

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole met in a Budget Work Session on Monday, September 29, 1986 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Lowe called the meeting to order, roll call was taken and the following roll recorded:

Present: Comm. Berglund, Comm. Corkin, Comm. DeFant, Comm. Valente and Comm. Lowe. Absent: None.

Approval of the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting of September 15, 19, and 23, 1986 were deferred until the next meeting.

Chairperson Lowe requested that the Committee allow County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, to present the results of the summary of the Department Heads as requested by the Committee of the Whole regarding the 1987 budget reduction of hours worked or eliminating positions, and then allow each Commissioner to briefly make a statement before the Committee moves on to public comment. Agreed.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, presented for the Committee review the following Summary of the 1987 Budget Reduction Survey.

SUMMARY OF 1987 BUDGET REDUCTION SURVEY

<u>Option</u>	<u>No.</u>
Neither is Acceptable	10
Reduced Work Hours	4
County-wide Elimination of Positions	7
Combination of Reduced Hours/Position Elimination	1

Commissioner Berglund felt he cannot support the recommended budget as presented by the Administrator because we are short by nearly a million dollars in revenues. He contended it is better to start with a 6%-10% cut now instead of a few years down the road have a 25%-30% cut.

Commissioner Corkin also could not support the recommendation of the Administrator and felt that Marquette County will have to face reality sooner or later.

Commissioner DeFant was in support of the Administrator's recommended budget and stated that the rainy-day fund may be used to prevent reduction in services and employees. We have not used the rainy-day fund in five years, in fact it has grown by \$400,000.00, and she believes the Marquette County economy will be improving in the near future.

Comm. Valente stated he is against the elimination of jobs and was elected to create jobs. He trusts Mr. Aloia's recommendation and is in favor of the recommended budget.

Chairperson Lowe stated he is in favor of Mr. Aloia's recommended balanced budget. Marquette County has reached the point where eliminating employees or cutting employees wages and benefits are no longer justified. We have not been using our savings for the past five years although the money has been allocated. Comm. Lowe commended the Department Heads for their cooperation in the budget hearing process.

Chairperson Lowe opened the meeting for public comment. Probate Judge, Michael Anderegg, spoke in favor of the recommended balanced budget and stated the reality is that there is money in savings and the court case load is increasing.

James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, stressed to the Committee that they review what are mandatory programs and what are non-mandatory programs. His office has the same number of people as they did in 1974 and the workload has increased. He needs more people not less. He has taken an oath of office as an elected official to act as Treasurer for the citizens of Marquette County and the County Board has also taken an oath of office as they are to provide the funds. Mr. Sodergren also suggested in raising revenue the County Board take a closer look at the Commercial Forest Act, and tax breaks for Downtown Development Projects.

Marquette County Sheriff, Joseph Maino, stated there are many dedicated people working in Marquette County government and his department has been cutting corners for years to save. Sheriff Maino pointed out even though his department did not get all they requested, they could live within the budget. He supported the Administrator's balanced budget.

District Court Judge, William Easton, stated neither option was acceptable to him, he cannot cut people and he cannot cut hours. The caseload is continually increasing in Marquette County's District Court.

Marquette County Prosecutor, Gary Walker, was present and stated there have been no increases in the Prosecutor's staff, but the workload has increased by 25%. There is no way the Prosecutor's office could accept reduced hours or staff cuts.

Friend of the Court, Carolyn Hanson, was present and stated their responsibilities have continuously increased over the years and that the last thing that they possibly need is staff reductions or hours cut.

Jackie Lykins, Chapter Chairperson Local 2914 AFSCME, was present and presented the Committee with a map of Marquette County showing how many County employees live in their respective districts. She has polled County employees and the forty-hour work week is not acceptable or negotiable. County hourly employees have been reduced by 15 in the last several years and in 1984 accepted a wage freeze. Marquette County employees are very dedicated employees.

County Clerk, David Roberts, stated his department budget is nearly 100% wages and benefits, which provide direct services to the public. Should positions be eliminated or hours be cut there are no services that by law could be reduced.

Chairperson Lowe declared a five minute recess.

The Committee of the Whole reconvened to discuss the FY 1987 budget recommendation. It was moved by Comm. DeFant, supported by Comm. Valente and carried on a roll call vote three-to-two with Comm. Berglund and Comm. Corkin voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend to the County Board at their annual meeting the acceptance of the Administrator's total FY 1987 Budget as presented, with the exception of the following particular line items to be worked out within the total budget figure; a) Economic Development Corporation; b) Harvest Festival; c) Ishpeming Ski Hall of Fame; d) Humane Society; and e) Marquette County Transit Authority.

The Committee of the Whole will meet again in a budget work session on Thursday, October 2, 1986 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, also the regular County Board meeting of October 7, 1986 be changed to Wednesday, October 8, 1986 at 7:00 p.m.

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

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David J. Roberts
Marquette County Clerk

Clerk

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BUDGET WORK SESSION
Monday, September 29, 1986, 5:00 p.m.
Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex
Marquette, MI 49855

1. Roll Call.
2. Approval of the minutes of September 15, 19, & 23, 1986.
3. Public Comment.
4. Budget Work Session.
5. Scheduling of next meeting.
6. Public Comment.
7. Announcements.
8. Adjournment.