The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 23, 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 September 9, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bill Birch, Marquette, spoke regarding recent events in Marquette County. He is bothered by headlines regarding the Sheriff’s Department taking cuts. He explained that all departments in Marquette County are on the same team. He is a volunteer with the Sheriff’s Department and explained it has been an eye opening experience. He recommends the County Board seek funding. Citizens need a system that is both safe and secure.

Mike Quayle, 1700 Mildred Avenue, Marquette, spoke in support of the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department. He explained with the Sheriff’s Department taking cuts to balance the 2004 budget the County Board and the County Administrator need a plan for handling complaints.

Phylis Loonsfoot, Marquette, commended Comm. Nordeen and others who kept an open mind regarding Sheriff’s Department cuts. She would like a County-wide mailing to each citizen detailing budget cuts.

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

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 16) Staff Comment on Proposed Zoning Amendment at KI Sawyer and to move Item 10 up on the agenda and move Item 7 in its place.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 12, 2003 through September 18, 2003 in the amount of $596,431.68 be approved minus Vendor No. 330 payable to Bergdahl Farm and Equipment in the amount of $16,58 and Vendor No. 5310 to Jim Cihak in the amount of $1,575 which will be addressed at a later date; and approve bi-weekly payroll for the period ending September 13, 2003 in the amount of $586,571.67.

The Committee considered a Friend of the Court Citizens Advisory Committee. James Gallant, Marquette resident, requests the County Board appoint this Committee. A party to a domestic relations matter who has a grievance concerning Friend of the Court operations may file at any time during the proceedings the grievance in writing with the appropriate Citizen Advisory Committee. The Citizen Advisory Committee is comprised of an advocate for children, representative of custodial and non-custodial parents, a family practice lawyer, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, an FIA designee, a mental health professional who provides family counseling, and a county resident who does not fit any of the foregoing categories.

Judge Thomas L. Solka, Chief Circuit Court Judge, was present and explained the statute contemplates a Citizen Advisory Committee independent of the Court and Friend of the Court office. Because the Citizen Advisory Committee is intended to be independent of the Court and Friend of the Court office, he explained the Circuit Court neither opposes nor requests appointment of the Advisory Committee. Establishment of the Committee and appointment of its members is the prerogative of the County Board. He further explained that if the Board decides to establish the Advisory Committee, the Circuit Court and the Friend of the Court’s Office will work with the Committee in meeting its statutory obligations.

Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, requested information from the State Court Administrative Office regarding a Citizen Advisory Committee. The report concluded that in 1997 23 counties formed CACs. Since then seven additional counties have formed committees. Currently 15 counties or about 18% of all Michigan Counties have active CACs. Six of the active CACs filed reports with the State County Administrator’s Office. 53 counties have not appointed a Citizen’s Advisory Committee. Half of the reporting Committees sited, “lack of business/quorums” as a factor that impeded the efficiency of their committee. Many counties have taken the position that the requirement to have a CAC is an unfounded mandate. Due to lack of business, filling vacancies, and a limited number of grievances to review, it was difficult for some committees to conduct meetings and make recommendations to the Court for improving Friend of the Court services.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Steve Powers, County
Administrator, to develop a summary plan to implement a Citizen’s Friend of the Court Advisory Committee and report back to the County Board in 60 days.

The Committee considered a memo from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, regarding Board approval of the 2004 CRP. CRP is the 2004 State Fiscal Year Cooperative Reimbursement Contract between the Family Independence Agency Office of Child Support and the County providing funds for the Friend of the Court Office.

I was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Girard, and unanimously carried by voice vote the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 2004 State Fiscal Year Cooperative Reimbursement Contract.

The Committee considered a communication from Larry L. Gould, Facilities Manager, regarding Jail Walk-in Freezer Enclosure Replacement Bids. The jail walk-in freezer enclosures (walls, ceiling, floor, and door) must be replaced. Due to age and use, the enclosure is leaking air and causing the inner core to ice up and at times it cannot maintain the proper temperature. Also, this makes the unit very inefficient and requires additional defrost cycles. Bid specifications were prepared and placed in the Mining Journal and direct mailing to all local refrigeration contractors. Only one contractor responded, DuQuaine, Inc. in the amount of $8,267.00. They offered an alternative bid $7,667.00 (a $600 reduction) if remove and dispose of the existing enclosure. There are funds for this project in the Public Improvement Fund/Facilities Project.

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 approve the jail walk-in freezer enclosure replacement and the project be awarded to DuQuaine, Inc. in the alternative amount of $7,667.00.

The Committee considered the Lake Superior Community Partnership recognition. The LSCP is diversifying its funding for operations. A fundraising event with potential is a real property raffle. In Luce County, a camp raffle raised over $100,000. To hold a gaming event (raffle) a non-profit organization must apply to the Charitable Gaming Division of the Michigan Lottery. The application must include a resolution from a local government subdivision. The resolution must state the applicant is a recognized non-profit organization operating in the community. The LSCP is a county-wide organization, so the LSCP management team though requesting a resolution from the County was appropriate. The LSCP Executive Committee will be considering the gaming application on September 18. If submitting an application is approved by the LSCP, favorable consideration of the resolution is recommended.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a Resolution recognizing the Lake Superior Community Partnership as a non-profit organization.

