The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 14, 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. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on August 10, 2004 and on August 24, 2004 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of the following: Item 10) Interoperable Communications Consortium, Item 11) Homeland Security Grant Agreement, Item 12) Discussion regarding Telkite, and Item 15a) Closed Session.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 3, 2004 through September 9, 2004 in the amount of $1,764,638.85 be approved.

The Committee considered a communication from Greg Seppanen, Supervisor, Chocolay Township, regarding the Honor Camp property. Mr. Seppanen explained that it has come to his attention that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners has asked the Marquette County Planning Commission to review a development proposal for a 220 acre area in Sands Township. He is concerned that any development in that area could possibly have a major traffic impact on Silver Creek Road in Chocolay Township and subsequently, create a traffic safety situation at the intersection of Silver Creek Road and U. S. 41. He has requested the Chair of the Marquette County Planning Commission to consider allowing a representative from Chocolay Township to participate in the review of any proposed development that includes a connection to Silver Creek Road. He is asking the County Board to support his request.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the request of Chocolay Township Supervisor Greg Seppanen to consider allowing a representative from Chocolay Township to participate in the review of any proposed development that includes a connection to Silver Creek Road.

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The Committee considered a review draft of the Marquette County Forest Management Plan. Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, Resource Management/Development Department, was present and explained that on September 1, 2004 the Marquette County Planning Commission reviewed a draft of the County of Marquette Forest Management Plan. This Plan will provide the necessary guidance for future decision making in the County Forest. The Plan was prepared by the Resource Management/Development Department staff working in conjunction with the Marquette County Forestry Commission. The Planning Commission, in compliance with the requirements of Public Act 264 of 2001, has voted unanimously to forward this Plan to the Marquette County Committee of the Whole for review and subsequent recommendation for distribution by the County Board.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board release for distribution and public comment a draft of the Forest Management Plan and adopt the appropriate Resolution which asserts the right of the County Board to approve or to reject the Plan.

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The Committee considered the Central Dispatch Tower Co-location with the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan owns and operates an 800 megahertz radio system and telecommunications network.
The State is allowing members of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System the opportunity to locate local public safety communications equipment on the 800 MHz towers. Marquette County is a member of the MPSCS. The County's use of the towers and use of contractors and subcontractors is subject to the prior approval of the State. The Central Dispatch Policy Board supports the co-location of dispatching equipment. The Agreement has been reviewed and approved as to form by Civil Council and Risk Management. The Agreement is available in the County Administrator's office for review.

The State of Michigan is allowing Marquette County free use of the towers. The free use includes electricity, with a backup generator source. Use of the State towers will save Marquette County Central Dispatch $18,000 annually.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Central Dispatch Tower Co-location Agreement with the State of Michigan.

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The Committee considered a Photocopyer Lease Bid Award. The current agreement for photocopyers expires September 30, 2004. Larry Gould, Facilities Manager, explained that a bid package was prepared, mailed to vendors, and advertised in the Mining Journal. In response, five bids were received. The bid specifications allowed vendors to bid any brand or model that met the needs of the County, resulting in a wide range of prices and options.

The least expensive is the bid from U. P. Office Equipment Systems. The three-year option is recommended. With the current budget condition of the County, the use of reconditioned machines is a cost-saving approach that should be tried. The bid package specified equipment features, equipment replacement, and service. The equipment must be equal to or better than the current photocopiers. U. P. Office Equipment Systems has two service personnel in Marquette County that will be available within four hours or less. References noted good service with no problems.

Annually, 1.5 million copies are made in the Courthouse, Annex, Sawyer, District Court, and Youth Home. The Agreement will allow for the addition or deletion of machines. The low bid is within the 2005 budget for photocopiers and is the only bid less than the 2005 budget.

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 award the Photocopyer Bid to U. P. Office Equipment Systems and authorize a three-year contract.

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The Committee considered an Interoperable Communications Consortium Resolution. There have been efforts to pursue federal funding to purchase radio equipment and enhanced communication capabilities in the Upper Peninsula. The best opportunity for success is to seek assistance regionally. The Upper Peninsula Interoperable Communications Consortium would consist of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties. The purpose of the Consortium is to secure state and federal funding for 800 MHz radios for Upper Peninsula counties and local governments. The Consortium will seek new funding through any available source and opportunities through regionalization.

The Marquette County Board and the Central Dispatch Policy Board supports seeking grants for radio equipment. Grants reduce the financial burden on local governments responsible for providing public safety and first response. The federal and state government has established interoperability (the ability for police, fire, and emergency medical to use the same communication system) as a homeland security priority. The Resolution does not commit Marquette County to any financial contribution or diversion of existing federal homeland security funds already being received. There is no financial contribution required to be a member of the Consortium. No specific state or federal grants have been identified at this time. The Central Dispatch budget does not have funding to purchase radios for public safety agencies.
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 Upper Peninsula Interoperable Communications Consortium Resolution.

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The Committee considered the FY 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Agreement. The purpose of this Grant is to provide federal pass-through funds to Marquette County for preventing, deterring, responding, and recovering from threats and incidences of terrorism. This will be accomplished by planning homeland security and emergency operations, and by purchasing specialized equipment to enhance the capability of state and local agencies to prevent, respond to, and mitigate incidents of terrorism involving a chemical, biological, nuclear, or explosive event and cyber attacks.

The funding under this Grant will be allocated to Marquette County in two separate programs; one being the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) - $309,375 and the other being the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) - $93,390. This Grant is 100 percent reimbursable with no match requirements. This Grant is not to equip individual local governments, but to prepare our overall community. The Local Planning Team made up of representatives from the 12 disciplines (police, fire, EMS, etc.) will be reviewing those requests from those agencies who submitted an equipment request. Of the $309,375.00, $35,000.00 will be used towards planning.

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 Board authorize acceptance of the State Homeland Security Grant Agreement.

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Chairperson Corkin announced that he has had inquiries as to what the Telkite Agreement is. Commissioners and staff reviewed the Telkite Agreement to provide the public of the process. Staff explained that the Telkite Agreement with Marquette County is for the purchase and lease of property at K. I. Sawyer. The Telkite Agreement is structured in phases, with the County protected at each phase. The parties move to the next phase only if the terms of the preceding phase are met. Staff outlined this process.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Sheriff Mike Lovelace was present and thanked the County Board for their support of the UPSET position discussed during the budget process. He apologized for being absent from the September 7, 2004 Budget Session. Mr. Lovelace also explained the situation regarding the missing 78 year old woman from Republic, Caroline Kadrik. He explained that there has been an intensive and exhaustive search.

Chairperson Corkin announced that the 100-year Anniversary Celebration of the Courthouse will be on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and invited everyone to attend.

Bill Pesola, addressed the County Board regarding the Telkite situation.

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

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

Comm. Tuominen announced that the repairs on County Road 553 will be of no cost to taxpayers.

Comm. Cihak gave an explanation regarding the budget session and the UPSET position.

Comm. Nordeen stated that if there is any funds available from the funding of the UPSET position, a Road Patrol officer should be funded.
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS    COUNTY OF MARQUETTE    SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

Steve Powers, County Administrator, discussed the budget situation regarding revenue sharing.


CLOSED SESSION

The Committee of the Whole came back into Open Session. It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole follow the recommendation of Civil Counsel.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branar
Marquette County Clerk
ROLL CALL.


3. PUBLIC COMMENT.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

5. Review of Claims and Accounts.

6. Communication from Greg Seppanen, Supervisor, Chocolay Township, regarding Honor Camp Property.

7. Review of the draft County of Marquette Forest Management Plan (a complete copy of the Plan in Commission Chambers).

8. Central Dispatch Tower Co-Location with the State of Michigan.

9. Photocopier Bid Award.

10. Interoperable Communication Consortium Homeland Security Grant Agreement.

11. Talk to Dispatch w/staff

12. 

13.

14.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT.

16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

17. ADJOURNMENT.

C.S. Pursuant to MD Oct 15, 268
Review All Client Privilege.