

November 28, 1979

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met on November 28, 1979 at 7:00 p.m. in the Marquette County Courthouse Annex, as a Committee of the Whole.

Chairperson May called the meeting to order. County Clerk, Henry A. Skewis called the roll and the following roll was recorded.

Present: Comm. Anderson, Cheatham, Clark, Coombs, Farrell, Juidici, Krook, Leone, Lowe, Racine, Steele and May.

Absent: None.

The Agenda was approved by the general concensus of the county board and an item by the Prosecuting Attorney, Gary Walker, regarding the proposed settlement between the county and Tom Shaw, Inc. (court-house annex construction) and an item by Controller Duane Beard regarding the delay in receiving State Revenue Sharing Funds, were added.

Chairperson May opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming and Chairperson May declared the public comment section closed.

Chairperson May opened the meeting for discussion between the County Commissioners and members of the Executive Committee of the Marquette County Township Association, regarding the alleged break-down in communication between the two groups. Present and representing the Marquette County Township Association's Executive Board were: Earl Robinson, Helen Kopenski, LaVerne Thibeault, William Pietala, Jean Howe and William Michelin.

A discussion was held regarding the MCTA letter dated October 22, 1979, to the county board, expressing concern on behalf of the various townships in the way the County Board of Commissioners have been treating requests by the Township Association.

A discussion was held regarding the County Board of Commissioners letter under the signature of Board Chairperson, Sally May, that invited the Executive Committee of the MCTA to attend the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss this concern.

Comments by Board of Commission members, the members of the Marquette County Township Association and other township officials were heard.

Township officials spoke on needed repairs of township roads, County Road Commission budget, Petitions by township residents regarding roads, deaths on township roads and highways, repairs of non-primary roads not provided in State allocated dollars, Equalization of taxes, absence of county commissioners at township meetings, Road signs and rural numbering systems needed, Sheriff Budget and road patrol, use of the county jail, travel on county roads and winter condition of roads, welfare budget, reimbursement for welfare and child support money spent by Social Services Dept., Emergency Rescue Service, Animal control and housing of stray dogs.

County Commissioners commented on action the county board took in the past three years to alleviate some of these problems, the necessity to allocate county funds by statute and/or where they provide the best service for the taxpayer, County Road funds being mostly state money and not county funds, effect of petitions on county board, when petitions are received late, balanced budgets, statutory requirements on funding certain departments (General Assistance), equalization of taxes, not knowing when township board meetings are scheduled, conflict of meeting dates (township and county), Snowmobile & Marine Safety Program, Sheriff's road patrol, Jail, providing of necessary services to all taxpayers, distribution of transportation and gas tax by the state, child support payments, collection of fraudulent welfare claims, providing general assistance (Welfare), monitoring of CETA programs, Emergency rescue equipment, dog problems, ordinances, Humane Society cooperation and animal control.

In general the comments were well received and a communication area established between the County Commissioners and the Township Association members.

Marquette County Township Association members then left the meeting.

Comm. Lowe advised the county board that 50% of the goals established for the Intergovernmental Relations Committee have been met and they are presently working on animal control problems.

Comm. Clark spoke on the need for units of government to act together in the establishment of a Solid Waste Disposal Program. The Environmental Protection Act have done a study on the use of Modular incineration of solid waste, with the by-product, steam, used as an energy source. This method is presently being studied, locally. The Six Townships Solid Waste authority in Marquette County is also studying modular incineration processes.

Comm. Farrell commented on a Federal Government White paper study of railroad rationalization that would allow railroads to trade trackage, so that railroad transportation would better conform with the needs of the area. The Upper Peninsula railroad trackage and shipping procedures were discussed.

Comm. Lowe commented on a group of Wisconsin farmers who had purchased a part of a railroad for use in shipping their produce. Information will be obtained from the planning commission on this matter.

Comm. Lowe and Comm. Steele commented on the use of rail transportation for ski-trains from cities to ski areas, and on trains being one of the most economical methods of transportation for large numbers of persons and/or freight.

Comm. Leone advised the county board that AMCAB will be requesting a larger county appropriation for this year to help defray rising costs.

Comm. Racine commented on the Planning Commission obtaining a county planner and advised the county board that the appointment will be made soon.

Comm. Steele advised the county board on the progress of pure water and fire protection water sources for Acock's Medical Facility, now in the construction stage.

