level, Current Payment Professional Level, Arrearage Payment Performance Level, and Cost Effectiveness Ratio. He also explained Caseload Statistics, Child Support Collections, Comparisons to Statewide 2002 Performance Level,
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Paternity Establishment Comparison, Support Order Establishment Comparison, Collections on Current Support Comparison, Collection of Arrears Comparison, Marquette County's Arrearage Balance, Cost Effectiveness, Statewide increases and decreases in paternity support orders, support collections, arrearage collections, their incentive history, and incentive change for 2000 and 2001. Mr. Olson stated that the Marquette County Friend of the Court's Office ranks highest in the State for collection. They are an outstanding office and the statistics prove that.

Judge Thomas Solka was present to publicly thank and recognize the Friend of the Court Staff on behalf of the Court system for performing top in the State of Michigan.

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The Committee considered a letter of resignation from Randy Girard, County Commissioner District 3. The effective date of Comm. Girard's resignation is January 1, 2004. Comm. Girard stated that after more than 23 year of participation in Marquette County management it is time to move on. He has thoroughly enjoyed his years of service with the excellent past and current staff, and will miss the close interaction. His best wishes go to the Board and staff in the years to come.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenaull, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff to start the process to fill the position to be vacated by Comm. Girard.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenaull and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept with regret the resignation of Comm. Girard effective January 1, 2004.

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It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the informational memo from the Office of the Governor regarding the State Budget be placed on file.

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The Committee considered a communication from Capt. David P. Lemire, Marquette County Sheriff's Department, regarding Sheriff's patrol vehicles. On December 2, 2003, 2:00 P.M., bids were opened from four potential vendors for two new police patrol vehicles. Twelve total bid requests were sent out for the police patrol vehicles. All bid requests were sent out for Chevrolet and Ford patrol vehicle specifications. Capt. Lemire explained the low bid vendor met bid specifications. It is his recommendation that the low bidder, Crown Chevrolet in the amount of $26,726 be awarded the bid for the patrol vehicles. The bid price for two new units was $40,026 minus three vehicle trade-ins in the amount of $13,300.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Arsenaull, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the bid for two full size, four door, police package patrol vehicles to Crown Chevrolet of Negaunee in the amount of $26,726.

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The Committee considered the 2004 budget amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and explained the recommended budget amendments which were prepared prior to the announcement of the Governor's Executive Order regarding the State's 2004 budget. She explained it is likely that additional amendments will be necessary in early 2004 as a result of budget actions to be taken by the State.

Changes are recommended to four revenue line items in the General Fund. Specific Ore Tax is projected to be $15,000 higher than originally budgeted. State projections for the Cigarette tax are $26,821 lower that originally budgeted. Public Safety revenues are increased by $35,000 as a result of the Sheriff's decision to have civil process papers served by Road Patrol deputies. The Marquette Township Contract for Public Safety officers is reduced by $30,990 as a result of their decision to reduce the dedicated officers from 2 FTE to 1.5 FTE. The net reduction to the 2004 General Fund Revenue is $6,911.

On the expenditure side, this amendment covers benefit changes pursuant to the deputy contract approved in October and various changes requested by the Sheriff to implement the budget reductions made to the Public Safety budget. Nine positions are to be eliminated as a result of the County’s budget reductions, and an additional position will be eliminated as a result of the reduction of the Marquette Township contract for services. Positions eliminated include 1 investigation officer, 1 UPSET officer, 1 DARE officer, 2 K1 patrol officers, 1 warrant officer, 1 clerical position and 1 township deputy, and 2 general road patrol officers. At the request of the Jail Administrator, a new department for Jail Services is established to segregate the cost of the jail reimbursement officer, jail services officer, and kitchen staff. There are no reductions to the budget for the
operation of the jail. At the Sheriff’s request, the Court Security budget is increased by $24,000 to cover 3 full time officers instead of the 2 full time officers and 2 part time officers included in the adopted budget.

The amendment adjusts appropriate program budgets by moving funds included in the adopted budget for compensation for management and professional employees and elected officials. Compensation expenses are reduced by $17,000.

After the budget was adopted, the Soil Conservation District requested a $30,000 appropriation to the Soil Erosion Program. This amendment includes an appropriation of $5,000. It is recommended that the Soil Conservation District Board be directed to increase program revenue and reduce administrative costs to make the program self-sufficient without any further General Fund support.

