The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 22, 2004, at 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. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 8, 2004 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 11 Approval of Sale of Building 501 to Telomite, Inc.; Item 12 Telecommunications System Purchase Order; and Item 13 Agreement with the City of Marquette to Provide Assessing Services.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Coyne, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 11, 2004 through June 17, 2004 in the amount of $138,223.48 be approved.

The Committee heard an update from James Kippola, Courthouse Centennial Committee, regarding the Centennial Celebration to be held beginning in June and culminating on September 17 and 18, 2004. Some of the proposed events include a Powerpoint program, a Fourth of July float, tours, displays, and Dedication Ceremony. As the original dedication took place jointly with the Peter White Public Library, the Centennial Celebration will again include the Library. The Committee is raising funds to support the Celebration through private donations.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board thank and support the Centennial Committee and the work they are doing.

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The Committee considered Rental Concession and Lease Agreements with the four rental agencies (Thrift Car Rental, National/Alamo Car Rental, Budget Car Rental, and Avis Car Rental) at Sawyer International Airport and Business Center. Hal Pawley has met with the agencies and explained the need to charge for use of space at the terminal and for use of a building to wash and clean vehicles. The agencies object to the terminal rent because prior to the relocation from the Marquette County Airport, the agencies were told by the Airport Board that rent would be deferred until there was a gasoline fueling facility at Sawyer. They also object to the implementation of the rent in one step and would request the rent be phased in. The proposed terminal rent is $534.75 plus $102.69 for utilities; the proposed maintenance building rent is $100 plus $237 for utilities. A portion of the car rental agencies revenue is paid to the County as commission payments for the privilege of conducting business at the Airport. The proposed terminal rental rate is the same as paid by the airlines.

Sharon Dunn, owner of Thrifty Car Rental, addressed the Committee on behalf of all four car rental agencies. While the agencies do not object to paying for the space and utilities, she pointed out that there is still no gasoline fueling station at Sawyer. The car agencies would like to see any cost increase phased in gradually instead of the full amount immediately.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct staff to renegotiate with the car rental agencies to come up with a proposal that is more gradual in implementation.

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The Committee considered a Reserves Policy for Sale Proceeds at Sawyer International Airport and Business Center. The recommended policy establishes a reserve fund, similar to the County’s Budget Stabilization Fund. Sale proceeds would be placed in the fund and be used for the purposes listed in the policy. The policy’s purpose is to maintain a protected source of funding for the Airport. Future sales proceeds will be placed in the fund. Expenditures from the fund will require Board action. The recommended policy includes a $100,000 maximum transfer to the Sawyer Water/Wastewater Fund. The transfer is intended to be a one-time payment to start a capital improvement program and be a reserve for the system. The wastewater/water rates include an annual payment for future capital improvements; the transfer is for a capital project/repair that might occur before the program is funded. The Board should consider repayment of the transfer when the water/wastewater system has sufficient reserves.

Comm. Tuominen would like to see a cap on the amount of deficit in the Airport Operating Fund that may be funded.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 5 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Coyne, Comm. Joseph, and Comm. Corkin) to 1 Nay (Comm. Tuominen) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the proposed Reserve Policy for Sawyer International Airport.

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The Committee considered a Community Corrections 2005 Grant Application. The Community Corrections Advisory Board has recommended the submission of a grant to fund the Community Corrections programs. The total amount of the grant application is $129,637 and will be used for work crew, electronic monitoring and probation residential programs. The grant does not require any matching funds from the County.

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 submission of the Community Corrections 2005 Grant Application in the amount of $129,637.

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The Committee considered a Proposed Sale of Dental Equipment to the Upper Peninsula Association for Rural Health Service, Inc. After several years of significant financial challenges, the Sawyer Dental Clinic was closed in March, 2004. The most important factor leading up to the closure was the elimination of Medicaid coverage for adult dental care in October, 2003. The loss of the Medicaid coverage resulted in significant revenue shortfalls at Sawyer.

Various options were evaluated for reopening the clinic. Contacts were made with a number of organizations to solicit ideas and explore joint ventures or other opportunities to utilize the clinic and equipment. The Upper Peninsula Association for Rural Health Service, Inc., which is a state and federally funded nonprofit community health center program which provides services to rural, medically underserved areas across the Upper Peninsula, expressed interest in reopening the Sawyer Dental Clinic. The Association is proposing to purchase the dental equipment at the current fair market value of $21,376 as determined through an appraisal by Patterson Dental Supply, Inc. The Association would continue to use the dental equipment that was obtained from the Air Force, but the equipment must stay at Sawyer should the Association leave the facility in the future.

The proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement and Bill of Sale, drafted by County legal counsel, has been recommended by the Board of Health for approval. The Association has also approved these documents. The revenue obtained through the sale will be used to partially offset the losses at Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Bill of Sale with the Upper Peninsula Association for Rural Health Service, Inc., for the Sale of Dental Equipment in the amount of $21,376.

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The Committee considered Approval of the Sale of Building 501 to Telkite, Inc., for $109,000. Telkite has negotiated an offer to purchase Building 501. The property is scheduled to be transferred to Telkite upon the County’s receipt of the second million dollar payment. The prospect would like to occupy the facility by early July, 2004 and close on the purchase at that time. Upon closing in July, Marquette County will receive $109,000. This amount will be applied to the second million dollar payment required of Telkite under the existing agreement. Telkite would be required to pay $891,000 by December 31, 2004 rather than the original $1 million payment. County projections of proceeds from the sale of Building 501 range from $5,000 to $75,000.

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 Sale of Building 501 to Telkite for $109,000.

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The Committee considered a Telecommunications System Purchase Offer from SBC Ameritech. The Board had previously directed staff to sell the telecommunication system. Early dialog with SBC Ameritech showed SBC was interested in acquiring the system, and they proposed that the County give the system to them. The County advised SBC that this was not an option. Following valuation of the system by the County with the assistance of Matrix Design Group, the County responded to SBC’s offer proposing that the telecommunication system be sold for $245,000. SBC Ameritech offered to purchase the Sawyer telecommunication system for $245,000. Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, advised that upon approval, the sale should be completed within a couple of months.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept SBC Ameritech’s $245,000 Purchase Offer and authorize staff to finalize the sale.

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The Committee considered an Agreement with the City of Marquette to Provide Assessing Services. Since January, 2001 the City of Marquette has been without a Level IV Assessor. The State of Michigan requires certain documents to be approved by a Level IV Assessor. The Equalization Department, specifically Dwight Sunday, Equalization Director, who is a Level IV Assessor, provides these services. The City employs appraisal staff and the Community Development Department Director supervises assessing. The County, through the Equalization Director, manages, supervises, and signs all necessary documents as the City Assessor. The services require 16 to 20 hours per month of the Equalization Director. The Marquette City Commission has approved the agreement. The City will compensate the County $22,000 for the assessing services.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the agreement with the City of Marquette to Provide Assessing Services.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Tuominen questioned a planner position from budget information received last week. Steve Powers, County Administrator, advised that this is a transfer of a position from a Planner at Sawyer to a Planner at the Courthouse, and not a new position.

Comm. Coyne commented on the MAC Legislative Update regarding the Michigan House voting down the manufactured housing ad valorem tax. She would like to see continued support for State Legislators to support this issue. She recommended a letter of support for this issue. Steve Powers advised that a letter has been sent prior to the issue being turned down. Comm. Coyne would like another letter sent confirming the Board’s support of this issue. Steve Powers suggested another letter in late July or early August.
Comm. Tuominen announced that he has heard from State Rep. Steve Adamini’s office that the Senate has passed the $.75 cigarette tax, and it will now go back to the House.

Comm. Cihak announced he recently attended a CUPPAD meeting and gave an update on the sentencing guideline work group. A panel will be discussing this issue at the MAC Conference.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that a Certificate of Appreciation was received from Shiloh Baptist Church for the Resource Management/Development Department Building Codes Personnel and Staff, thanking them for their help during the Church’s building project.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Skytt
Marquette County Deputy Clerk
ROLL CALL.


3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. Historical Committee Update.

7. Car Rental Agency Agreement at Sawyer International Airport and Business Center.

8. Sawyer International Airport and Business Center Reserves Policy.

9. Community Corrections 2005 Grant Application

10. Proposed Sale of Dental Equipment to the Upper Peninsula Association for Rural Health Service, Inc.

11. Sale of Body B01 to Salant

12. Telecommunications System Purchase Offer

13. Agreement w/ Mt. City to provide access services

14. PUBLIC COMMENT.

15. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

16. ADJOURNMENT.