Discussion was held on the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners meeting, Dec. 6-7, 1979 at Escanaba, Michigan and the position that Marquette County should take in regard to the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations of the organization.

Controller, Duane Beard advised the county board of a Mailogram that was received from the Michigan Association of Counties, regarding the delayed distribution of state revenue sharing funds due to debate on HB4189. Chairperson May will send a mailogram or letter to Senator Jerome Hart, Chairman of the Senate Appropriation Committee, and all of the Upper Peninsula Legislators, stressing the need for immediate action to allow this distribution.

Prosecuting Attorney, Gary Walker advised the county board on the most recent developments in the third arbitration between the County of Marquette and Tom Shaw Inc. (Courthouse Annex Construction). Mr. Walker will draft a letter to the Finance Committee with recommendation as to action by the county board on this proposed arbitration settlement.

Chairperson May advised the county board that Edna Hocking had expressed a desire, not to serve on the Economic Development Corp. board of directors, and a replacement will be suggested at the County Board meeting on Dec. 5, 1979.

Officers of the Economic Development Corporation are as follows:
James Collins - President
Frank Garczynski - Vice President
Duane Beard - Secretary
Richard Alholm - Treasurer

Chairperson May suggested to the county board, that the Economic Development Corporation directors be allowed to attend a two day seminar, at an estimated expense of \$2,529.00, and gather information on the operation of EDC's.

It was moved by Comm. Juidici, supported by Comm. Racine that the matter of the EDC Seminar be referred to the Marquette County Board of Commissioners Dec. 5, 1979 meeting and that the money for expenses be paid from the County Commissioners per diem budget item. It was moved by Comm. Farrell, supported by Comm. Lowe and carried that the forgoing motion be amended to appropriate the necessary money from the Contingency Fund if the county board allows the expense.

Ayes: Comm. Anderson, Cheatham, Clark, Farrell, Juidici, Krook, Lowe, Racine, Steele and May.

Nays: Comm. Coombs and Leone.

A roll call vote was then taken on the main motion as amended " to refer to the Board of Commissioners at their Dec. 5, 1979 meeting, the suggestion that the directors of the Economic Development Corporation be allowed to attend the two day Seminar, if they so desire, and that the funding of expense if allowed by the county board, be appropriated from the Contingency Fund."

Ayes: Comm. Anderson, Clark, Farrell, Juidici, Krook, Leone, Lowe Racine, Steele and May.

Nays: Comm. Coombs and Cheatham.

Information needed at the Dec. 5, 1979 meeting of the county board for the above stated referred action is,

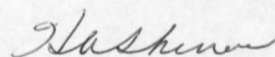
1. Can the money used for this purpose be legally ordered repayed by placing restrictions in the motion to allow?
2. What is the actual cost?
3. Which directors of the EDC will be available to attend the seminar?
4. The necessary budget amendment if needed.
5. Request and get a report of the seminar after it is over, from those who attend.

Comm. Lowe commented on Units of Government setting themselves above the citizenry in not obeying the laws of the land as it relates to people.

Terry Heckert, a reporter for WUPY commended the county board for their patience in dealing with county problems.

There being no further business to come before the county board, it was moved by Comm. Leone, supported by Comm. Clark and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Henry A. Skewis
County Clerk

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Wednesday, November 28, 1979, 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners Room, Courthouse Annex
Marquette, Michigan

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Roll call by the Clerk.
3. Approval of the agenda.
4. Public Comment.
5. 7:00 p.m. Members of the Marquette County Townships Association Executive Board and other interested township officials will be present to discuss communications between the County Board and the MCTA.
6. Progress toward objectives/Standing Committee Reports:
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Personnel Committee
 - c. Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee
 - d. Finance Committee
 - e. Intergovernmental Relations Committee
7. Others:
 - a. Board of County Institutions
 - b. County Planning Commission
 - c. County Commission on Aging
 - d. County Board of Health
 - e. CETA Consortium
 - f. Alger-Marquette Community Action Agency Board
 - g. CUPPAD Criminal Justice Committee
 - h. RC&D Council
 - i. Central Dispatch Committee
 - j. OEDP Committee
 - k. UPTRA
 - l. MAC Committees
8. Additional Business
9. Announcements
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment