

January 28, 1981

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on January 28, 1981 in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Farrell.

Roll call was held by County Clerk Henry A. Skewis and the following roll recorded:

Present: Comm. Carlson, Juidici, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Lowe, May, Steele, Villeneuve, and Farrell.
Absent and Excused: Comm. Cheatham and Racine.

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

After a discussion of the agenda, item 9-A was moved up on the agenda to be discussed between items 5 and 6.

Chairperson Farrell opened the meeting to a discussion on the effect Road Commission lay-offs will have on the use of the Road Commission by the Department of Social Services as a general assistance work site. David Berns, director of the Department of Social Services was present to answer questions and explain what is now being done. Mr. Berns explained the general assistance program as it relates to on site work programs. Mr. Berns has talked to Mr. Junak of the Road Commission. It is understood the Department of Social Services people can not be used to displace employees. The Department of Social Services would like to continue their work site program with the Road Commission but would not want to be involved in Union Grievances. Mr. Berns explained that the work program of general assistance allows anyone deemed employable, a chance to work one hundred hours a month at approximately \$3.00 per hour. Mr. Berns then left the meeting.

Chairperson Farrell opened the meeting for a discussion of AMCAB. Neil Carlson and six other members of the AMCAB had asked for a special AMCAB board meeting. They were refused because three of the seven signers of the petition for special meeting were alternates on the AMCAB board. Comm. Carlson then brought the questions before the County Board of Commissioners. Also present were AMCAB Board members Comm. LaPin, Comm. May, Comm. Farrell, Elizabeth Vajda, Karen Moffit and alternates Lynn Emerick, David Berns.

Comm. Carlson stated that AMCAB is designated to oversee Community Action Programs in Marquette County. Carlson and other board members had been hearing some complaints from persons in the county of alleged wrong doing on the part of AMCAB. Carlson felt that these rumors or allegations should be investigated by some group. Rumors consisted of:

1. Improper purchasing procedures.
2. Improper use of hot food inventories.
3. Inadaquate supervison of CETA.
4. Money spent on parties.
5. Improper taking of materials.
6. Phone threats.
7. Energy credits taken from Senior Citizens.
8. Threats to people, not to talk to board members.
9. Unusual high number of grievances and improper procedures used.

In general he was concerned about how effective the programs were and how the money was spent.

Comm. May and others were concerned about being unable to get financial information and not have one central budget, and also concerned about their liability as board members, and responsibilities to the public.

Chief Civil Counsel Patricia L. Micklow advised the Board of Commissioners that all information that may involve any actions of a criminal nature should be referred to the prosecuting attorney's staff for decision.

Lynn Emerick and Karin Moffat echoed the thoughts of either Comm. May or Comm. Carlson.

No one was present to offer any defense to the position of AMCAB. David Berns and others are not of the thought that the program should suffer but only that there should be more credibility and accountability to the program. It was moved by Comm. May, supported by Comm. Carlson and carried that the Committee of the Whole refer the matter to the

Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Prosecuting Attorney to determine if conditions exist that would call for some action by any level of government and if determination is made then to come back to County Board to see what they could do to see that some action was taken, they may recommend to the County Board that CSA have something be done, or that the County Board would withdraw designation of the agency, or that there would be a recommendation on how these services could be provided, but certainly the County Board should not hold its own investigation. Chief Civil Counsel reminded the County Board that they cannot carry on their own investigation into the criminal element, but that this information be provided to the Prosecuting Attorney's office.

A communication was received from the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Center regarding the study of the Brookridge Property and asking for a delay of the report for a couple of months was read, and placed on file.

A communication from the Alger-Marquette County Mental Health Center, regarding a meeting between Marquette and Alger Counties and the AD HOC Committee on Mental Health was read and placed on file.

Comm. Leone gave a short report on the recent meeting of the Commission on Aging, and their loss of personnel in the CETA program.

Comm. Leone gave a report of the Airport Committee meeting held this month and the possible loss of the liquor license if the restaurant does not have an increase in business.

It was noted by the County Board that Wes Wentela has resigned as clerk of the Forestry Commission and that John Beerling has resigned as secretary of the Harbor Commission.

Comm. LaPin gave a short report on the program and planning of the Solid Waste Management Planning Committee.

It was reported by Comm. Farrell and Comm. Leone on two large grants that are available for Emergency Medical Services and the Upper Peninsula Health Systems Agency, and asked that the county gain some information on the pre-application.

Comm. Villeneuve asked to be informed as to what is happening with the Friend of the Court investigation. A report will be forthcoming. It was noted that Attorney Thomas Solka has refused to under take this investigation.

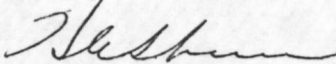
Comm. LaPin advised the County Board that there are some differences in the amount of money that U.P. Senior Citizens and L.P. Senior Citizens get for fuel cost adjustments for 1980. It was moved by Comm. LaPin, supported by Comm. Lowe and carried that the matter be referred to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee for report.

County Clerk, Henry A. Skewis advised the County Board of increases in the costs of certified copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce records after February 9, 1981. He suggested that his department be authorized to advise the public of these drastic changes. He was advised to do so if he felt it was worth while. It was moved by Comm. Carlson, supported by Comm. LaPin and carried that the report of the County Clerk on these increases be referred to the Executive Committee for a letter to the legislators opposing this increase.

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

There being no further business to come before the County Board, it was moved by Comm. LaPin, supported by Comm. LaMere that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Henry A. Skewis
County Clerk

Committee of the Whole

Wednesday, January 28, 1981, 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners Room, Courthouse Annex
Marquette, Michigan

1. Meeting Called to Order.
2. Roll Call by the Clerk.
3. Public Comment.
4. Approval of the Agenda.
5. 7:00 p.m. David Berns, Director, Marquette County Department of Social Services, has been invited to attend to discuss the effect Road Commission lay-offs will have on the use of the Road Commission by DSS as a general assistance worksite.
6. Communication from Thomas Baldini, Chairperson, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board, on the status of the Brookridge Study Committee.
7. Communication from Thomas Baldini, Chairperson, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board, on the status of the Ad Hoc Committee on Mental Health.
8. Progress Toward Objectives/Standing Committee Reports:
 - a. Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee.
 - b. Executive Committee.
 - c. Finance Committee.
 - d. Intergovernmental Relations Committee.
 - e. Personnel Committee.
9. Others:
 - ~~b~~a. Board of County Institutions.
 - ~~c~~b. County Commission on Aging.
 - ~~o~~c. County Board of Health.
 - ~~e~~d. CETA Consortium.
 - A - e. Alger-Marquette Community Action Board.
 - f. CUPPAD Criminal Justice Committee.
 - g. Central Dispatch Policy Board.
 - h. OEDP Committee.
 - i. Marquette/Marquette Twp./Chocolay Twp. Sewage Plant Board.
 - j. UPTRA.
 - k. County Solid Resource Recovery Implementation Committee.
 - l. Solid Waste Management Planning Committee.
 - m. Region XI Area Agency on Aging.
 - n. MAC Committees.
10. Additional Business.
11. Announcements.
12. Public Comment.
13. Adjournment.

George Black