BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS        COUNTY OF MARQUETTE        NOVEMBER 9, 2004
Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday,
November 9, 2004, at 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue,
Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by
voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 26, 2004 be
approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice
vote that the agenda be approved with the following change and addition: Item 9) Water and Wastewater
Ordinances deleted from the agenda to be considered in two weeks; add Item 12) Transportation Security

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice
vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 29, 2004 through November 5, 2004 in the amount
of $683,563.24 be approved minus Check #56733 made payable to James Cihak in the amount of
$225.00.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to
1 Abstention (Comm. Cihak) that Check #56733 made payable to James Cihak in the amount of $225.00
be approved. Affidavit of Disclosure Follows:

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE
Pursuant to MCL 15.323(2)(a)

James Cihak, a Marquette County Commissioner, being duly sworn, hereby submits this Affidavit
pursuant to the provisions of MCL 15.323 (2)(a);

1. The Final Disbursement List submitted for approval at the November 9, 2004, meeting of
the County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole includes Check No. 056733,
dated November 5, 2004, payable to James Cihak in the amount of $225.00 in payment for
Circuit Court Services, David P. Peterson;

2. I hereby disclose that I have a personal financial interest in that I am the sole proprietor of
Cihak Investigative Services, and in that capacity I performed the work for which this
payment is being made;

3. I hereby certify that any direct benefit I personally will receive from this payment will be
less than $250.00.

Dated this 9th day of November, 2004

James Cihak
Marquette County Commissioner

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The Committee considered a letter to the Regional Manager of MSHDA. During an idea exchange
meeting, held two months ago at the Ishpeming Township Hall, County Staff presented a summary of the
Draft Marquette County Housing Plan. After the presentation, several Township Supervisors began to
discuss the County's Housing Program's failure to assist rural housing needs. Staff explained how criteria
established by MSHDA limits the County's opportunity to concentrate funding in rural communities.
Further discussion lead to the possible resurrection of a letter prepared by the Marquette County Planning Commission, signed by the Marquette County Board and submitted to MSHDA approximately two years ago. Staff reviewed the previous letter and decided to draft a new letter that continues to address those same concerns.

The Marquette County Planning Commission has reviewed and signed the letter and is forwarding it to the Marquette County Board for their support and signature by the County Board Chair.

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 direct the Board Chair to sign the letter showing their support to the Regional Manager of MSHDA.

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The Committee considered an Application to MSHDA for County Allocation Housing Resource Funds. On November 3, 2004 the Marquette County Planning Commission held a public hearing for review of the Application to the Michigan State Housing Authority (MSHDA) for County Allocation Housing Resource Funds. Funds from the proposed grant would continue the County’s Community Development Housing Rehabilitation Program. No public comments were provided to the Commission.

The County is proposing to apply to MSHDA for the full, population based amount of $275,000 to improve the housing stock in Marquette County over the next two years. The proposed programs are a continuation of single-family home rehabilitation, emergency repairs, and home purchase rehabilitation for income qualified applicants. The Marquette County Planning Commission voted 4-0 in support of the application.

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 adopt a Resolution to pursue the 2005 - 2006 Grant Application to the Michigan State Housing Authority (MSHDA) for County Allocation Housing Resource Funds.

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The Committee considered the Jail Inspection Report. Commissioners received the final Inspection Report dated October 20, 2004 regarding the County Jail Services Units (CJSU) recent inspection of the Marquette County Jail. CJSU congratulates Sheriff Lovelace, his Staff, and the Marquette County Board of Commissioners for maintaining compliance with the Administrative Rules for Jails and Lockups. Sheriff Michael Lovelace was present and stated he is fiercely proud of his entire staff including the Undersheriff, Jail Administrator, Command Staff, Corrections Officers and Part-time Employees for the fantastic job they did. He further stated that this is the third consecutive year the Sheriff’s Department has reached full compliance with the Michigan Department of Corrections Jail Rules.

It was moved by Comm. Chihak, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Jail Inspection Report be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee considered High-Speed Internet Service. Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, explained that on September 21, 2004, Governor Jennifer Granholm announced the creation of the Digital Divide Investment Program (DDIP). The DDIP will mobilize broadband investment in geographic regions where High-Speed Internet Service may not be available or where such service is unaffordable for the average low to moderate income household. Marquette and Muskegon Counties have been selected by the Governor and Mr. David Hollister, Director of the State Department of Labor and Economic Growth, as pilots. State Officials see the potential for High-Speed Internet Service to expand community and economic development opportunities. Lowering end-user monthly service costs will create broadband use, the ultimate goal of the DDIP.

