

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, July 24, 1990 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Bays, Comm. DeFant, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Arsenault.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Robert Taylor, Director of the Marquette County Employment Programs, outlined the animal census project in the City of Marquette being undertaken by members of the Michigan Youth Corp. This project received national attention when it was joked about on the Tonight Show by guest host comedian, Jay Leno. Betty Howe, Director, Michigan Dept. of Labor, and also Director of the Michigan Youth Corp, wrote to Mr. Leno; however, there has been no response.

Mr. Taylor invited Commissioners to a hot dog luncheon to be held on Friday, July 27, 1990, at the Shiras Pool Gazebo, 11:45 a.m. Betty Howe will be in Marquette to participate with the Youth Corp in the animal census and to make public comments regarding the project during the luncheon.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

On a motion by Comm. DeFant, second by Comm. Seppanen, the agenda was unanimously approved with the following addition; item 19) a report on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO participation proposal by Randell Girard, Human Resources Director.

On a motion by Comm. DeFant, second by Comm. Bays, Claims and Accounts for the period July 6, 1990 through July 19, 1990, in the amount of \$1,233,717.47, were unanimously approved.

The Committee considered a request from Steve Balbierz, Upper Peninsula Manager of Public Relations, Michigan Bell, to support federal legislation pending in Congress, (HR 2140) which would remove certain restrictions placed on the Bell companies at the time of their separation from AT&T in 1984. Mr. Balbierz explained that the restrictions that were imposed by one federal judge, who presided over the anti-trust suit, were based upon the narrow confines of the anti-trust law; which has proven not to be in the best interest of the telecommunications industry. The Bell System was broken up by the Modification of Final Judgment (MFJ) which concluded at an anti-trust suit brought by the Dept. of Justice against AT&T. Because of restrictions imposed on the MFJ, Michigan Bell cannot: a) manufacture telecommunications equipment or develop telecommunication software, b) provide a full range of information services, and c) offer long distance service beyond local service areas.

Michigan Bell has centralized many of its Upper Peninsula operations in Marquette County, and has recently committed \$29 million dollars to install new digital switching centers all through the U.P. Phase I of the program will convert all of Marquette County to the new digital switching centers by 1992, and will bring state-of-the-art service to all of the County, and drastically reduce the County's cost to enhance 911 service.

Charles Manto, Director, Marquette County EDC, added that Michigan Bell has a substantial investment in Michigan and in Marquette County, as a result they cannot just pick up and move elsewhere. This is an opportunity for Marquette County to support Michigan Bell. Without good infrastructure in telecommunications economic development is handicapped.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Mr. Balbierz and Mr. Manto for their comments.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board support the HR 2140 legislation pending in Congress, and adopt the appropriate resolution.

The Committee was presented with a proposal regarding a possible \$6 million dollar bond issue for the sale of the Mather Nursing Center in Ishpeming, to a non-profit corporation. Health Concepts, Inc. from Louisville, Kentucky has owned the Mather Nursing Home for four years and is negotiating the sale of the facility to Well-Care International, which is part of the Foundation for the Elderly. This is a non-profit corporation that owns nursing homes throughout the country. Sue Cieslinski, Mather Nursing Home Administrator, Steve Eaton, Well-Care International, and a legal representative from the law firm, Kutak, Rock & Campbell, were present to discuss the proposal and answer questions. Mr. Eaton explained that the County involvement is limited to giving its approval of the bond issue to the non-profit corporation, and the County does not incur any risk.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, will request that Marquette County's Bond Counsel, Robert Cooper, investigate the bond proposal with the main objective to see if the County has any liability. A public hearing on the bond issue is scheduled for the August 7, 1990 County Board meeting, and perhaps by then there will be a staff recommendation.

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, thanked Mather Nursing Home representatives for their report.

The Committee considered a resolution from Iron County regarding abandoned vehicles. Marquette County Sheriff, Joseph I. Maino, along with his staff, reviewed the proposed resolution and recommends that Marquette County adopt a similar resolution. Marquette County has encountered similar problems with abandoned vehicles.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Corkin, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board adopt an abandoned vehicle resolution.