The Committee considered the Sawyer International Airport and Business Center financial and passenger reports.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept the SIABC financial and passenger reports for filing.

The Committee considered a memo from Hal Pawley, SIABC Director, regarding bids for ARFS SRE Building. Last year the County received MAP funding in the amount of $5.1 million for design of a new building to house aircraft rescue and firefighting and snow removal equipment. Bids were opened on August 27th. The low bid was approximately $7.6 million. The County does not have the additional $2.5 million needed to award the Construction Contract. Staff recommended the Board reject all bids.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board reject the bids for the ARFF SRE Building.

The Committee considered a communication from Steven J. Schenden, Project Manager, Sawyer International Airport and Business Center, regarding Caretaker funded mold remediation 2003. The Caretaker is responsible for the mold remediation which is $123,934.60 and the County is responsible for the personal property cleaning and disposal which is $11,878. Lake Shore Environmental have successfully completed projects Sawyer and their work has always been of the highest quality. It is recommended the bid for mold remediation be awarded to Lake Shore Environmental.

Commissioners were concerned with spending approximately $12,000 on personal property equipment that will eventually be thrown away.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF MARQUETTE
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It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Caretaker funded mold remediation 2003 and award the project to Lake Shore Environmental in the amount of $135,812.60. A voice vote was taken 4 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Tuominen, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Girard, and Comm. Joseph). Motion failed.

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The Committee considered Caretaker funded mold remediation 2004. This is Addendum No. 2 to the mold remediation contract with Tri-Media Consultants. Gary Koski of the AFRPA has requested that the County of Marquette contract with Tri-Media Consultants to prepare work plans and cost estimates for mold remediation in the remaining caretaker buildings. Tri-Media Consultants of Marquette provided costs of $13,720 for the revised list of buildings with $12,040 for the buildings and $1,680 for the personal property in the buildings.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and carried on a roll call vote 6 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Caretaker funded mold remediation 2004 in the amount of $13,720 to Tri-Media Consultants of Marquette.

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The Committee considered a memo from Steven J. Schenden, Project Manager, SIABC, regarding acceptance of construction bid for heat conversion. The low bidder was Dresseler Mechanical of Marquette for $140,670. Dresseler Mechanical, Inc. meets the requirements set forth in the specification.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Girard and carried on a voice vote 6 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Girard) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the construction bid for heat conversion and award the contract to Dresseler Mechanical, Inc. for $140,670.

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The Committee considered a communication from Steven J. Schenden, Project Manager, SIABC, regarding a Change Order for EDA III General Aviation Terminal Renovations. The project will replace the roof on Building 427 (General Aviation Terminal) and to repair a block wall that is allowing water to enter the building and cause damage to the interior. The work will be completed using EDA III funds. Total amount of the Change Order is $45,413 with $5,683 for block repair, and $39,730 for roof replacement. The County’s share will be about $3,178.91 with the balance coming from EDA. The County’s share was allocated for EDA III at the start of the grant. There is funding available in the EDA III grant to cover the work.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Change Order for EDA III General Aviation Terminal Renovations.

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The Committee considered a Proposed Zoning Amendment at K.I. Sawyer. The County, as a property owner within 300 feet of the premises proposed to be rezoned, may comment in favor or against the proposed amendment. The Forsyth Township zoning staff has submitted an application to change approximately 24 acres from Commercial-Two (C-2) to Public Area (PA). The area includes the proposed BMX course and recreation fields.

Staff recommends the County comment against the proposed rezoning. After extensive review and input by county staff, county planning commission, and Forsyth Township, the land was zoned commercial by Forsyth Township. Less than six months later, Forsyth Township is proposing a change. County staff is unaware of any changes in land use that require a zoning amendment. Public recreation is allowed as a conditional use in a commercial zone.

The area is undeveloped property, in close proximity to the airport terminal, in a tax free zone, and with utilities available. The land’s highest and best use is commercial. Rezoning the land to public use restricts the County’s future options, hinders future sales, and limits development opportunities.

There are other areas available at K.I.Sawyer for public recreation.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize Staff to attend the township planning commission public hearing October 2, 2003 and comment as a property owner against the proposed rezoning.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
James Gallant once again addressed the Committee regarding the Friend of the Court Citizens Advisory Committee.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Tuesday, September 23, 2003, 6:00 P.M.
Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2003.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Friend of the Court Citizen Advisory Committee.
7. Sawyer International Airport Passenger and Financial Reports.
10. Memo from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, regarding Board Approval of 2004 CRP.
11. Communication from SIABC regarding Bids for ARFF SRE Building.
15. Change Order for EDA III General Aviation Terminal Renovations.
16. Staff comment on proposed zoning amendment at #25.
17.
18.
19. PUBLIC COMMENT.
20. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
21. ADJOURNMENT.