The State is using a portion of its Community Development Block Grant allocation to implement the DDIP. The DDIP also includes loan funds from the Broadband Authority. The loan will be awarded by the Broadband Authority to support the winning vendor’s cost for installation in the entire county. CDBG funds will be awarded for expenses and eligible communities. The CDBG portion is limited to townships with more than 50% low to moderate income households. In Marquette County, West Branch, Ewing, Republic, Michigamme, and Wells Townships qualify.
The Broadband Authority will provide a grant and a loan to for-profit vendors. The actual grant award and loan will depend on the proposals. Eligible expenses include last mile and a vendor’s customer premise (in-home) equipment expenses and portions of local loop and backhaul fees. 100% of the successful vendor’s connection expenses for the low to moderate income households are potentially reimbursable.

Through the Memorandum of Understanding with the Broadband Authority, Marquette County is agreeing to manage the solicitation process. A request for proposals will be used. Private providers will submit plans on how to address Broadband Network Plans for the entire County. The plans would be reviewed by the County, the Broadband Authority, and the MEDC.

UGLETTI assistance with implementation of the pilot program is recommended. UGLETTI’s vision is to make the Upper Peninsula a totally connected community with affordable, high-speed data access for everyone. UGLETTI has helped develop interest in broadband through its past work with Marquette County on an UPLINK Project. UPLINK brought together all 15 Upper Peninsula Counties. UGLETTI has the expertise and contacts to assist the County in managing the DDIP.

There is no impact on the County budget. No local match is required. UGLETTI’s compensation for services will be limited by the Grant. Some County Staff time will be needed to help ensure the project is successfully implemented.

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 approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Michigan Broadband Authority and the Memorandum of Understanding with Upper Great Lakes Education Technologies, Inc. (UGLETTI).

The Committee considered the MERS Opt-Out. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that a recent system-wide change to the Michigan Employees Retirement System allows employees to start receiving their pension benefit while continuing to work for the same employer. Previous MERS’ rules placed earnings limits on an employee who continued to work for the same employer. The earnings limitation has been removed. This increased flexibility helps the employee and offers financial and non-financial benefits to Marquette County.

A County employee who begins drawing his or her earned pension and continues to work for Marquette County is no longer eligible for future MERS contributions and the recommended policy makes the employee ineligible for any future retirement contributions. Estimated net savings from those eligible to retire in 2004/2005 is over $100,000.

If a County employee chooses to retire, and the position is replaced, Marquette County would be paying the health insurance premium for the retiree and the new employee. By an employee continuing to work, Marquette County postpones the retiree health insurance and the need for a new employee. Marquette County is able to retain employees with valuable knowledge and experience.

Approval of the policy will allow implementation of changes.

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 the Policy change to allow for the MERS Opt Out.

The Committee considered a Transportation Security Agency Lease Extension. The General Services Administration (GSA), on behalf of the Transportation Security Agency (TSA), is requesting a one-year extension of the lease for space in Building 731 and at the terminal. GSA is authorized to extend the lease for one year. The lease extension increases the total square footage from 2,097 to 2,267 sq. ft. The annual rent increases from $54,996 to $63,408. The lease is full-service and the square footage rate has been set accordingly. The base rate is $15.45 per square foot. Building 731 is adjacent to the terminal and previously was leased by Northern Michigan University. TSA leases the space for use in providing security at Sawyer International Airport.
It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Supplemental Lease Agreement with the General Services Administration for Building 731 and Airport Terminal Building.

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The Committee considered the Community Corrections 2005 Contract. The Community Corrections Advisory Board wishes to continue contractual agreements for the Probation Residential Services Program and the Cognitive Behavioral Program. Both programs are run by Staff and Great Lakes Recovery Centers and the contracts will renew the two programs for the next year. Both programs are funded by the FY 2005 Grant Agreement that was approved and signed by the Michigan Department of Corrections in August.

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 Community Corrections 2005 Contracts for the Probation Residential Services Program and the Cognitive Behavioral Program.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that materials regarding Item 9) Water and Wastewater Ordinances will be forthcoming and urged County Commissioners to review it.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Brannan
Marquette County Clerk
1. ROLL CALL.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Letter to the Regional Manager of MSHDA.
7. Application to MSHDA for County Allocation Housing Resource Funds.
12. Transportation Security Agency Lease Extension
14. 
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.