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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COUNTY OF MARQUETTE

OCTOBER 14, 2003

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 14, 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. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 23, 2003 and the Budget Work Session Minutes held on August 28, 2003, September 2, 16, 22, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Karen Anderson, Sawyer Operations Authority, requested the Committee reconsider their action regarding the ball field property at Sawyer for use by North State BMX. Mike Quayle, Marquette, MI, asked the Committee to reconsider their decisions regarding the 2004 budget.

Darryl Jarvinen, North State BMX, addressed the Committee regarding his interest in a BMX Track at Sawyer.

James Loosfoot, Deputy Sheriff, spoke regarding the Sheriff’s Department and congratulated the County Board on the new building to house rescue equipment at Sawyer.

Pat Black, Director of the Visitor’s Bureau, addressed the County Board regarding the economic impact of recreational events in Marquette County.

Carl Lindquist, Lake Superior Watershed Partnership and Conservation District, asked for the continued support of the County Board and thanked them for past support.

Gary Dahlke, Marquette, addressed the Committee regarding the Forestry Fund.

Bill Birch, Marquette, Michigan, spoke in support of the YMCA and BMX Track at Sawyer and congratulated the County Board on the Public Safety Building at Sawyer.

Phyllis Loosfoot, questioned the Committee regarding the 2004 budget and what their plan will be due to the cuts at the Sheriff’s Department.

Michelle Butler thanked the Committee for years of support of the South County YMCA at Sawyer and explained that the YMCA needs the support for at least one more year.

Sue LaGalley, Marquette, spoke regarding support of the South County YMCA.

Lynn Emerick, West Branch Township, spoke in support of the South County YMCA.

James Gallant, Marquette, Michigan, distributed information to the Committee regarding the Friend of the Court.

Sandy Spoolstra, YMCA Task Force, spoke in support of the YMCA at Sawyer stating the YMCA is an essential component at Sawyer.

Steve Bonsall, Deputy, Marquette County Sheriff’s Department, addressed the Committee in support of the Sheriff’s Department and asked the County Board to do what is right.

Stu Bradley, Chairperson, Lake Superior Community Partnership, addressed the Committee regarding the Liveable Community Award.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 11): Extension of DEQ Short Term Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried on a roll call vote 7 Ayes to 1 Abstention (Comm. Cihak) that Claims and Accounts for the period October 3, 2003 through October 9, 2003 in the amount of $1,642,333.35 and check No. 44141 payable to Cihak Investigations in the amount of $1,575.00 be approved.

The Committee considered a resolution regarding the Hiawatha National Forest Plan. Each year Alger County receives 25% of the stumpage receipts from the timber that the Hiawatha cuts. This money is then redistributed to the local school and public road programs. In an era of declining school enrollment and decreasing road budgets these dollars are important to Alger County residents. The Hiawatha National Forest is not being wisely managed at this time, so a change in direction is crucial to economic realities around us. Increased cutting equals more funds available for schools and roads. The Hiawatha National Forest is currently ignoring the production of timber as a source of revenue. It is having a significant negative impact
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on local school and road budgets. For instance, in 2001 Alger County received $137,169 as part of their 25% allotment. If the Hiawatha had cut at the level they did in 1991, Alger County would have received $342,922. This number could have been $411,507 had they been cutting to their plan’s target level. This source of revenue is available to the County each year. Dollars which have a significant positive impact on budgets that affect Alger County residents. The Alger County Board of Commissioners is asking for our support.

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 support the Alger County Resolution which strongly urges the Hiawatha National Forest to increase cutting and therefore revenue levels to that which can be sustained at a maximum level.

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The Committee considered Courthouse Ceiling and Wall Repairs – RFP Recommendation. The Courthouse second floor sustained water damage last year when the HVAC system leaked water on some of the ceiling areas. This has caused the paint and wall coverings to separate and in some areas fall completely off. The problem that caused the leak has been prepared and John Greenberg has discussed this with the insurance company for coverage. He will contact them again with the RFP we received. The RFP also included some wall cracks and peeling repairs that are not water damaged related. Due to the possible insurance claim, Staff required the contractor to separate the two costs.

Specifications were developed and mailed to the local painting contractors, and an ad was placed in the Mining Journal. Two proposals were received. The least costly proposal from American Beauty Painting for $5,800 (ceilings) and $2,500 (walls) meets specifications but they could not start the project until January 1, 2004. Even if there is no insurance coverage, or just a limited amount, there are sufficient funds budgeted specifically for this project in the Public Improvements Capital Replacement/Maintenance Budget. Larry Gould, Facilities Manager, recommends the project be awarded to American Beauty Painting for $8,300 contingent upon final contract review and acceptance.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Courthouse Ceiling and Wall Repairs – RFP Recommendation and award the project to American Beauty Painting for $5,800 (ceilings) and $2,500 (walls).

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The Committee considered approval of MDOT Agreement Bureau of Aeronautics from Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager. Sawyer International Airport was programmed in the fourth quarter of FY 2003 to receive $1,275,300 in AIP/MAP funding for the following three projects: Demolition of Hangar 668 at $136,800; Expansion of the Airport Fuel Farm and Storage Area at $352,800; and Insulation of Hangars (identity of hangars TBD) at $785,700. The Michigan Bureau of Aeronautics (BOA) provides project administration services for AIP and MAP funded projects. The local 10% share for the MAP funded projects will be from the sale proceeds of the former County Airport. Staff recommends the MDOT Agreements and a proposed resolution be approved.

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 approve the MDOT Agreement (Bureau of Aeronautics) and execute the Resolution.

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The Committee considered the Amendment to the UPSET Interlocal Agreement. UPSET members include Marquette County, Delta County, City of Marquette, City of Escanaba, and the Michigan State Police. The entities are amending the Interlocal Agreement to specify the obligations of UPSET regarding real estate are to be shared by the member entities. While no obligations are anticipated, the amendment will specify what is currently undefined. Michigan State Police, Delta County, and the City of Escanaba have approved the amendment. Civil Counsel has reviewed and approved the draft.

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 authorize County Administrator to sign the Amendment to the UPSET Interlocal Agreement after review by Civil Counsel.

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Commissioners discussed the 2004 budget. Steve Powers, County Administrator, presented Commissioners with an overview and Power Point presentation of the 2004 budget.

FY 2004 BUDGET COMMENTS


The Committee considered a request from Karen Anderson on behalf of the Sawyer Operations Authority, to allow use of a portion of the recreation fields as a BMX track. 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. Commissioners discussed allowing BMX to use the proposed property until it is developed or until such time as the County gives them notice to vacate. There are no immediate plans for development.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of a 2-year license agreement for the approximately two acre parcel, ball field property, for use by North State BMX with the current zoning, and further, that the license agreement include a 30-day termination clause.

Commissioners discussed payments to the Conservation District. Payments to the Conservation District for the Watershed Coordinator and General District Operations are not recommended in the 2004 Budget. Comm. Nordeen requested the Conservation District be funded from the Forestry Fund.

A Forestry Consultant, updating the Forestry Commission’s Forest Plan, recommended maintaining a $500,000 fund balance. This target has been used by Staff and the Board of Commissioners as a guide to setting priorities and making budget decisions.


Comm. Nordeen commented on the Sheriff’s Department Road Patrol. He stated that cutting nine road patrol officers would be devastating to the Sheriff’s Department. Mutual Aid Agreements would be in question and there would be no law enforcement support in the West and Southern Townships and also Powell Township. One area where funds are available is Ishpeming District Court. The Ishpeming District Court Lease failed and the funds are still available.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Cihak, to use $55,000 from Ishpeming District Court Lease Funds to fund one road patrol officer; appropriate $30,000 from the District Court Budget and $30,000 from the Prosecuting Attorney’s budget to fund one additional Road Patrol Officer.


The Committee considered extension of DEQ Short-term Agreement. Commissioners have been involved with negotiations with the State over the provisions of a long-term lease for Sawyer Building 642, for use by the MDEQ. During that time, MDEQ has been occupying that space and paying rent pursuant to a short-
term rental agreement. The original short-term rental agreement was for a period of one year, and was extended for an additional six months. That extension expires today, and an agreement has been reached, pending County Board approval, on a further extension to April 30, 2004. The original agreement and first extension covered 12,776 sq. ft. of that building. During that time, MDEQ use expanded to occupy the entire $17,662 sq. ft. This second extension will therefore include the $17,662 sq. ft.

The original agreement and first extension required rent at the rate of $9 psf for the 12,776 sq. ft. or $9,552 per month. From that sum, the County paid all operating costs, including janitorial and utilities. Under the new extension, the rent will be $8.30 psf for 17,667 sq. ft., or $12,216.22 per month, and the State will pay all of its own utility charges. This rental rate and payment by the State of its own utility charges are the same as will be incorporated in the long-term lease, which hopefully will be in place before April 30, 2004.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the extension of the Short-term Rental Agreement to April 30, 2004, and authorize the Chairperson and the Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.
Karen Anderson, Sawyer Operations Authority, inquired about a Freedom of Information Act Request she submitted for information regarding the Sawyer Development Fund Budget. She stated that Marquette County has an Airport to be proud of, but without an appealing destination the quality of the Airport is irrelevant.

Jack Schneider, Marquette County Undersheriff, spoke regarding Airport security at Sawyer.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


PUBLIC COMMENT.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Review of Claims and Accounts.

Resolution regarding Hiawatha Forest Plan.

Courthouse Ceiling and Wall Repairs – RFP Recommendation.

Approval of MDOT Agreement (Bureau of Aeronautics).

Amendment to UPSET Interlocal Agreement.

FY 2004 Budget Comments.

Extension of new short term agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

ADJOURNMENT.