The Committee considered acceptance of a Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant for the Emergency Services Division which would allow for the purchase and installation of amateur radio (RACES) digital data emergency communications equipment in the County Emergency Operating Center. The grant is a 50/50 match and final approval is contingent upon a \$2,990.00 local contribution. Lt. Michael Zorza was present and explained the amateur radio equipment is useful when a community suffers a power outage/down phone lines, then the only means of communication is through amateur radio services. The federal grant is only available until the end of September, and it is too late to use the 1991 CIP budget process.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, has reviewed the request and finds it to be a worthy project. He has reviewed use of other CIP funds with the Sheriff, and recommends that the funds be approved from the 1990 Jail Sprinkler System Capital Project, which will be replaced later.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve the 50/50 grant program from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to purchase and install amateur radio digital data emergency communications equipment, with funds to be utilized from the 1990 CIP Jail Sprinkler System project.

The Committee considered the EMS Automated Information System bid recommendation from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager. The 1990 Capital Projects Budget contains a line item for the EMS Automated Information System in the amount of \$13,200.00. In May of 1990 the system specifications were distributed according to the County policies, and three vendors responded to the bid request. Mr. Nault presented the Committee with the summary of the bid responses and recommended the County award the bid to Advance Business Equipment, headquarters in Iron Mountain, with a branch located on U.S. 41 West, Marquette, for a total of \$11,779.60.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve the recommendation by Brent Nault and award the EMS Automated Information System Bid to Advance Business Equipment.

The Committee considered a proposal for a joint DNR-State Police/Central Dispatch Tower near Gwinn. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that during the past year, Michigan Bell advised the County of Marquette that the contract for leasing space on the Little Lake micro-wave relay tower would be terminated, effective December 31, 1990. As a result, a joint meeting was held between the DNR, Marquette County, and the State Police/Central Dispatch resulting in a proposal for a joint project to construct a communications tower in the Gwinn area. The DNR and Marquette County would split in half the costs for the tower. The estimated maximum cost for the tower could be high as \$30,000.00, and the agreement would be for 25 years. The County's portion could be financed by the 911 millage proposal.

Administrator Aloia further explained that at this time only conceptual approval is required by the County Board. The DNR will be submitting to the County the specifications and dollar figures, with a formal agreement for future consideration.

On a motion by Comm. DeFant, second by Comm. Seppanen, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve and proceed with the proposal to construct a joint DNR-State Police/Central Dispatch Tower near Gwinn.

The Committee considered the proposed zoning of a portion of the County Forest to Commercial (C-2) and Industrial (I-1, and I-2) in Forsyth Township. Forsyth Township is adopting a new zoning ordinance of which approximately 250 acres of County forest land are proposed to be rezoned. The Marquette County Planning Commission unanimously voted to voice opposition to the proposed zoning, and requested that the entire County Forest be zoned RR2-Recreational/Resource Production.

Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, was present and pointed out that the Planning Commission will be submitting comments at a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, July 25, 1990 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gwinn Community Clubhouse. The Planning Commission encourages the County Board to support their position and protect the County Forest Land from zoning designations which are not consistent with the County's plans.

On a motion by Comm. DeFant, second by Comm. Seppanen, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board support the Planning Commission in their opposition to the Forsyth Township zoning ordinance proposal.

The Committee considered a Land Conveyance Request for a logging road easement in West Branch Township from Gary Gazan. Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, was present and presented recommendations from both the County Planning Commission and the Natural Resources Commission to allow the temporary easement for a logging road to be granted with the following stipulations:

1. Widening and alteration of existing roads and trails be in accordance with that laid out by the County Forester; this includes removal of any existing trees.
2. The authorization for the same extend from August 1, 1990 to December 31, 1991.
3. All new road sections be obliterated, mulched, and planted with a mixture of seed and an application rate of: 6#/acre Trefoil; 2#/acre Alsike Clover; 2#/acre Timothy.
4. That the access to the obliterated/planted/mulched road sections be prevented by placement of burms at appropriate locations.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve the Land Conveyance Request for a temporary logging road easement with the stipulations presented by the Marquette County Planning Commission.

The Committee considered the compressor investigation recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager. Mr. Wright recommended Larry James of Quality Plus Heating and Cooling, who also teaches refrigeration at Northern Michigan University. Mr. James would provide services as an unbiased consultant to determine the causes of the air conditioning compressor failure at a rate of \$32.00 per hour, with a maximum required of eight hours (\$256.00). County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, recommended that the County Board provide for additional funding just in case Mr. James must go beyond the eight hours.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve of the hiring of Larry James of Quality Plus Heating and Cooling as a consultant to determine the cause of our Annex Air Conditioning Compressor Failure for \$32.00 per hour, at a total cost up to \$500.00.

