

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 12, 1990 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bays, Comm. DeFant, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Corkin. Absent: None.

There were no minutes to approve.

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

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Arsenault, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions and changes; item 13) pending legislation on Solid Waste, item 14) Annex equipment failure, item 15) Flight Service Station update, and the change would be to move item 7) to the beginning of the discussion items.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, second by Comm. Bays, Claims and Accounts for the period May 19, 1990 through June 8, 1990, in the amount of \$4,896,376.24 were unanimously approved.

The Committee considered a resolution urging the Michigan State Legislature to change the boundaries of Delta and Marquette County. John Rohde, Ewing Township Supervisor, was present and explained that 162 people live in Ewing Township and approximately 80 of them have signed a petition requesting that Ewing Township be allowed to leave Marquette County and become a part of Delta County. Mr. Rohde introduced Betty Liukkonen, from Rock, MI, to speak to the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Liukkonen reported that Representative Jacobetti responded to their petition and resolution by suggesting that perhaps the matter could be handled more simply through the State Boundary Commission with the annexation process. The residents of Ewing Township feel that they are more closely aligned with Delta County rather than Marquette County, in that their children attend the Mid-Peninsula School in Delta County and are part of the Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District. The Marquette County Road Commission must travel 35 miles from Gwinn, or 65 miles from Ishpeming, to service Ewing Township, whereas the Delta County Road Commission garage and equipment at Rock are 4-1/2 miles away. Ewing Township uses the road numbering system adopted through Delta County, and all access to the Township is through the Delta County Road network. The Ewing Township fire service is part of the Delta County mutual aid pack, and also their 9-1-1 emergency phone system will be part of Delta County.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously voted to forward the Ewing Township resolution and request to the Marquette County Planning Commission for review and determination as to which way would be better to change the boundary, that is legislatively or by annexation.

The Committee conducted an informational session regarding the Michigan Scenic Rivers Act of 1990 (HR 4019). U.S. Forest Service Representatives, Jay Steffan and Bob Hennes, from the Hiawatha National Forest, and Jim Sommerville from the Ottawa National Forest, were present to discuss the legislation and answer questions.

Forest Service Representative, Bob Hennes, gave a historical background. In 1968 Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which in part directed an inventory of all United States rivers. The inventory was completed in 1982. It was determined that of the 3-3/4 million miles of rivers in the United States, only 61,000 miles or about 2% could be preserved. About 5% of that 2% are located in Michigan. Mr. Hennes presented a number of large maps which gave an overview of the rivers effected by HB 4019 in the Upper Peninsula.

Jim Sommerville, U.S. Forest Service Representative from the Ottawa National Forest, spoke more specifically about Marquette County. The only river affected in Marquette County is four miles of the Yellow Dog and there

would be no change in its status. It is currently a part of the U.S. Forest Research Area located in the McCormick Wilderness, and its uses are already restricted. Mr. Sommerville added that the list of rivers was not just plucked out of the air, but have been studied and screened for many years.

The following citizens presented comment at the informational session:

- Leonard Angeli, 1044 Allouez, Marquette, opposed HR 4019. Mr. Angeli believes the Marquette County Board should support the Western U.P. Counties which are generally opposed to this act. Mr. Angeli contended that it is practically impossible under existing laws for private landowners to dam a river, and once the U.S. Government has control of the rivers, local units of government will have none.

- Gail Coyer, Chocolay Township, and President of the U.P. Environmental Coalition, spoke in favor of the intent of HB 4019. Ms. Coyer pointed out that there has been much misinformation regarding the Scenic Rivers Act, and the only river on which private land may possibly be condemned is the Ontonagon River, and the chances of this happening are remote. Ms. Coyer requested that the County Board not support or oppose HR 4019 at this time, but help with an effort to get accurate information out to U.P. citizens.

- Bill Malmsten, Ely Township, congratulated the Board on holding the informational session. Mr. Malmsten supports the U.S. Forest Service management of the wild rivers. Rivers flow through many units of government and action by one local unit of government on a river may affect the other governments downstream. It is best for all that a agency such as the U.S. Forest Service manage these rivers.

- Jim Mott, Chocolay Township, is opposed to HR 4019. He claimed this act will trigger many other bills which would control the public use of these lands, such as the National Parks.

- Brian Swift, representative for Congressman Davis, contended that HR 4019 needs lots of work. Congressman Davis opposes the bill, its a bad bill, and even the Forest Service admits that some of the rivers should not be on the list. There are 795 private property owners that will be effected in the Upper Peninsula, yet no U.P. hearings have been scheduled. Mr. Swift questioned why is everybody in such a hurry to pass this legislation before all citizens have had their input? He contended that if Congressman Davis didn't oppose the bill it may already be law. He urged the County Board to oppose HR 4019, and believes they have no other choice.

The County Commissioners continued the discussion and asked questions of the U.S. Forest Service Representatives and other persons present.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends that the County Board urge the U.S. Forest Service and Representative Kildee's office to hold public hearings in the Upper Peninsula to address the concerns of U.P. citizens, in order for them to receive all of the needed information on the Michigan Scenic Rivers Act of 1990 to make an informed decision, and further that this recommendation be forwarded to Senator Levin, Senator Riegler, and Congressman Davis.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously voted to place on file a communication from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding Senate Bills 915 and 916, Jail Partnership Legislation.

The Committee a memo from the Marquette County Planning Commission regarding a request for assistance to property owners along Co. Rd. 533 in Skandia Township. Co. Rd. 533 is also known as Maple Grove Road and McFarland Road.

James Kippola, Senior Planner, was present to review the Staff and Planning Commission recommendation. There are numerous areas in the County where electricity is available and are zoned for single family dwellings, recreational structures or both. In addition the high cost of providing electrical service to remote areas is not unique, and there are many areas where the cost is more than property owners are willing to pay. If this request for assistance is approved other requests would be forthcoming.

The construction of family dwellings in remote areas without electricity is inconsistent with the comprehensive plan and with zoning.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, second by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board concur with the Planning Commission and Staff recommendation to deny the request for assistance in providing power along Co. Rd. 533.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, to make a 2% contribution to the Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERS). For the general fund and other funds currently on the payroll system, this would amount to a total payment during 1990 of \$75,000.00 to \$80,000.00.

A memorandum from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, pointed out that for the past several years the County has been fully funded in the retirement fund which has allowed the County to eliminate contributions to the retirement system. This has been very useful during the lean budget years. Currently our financial condition is more stable and if we continue to contribute funds to the retirement system at the 2% rate, this will delay the inevitable reinstatement of retirement charges and soften the blow when the mandatory payments do occur. Administrator Aloia concurs with the Finance Manager's recommendation.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board authorize a 2% retirement payment from the funds currently budgeted to the Municipal Employees Retirement System.

The Committee considered a resolution reaffirming the appointment of Gerald Anderson and Roger Gill to the Alger Marquette Community Action Board. A communication from Keith R. Kelley, Executive Director of AMCAB, explained that the resolution is necessary in that Mr. Gill and Mr. Anderson are not elected officials, and it must be adopted in order to satisfy newly adopted administrative rules for the Michigan Dept. of Labor Bureau of Community Services.

The County Board appoints four members to the Alger Marquette Community Action Board. Their terms have been for an indefinite period of time; however the individuals appointed have been serving Marquette County well. The Committee consensus was that a rotating term for a definite time period should be implemented for future appointments to AMCAB, and that they be included in the regular annual appointment process.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board adopt the resolution unanimously reaffirming the appointment of Mr. Gerald Anderson and Mr. Roger Gill as public sector representatives to the Alger Marquette Community Action Board, and further that Staff be directed to develop a proposal for definite terms of office, and that they be included in the regular County Board appointment process.

The Committee considered a memo from David Payant, Civil Counsel, regarding the purchase of Par Cable, Inc. by Bresnan Communications. Par Cable, Inc. has leased a small parcel of land from Marquette County in Forsyth Township for the site of a dish antennae. Par Cable seeks the County's consent to Bresnan for their pledging of the lease of County land as collateral to the financial institution backing the transaction.

Civil Counsel Payant has reviewed the matter. Marquette County does not incur any additional liability above and beyond what it has already assumed by entering into the lease agreement. He recommends that the County consent to the assignment of the lease.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, second by Comm. Seppanen, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve the assignment of the lease to the financial institution backing the purchase of Par Cable, Inc. by Bresnan Communications.

The Committee considered a memo from James Kippola, Senior Planner, regarding solid waste bills that are pending in the Michigan Legislature. Some time ago the County Board received a resolution of support from Genesee County for a package of bills promoting recycling and composting. The bills are the result of efforts by Senator John Cherry and Representative James Kostova.

Mr. Kippola was present and explained that the resolution was very dated, and the package of bills now before the Michigan Legislature regarding solid waste issues has expanded dramatically. Mr. Kippola has provided the County Board with a list of five bills which he recommends the County Board support as they would assist in the implementation of the

County Solid Waste Management Plan. He will continue to review other pending solid waste bills for future recommendations.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board support the following bills as they would assist in the implementation of the County Solid Waste Management Plan: HB 4872, SB 288, HB 4821, HB 4822, and HB 4871.

Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management/Development Dept., reported the Courthouse Annex air conditioning compressor has failed. Replacement of the compressor is the only option at an approximate cost of \$20,000.00. It is possible that the County may get \$4,000.00 back on the old compressor, leaving a bill of \$16,000.00. Mr. Koshorek has committed the County to the purchase of a new compressor which is being shipped from North Carolina, and hopes that the County Board agrees that the action must be done. He is requesting the County Board take no action as yet as to the funding sources until Administrator Aloia gets back from vacation.

George Wright, Facilities Manager, explained that the compressor is a rebuilt unit, which is only two years old and had a one year guarantee. Liquid had accumulated in one of the cylinders which caused the piston to deteriorate, however the new unit will have a longer warranty. There are several possible causes with this liquid accumulating in the piston which are being investigated and hopefully eliminated in the future.

Chairperson Corkin thanked the Resource Management Staff for getting on the problem immediately.

Comm. DeFant reported that as to date Charles Hohman, Airport Manager, has not been told anything by the FAA on the closure of the Flight Service Station, however Senator Levin's Office has reported that the October 1st closure date has now been moved to December 31st, 1990. Meanwhile the FAA is in the process of installing the new computerized equipment at the Flight Service Station.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Leonard Angeli, 1044 Allouez, Marquette, contended that the Marquette Post Office will be losing people to the newly modernized facility in Iron Mountain. Mr. Angeli wondered what could be done about the situation, if anything. Chairperson Corkin requested Staff to ask the EDC to investigate the matter and report to the Board. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously voted to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.

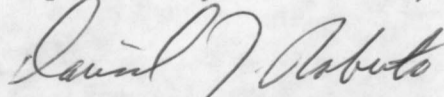
Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to clear the meeting room.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Board came back into Open Session. No action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

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

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, June 12, 1990, 6:00 p.m.

Room 231, Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. (None)
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Informational session on the Michigan Scenic Rivers Act of 1990 with U.S. Forest Service representatives.
7. Resolution urging the State Legislature to change the boundaries of Delta and Marquette Counties.
8. Report on State/Local Jail Partnership Legislation.
9. Request for assistance in providing power along Co. Rd. 533.
10. County contributions to the Municipal Employees Retirement System Fund.
11. Resolution reaffirming the appointment of Gerald Anderson and Roger Gill to AMCAB.
12. Purchase of Par Cable by Bresnan Communications.
13. Solid waste Bills pending
14. Annex equipment failure
15. F.S.S. Update
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. CLOSED SESSION for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.
18. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
19. ADJOURNMENT.

To
Planning
Commissioner

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