The net result of the recommended revenue and expense changes will be a $23,494 increase to the General Fund Contingency account, bringing the contingency to $183,494.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, also recommended changes to the sawyer development fund as follows:

- Retain Planner position to July 1, 2004. The Air Force has requested and agreed to fund the extension of the Planner position. The Planner, Eric Anderson, is essential to the transfer of property from the federal government to the County. He provides geographic information, mapping, and property documentation support to civil counsel and the Air Force’s property specialist. Funding for the six-month extension will be from the Caretaker Program.

- Retain Marketing and Development Manager to April 1, 2004. The Marketing and Development Manager is essential to the AFCO/Telkite due diligence. Rich Weidel and Stew Harrison, AFCO/Telkite, have requested the County continue its marketing and development program during the due diligence period. Vikki Kulju, Marketing and Development Manager, has been working with Telkite for a year. She has AFCO/Telkite’s confidence. Arbitrarily terminating her without regard to the AFCO/Telkite’s schedule could delay or jeopardize the deal. A critical component of AFCO/Telkite’s due diligence is developing projects for Sawyer. The County’s Marketing and Development Manager is a key to connecting current prospects with AFCO/Telkite funding for the three-month extension is available from the sale of the duplex unit approved by the Board on December 2, 2003.


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The Committee considered Dog License and Impound Fees. The 2004 adopted budget includes an additional $5,000 of fee income from the recommended increase to dog license fees. The amount budgeted for the impound fee expense line item was increased by $3,000 for the anticipated fee increase of 20%. The impound fee has not been adjusted since 1992.

The resolution adopted the new fee structure was not approved during the budget work sessions because according to statute, the resolution may only be adopted with the 60-day period after the beginning of the fiscal year. This issue was thoroughly researched by Sarah McRae during her internship with the County this past summer.

Currently Townships sell the dog licenses from January 1 through May 31st and retain 100% of the fee collected during that time frame (Fees are $3 for spayed/neutered dog and $6 for a non-spayed/neutered dog. Kennel licenses are $10 for a kennel with 10 dogs or less and $20 for a kennel with over 10 dogs.) From June 1 through December 31, the license fees are doubled and sold only by the County Treasurer. The County retains 100% of license fees collected during that time frame. The current impound fee charged by the Humane Society is $16.25 per day.

The recommended change would increase the license fee to $6 for a spayed/neutered dog or $12 for a non-spayed/neutered dog. Kennel licenses would increase to $30 for a kennel with 10 or less dogs and $50 for a kennel with over 10 dogs. Townships would continue to sell from January 1 to May 31 and retain 50% of the fees collected. The County would also collect 50% of the revenue collected during this period. Dog license fees would double for the last six months of the year and be sold by the County Treasurer. It is recommended that the Humane Society also be authorized to sell dog licenses at any time during the year as a convenience to people adopting and/or redeeming dogs from the Humane Society. All license fees collected by the Humane Society would be turned over to the County Treasurer. They daily impound fee would be increased from $16.25 to $19.50 per day.
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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 the dog license and impound fees as presented by Staff and that the Humane Society also be authorized to sell dog licenses at any time during the year as a convenience to people adopting and/or redeeming dogs from the Humane Society.

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The Committee considered a request from the YMCA for $74,500 to operate the fitness center through May, 2004. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that during Telkite/AFCO’s due diligence, there are three choices available to the County: 1) maintain the building; 2) continue to operate a fitness facility; and 3) pick the building.

The impact to the Sawyer budget of maintaining the building is $56,000. The $56,000 can maintain the Building or extend the Operating Agreement. Maintaining the Building includes utilities and repairing the boiler ($10,000) and half of the disputed water bill ($6,000). The recommended $56,000 is available from the 2003 Fitness Center building maintenance budget ($39,000) and the sale of a duplex unit. If for $33,000 the YMCA is willing to operate the facility, including repairing the boiler and paying half of the disputed water bill, the County should extend the operating agreement to June 5, 2004 rather than heating an empty building, the funds would allow the YMCA to finish winter and spring programs.

The YMCA’s request exceeds the County’s financial limitation and is not recommended. There are no other operators that could step in for the YMCA.