The Committee considered a request from Charles L. Manto, Executive Director, Marquette County EDC, for a loan request to cover the cashflow needs of the EDC in reference to the Michigan Bureau of History Grant signed by the State June 27, 1990. Mr. Manto was present and explained that the second installment by the State will occur after the project is completed in July 1991. By April 1991, the EDC will need a loan from the County to cover expenses in the amount of \$22,000.00, to be paid back as soon as the EDC is reimbursed by the State.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, reviewed the EDC cashflow budget with Mr. Manto and is convinced that the best thing is to authorize a loan to the EDC. At this time the EDC will only need a letter from Marquette County showing the loan has been authorized by the County Board.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve of the loan request for April 1991 to cover the cashflow needs for the EDC Bureau of History Grant.

The Committee considered a Draft Policy for Contractual Service Employees. Randall E. Girard, Director of Human Resources, was present and explained that the draft policy for County employees funded under grant programs will establish consistency in wages, benefits, and working conditions with all other County staff. As current specially funded positions are vacated, a review and determination will then be made as to whether the position will become part of the bargaining unit.

Mr. Girard added that all bargaining units have reviewed the policy and are in agreement with it.

On a motion by Comm. DeFant, second by Comm. Seppanen, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommended the County Board approve the draft policy 102.8 for specially funded employees.

The Committee considered the draft policy for a Drug-Free Workplace. Randell Girard, Director of Human Resources, was present and presented the recommended new policy #105.14 "Drug-Free Workplace" and revised policy #108.2 "Examples of Misconduct." The new policy is required as a pre-requisite to federal grants, and the amended misconduct policy 108.2 will comply with the Federal Register with the addition of item 14.) "Reporting under the influence of, possession, or use of alcohol or a controlled substance while on County paid status."

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. Bays, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board adopt new policy #105.14 "Drug-Free Workplace" and revised policy #108.2 "Examples of Misconduct."

The Committee considered a recommendation from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, on the Deficit Fund Plan for 1989. Pursuant to Public Act 275 of 1980, a deficit fund plan must be filed with the State of Michigan which details corrective actions to be taken to eliminate any prior year deficit fund balances. The plan must be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Yoder reported that with completion of the 1989 annual audit, it was determined that the County had a deficit fund balance in six of its

funds. The detailed corrective actions to eliminate the deficit fund balances are outlined in the plan presented by Mr. Yoder.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, second by Comm. DeFant, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board adopt the Marquette County Deficit Fund Plan for fiscal year ending December 31, 1989 as presented.

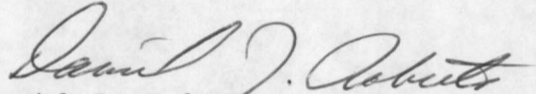
The Committee was updated by Randall Girard, Human Resources Director on the Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO Proposal. Mr. Girard distributed a list showing that as of August 1st, more Marquette County doctors are willing to participate in the program. A final recommendation for Board consideration will be presented in the near future.

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

Announcements: Comm. Bays attended the Marquette County Health Care Access Project Meeting and reported that the program has been extended for another year.

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, July 24, 1990, 5:00 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. *Inf* Presentation on Mather Nursing Home Refinancing.
7. *Rec* A request from Michigan Bell, to support H.R. 2140 which removes certain telecommunication restrictions.
8. *Rec* Recommendation from Sheriff, Joseph Maino, regarding abandoned vehicle resolution.
9. *Rec* Letter from Sheriff Maino regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency Communication Equipment Grant.
10. *Rec* Recommendation from Brent Nault, Data Processing Manager, regarding EMS Automated Information System Bids.
11. *Rec* Proposal for a joint DNR-State Police/Central Dispatch Tower near Gwinn.
12. *Rec* Proposed zoning of a portion of the County Forest to Commercial (C-2) and Industrial (I-1, I-2).
13. *Rec* Land Conveyance Request for logging road easement in West Branch Township from Gary Gazan.
14. *Rec* Compressor Investigation recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager.
15. *Rec* Bureau of History Grant Loan request from Charles Manto, EDC Director.
16. *Rec* Draft Policy for Contractual Services Employees.
17. *Rec* Draft Policy for a Drug-Free Workplace.
18. *Rec* Recommendation from Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, on Deficit Fund Plan - 1989.
19. *Info* Report by Grand on B+B5
- 20.
- 21.
21. PUBLIC COMMENT.
22. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
23. ADJOURNMENT.