Pickling the building is not recommended. The estimated pickling cost is $10,000. The work would include draining the pool, plumbing, and heating lines and winterizing the boilers. The pickling may cause damage to the pool from frost, heating, or cracking. Reuse as a pool would be costly. The pool packs and pumps might require repair or replacement. Telkite/AFCO’s purchase offer is based on a functional fitness facility. Loss of the pool would be a significant negative modification to the building.


Comm. Corkin questioned the $25,000 private sector funds. Bob Bartkowski of the YMCA explained that his understanding is that those funds were available only if the building was to be purchased by the YMCA. Comm. Corkin further explained that the Sawyer Development Fund has a balance of $150,000 which is needed to run the airport.

Comm. Wallace questioned why the Committee should recommend funds over and above what the YMCA was requesting.

Comm. Cihak feels the YMCA is an important and critical part of the community at Sawyer, and the YMCA should be kept in the best possible shape.

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 approve $53,000 for the YMCA of Marquette County to operate the facility, including repairing the boiler and paying half of the disputed water bill, and extend the operating agreement to June 5, 2004.

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The Committee considered the A-87 Central Services Cost Allocation Plan. The recommendation to contract with Maximus is based on understanding of the requested work, cost, experience, timeline, and familiarity with Marquette County and Michigan. DMG Maximus proposes to complete the A-87 Plan for $11,000 for each year, the same annual cost as for the past three years. The A-87 Plan is required by the federal government and must be prepared in accordance with federal policies and procedures. It is a cost allocation plan for indirect services based on actual expenditures. The County receives over $150,000 in reimbursement for central services provided to the Friend of the Court, Family Support, Probate Child Care, and other services that receive federal and state funding. An annual A-87 Plan has been prepared for over 15 years. The agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by Civil Counsel and Risk Management. Funds are budgeted in 2004.
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It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Contract with Maximus to prepare A-87 Central Services Cost Allocation Plans for 2003, 2004, and 2005.

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The Committee considered a Lease for Central Dispatch Tower Space. The agreement with AMCI is for tower use by Central Dispatch. Central Dispatch equipment is located on the privately-owned tower. The equipment is needed to receive and relay radio dispatch signals.

The tower is known as the Suicide Tower site, located in the City of Negaunee. The agreement is for one year, effective January 1, 2004. By the end of the agreement, Central Dispatch is scheduled to move to a Michigan State Police tower. The tower rental of $450 per month is budgeted in the Central Dispatch Fund. The monthly rate is one half the monthly cost of the current agreement. The agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by civil counsel and risk management.

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 the lease agreement with AMCI for the Central Dispatch Tower space.

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The Committee considered management and professional employees, and elected officials’ 2004 compensation changes. The recommended 2004 compensation changes for management and professional employees is a 2% wage increase effective January 1, 2004 and a change in health insurance effective January, 2004. The 2% wage increase is also recommended for the County Clerk, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Mine Inspector, and Drain Commissioner. The health insurance changes would apply to all County elected officials and judges, including County Commissioners. The net budget impact of the recommendation is a $17,000 reduction from the 2004 adopted budget. The compensation changes are included in the recommended budget amendment. The wage increase is offset by health insurance changes. The recommendation is based on a survey of labor market counties and on equity with the unionized employee groups in the organization. The recommendation was reviewed with the Board’s Ad Hoc Personnel Committee and with employees.

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 approve the recommended 2004 compensation changes for management and professional employees and elected officials effective January 1, 2004.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Mike Quayle, Marquette, MI, again addressed the County Board regarding the Sawyer Airport and the budget cuts at the Sheriff’s Department. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Joseph asked Marquette County residents and Commissioners to keep Comm. Ken Tuominen in their prayers.

Comm. Arsenault congratulated the Westwood Patriots Girl’s Basketball Team for the State Championship and an excellent season.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, December 9, 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.
   Informational Memo regarding County Commissioner Vacancy.
7. Informational Memo from the Office of the Governor regarding State Budget.
   Informational Memo from Senator Michael Prusi regarding Continuation Funding for Local E-911 Centers.
8. Bid Award for Sheriff’s Department Patrol Vehicles.
9. 2004 Budget Amendment.
10. Dog License Resolution.
11. Operating Agreement Update for Sawyer Fitness Center. (No packet materials)
12. Request from KI Sawyer Baptist Church.
14. Lease for Central Dispatch Tower Space.
15. (Include Petition/Resolutions)
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.