

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 28, 1991 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, Michigan.

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

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on May 14, 1991, be approved.

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

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following addition; that item 14) become the recommendation on the Mine Inspector's salary.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period May 11, 1991 thru May 24, 1991, in the amount of \$754,004.15 be approved.

The Committee considered a 1991 CIP groundskeeping tractor recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager. Mr. Wright was present and explained that the Facilities Dept. received proposals from three dealers for a tractor which will be used at the Courthouse Complex, the Service Center, Perkins Park, the Big Bay Harbor, and the Acocks Grounds. The budget amount for the project is \$8,500. After reviewing the proposals and the options the recommendation is to purchase the white FR 20 tractor with 62" mowing deck, the 11 bushel collection system, and rotary broom, for a total price of \$8,183.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board approve the low bid and purchase of the white FR 20 tractor from Moose's Auto Clinic, Ishpeming, for \$8,183.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding the remaining Medical Care Facility millage funds. Administrator Aloia distributed a projected financial analysis of the construction fund, including anticipated arbitrage expenses and the arbitration settlement, leaving a balance of \$218,706. The Social Services Board and Brad Cory, Administrator of the Medical Care Facility, requested to spend approximately \$35,000 for improvements. These improvements prompted the County Board to request an analysis and procedure from the Administrator, in order to commit the remaining funds to appropriate use. Administrator Aloia expressed concern that monies would be expended to take care of projects of immediate need, and then only find out later that there will be no money left for some other important project that is necessary. He is recommending that projects be prioritized in order to utilize the remaining funds in the most efficient manner possible, and that unfunded projects be addressed during the County's regular capital budget process.

Brad Cory, Medical Care Facility Administrator, was present and explained that the DSS Board and himself feel that the patio, the walkway, and the parking lot, are top priority projects. They believe the Medical Care Facility is unfinished without these. Only two small areas exist where patients can go outside to visit with family, friends, or those who are healthy enough, can walk around. Marquette County is lucky to have such a facility; however, many feel that it is more like a prison without a courtyard and walk area.

Commissioners noted that the parking lot dropped to priority number 16 on the DSS draft project list. This supports the Administrator's contention that all the projects should be analyzed and prioritized, perhaps by a consultant, before the \$218,000 is spent. It was further noted that the air balancing, drywall repair, facility lighting, bathing room temperature problem, and the dish washing room floor replacement, were things that were

cited by the State of Michigan, and should be addressed as soon as possible before fines are assessed.

The Commissioners agreed that the courtyard project should be addressed immediately. Comm. Angeli would have liked to go further, by immediately funding the courtyard, the walkway, and the air balancing project.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and carried three-to-one on a roll call vote, with Comm. Angeli voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board ask the DSS to award the bid on the courtyard project for \$14,565.00, and then follow through on the financial analysis and prioritization of the remaining projects as recommended by Administrator Aloia.

The Committee considered a request from Robert S. Wood, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health, Physical Education & Recreation, NMU, for support to establish a Local President's Council for Physical Fitness. Cameron Howes, Chairperson, HPER Dept., NMU, and Barb Silta, HPER Dept., NMU, were present to discuss the request. They have worked out a tentative six person membership for the council, which will serve as a means for directing local citizens to a better and healthier future. This would be a positive step for Marquette County to take.

The Commissioners asked questions regarding operating funds for such a council. Mr. Howes and Ms. Silta see no funds needed through the County. All necessary funds can be raised by sponsoring special physical education events, for example a walkathon, or a 10K run. Administrator Aloia suggested that Civil Counsel, David Payant, draft bylaws and the appropriate resolution, in the meantime the NMU HPER Dept. provide the suggested six member list, and then the matter can be considered again at the next Committee meeting.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Civil Counsel draft bylaws and a resolution to establish a Local President's Council on Physical Fitness for consideration at the next Committee meeting scheduled for June 11, 1991.

The Committee considered a memo from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Dept. Director, regarding federal legislation H.R. 4801 on electromagnetic radiation. When the Committee of the Whole met on March 12th and discussed studying the possible effects of electromagnetic radiation from Project Elf, it was learned from Navy representatives that H.R. 4801 may provide funding for such studies. The Committee of the Whole directed the Health Dept. to investigate the matter. Dr. Johnson was present and explained the Health Dept. learned that in the second session of the 101st Congress, H.R. 4801 died in committee. It appears that no legislation of this nature is presently being actively pursued by Congress. The Board of Health is supportive of the intent of H.R. 4801; however, is concerned about the identification that the Secretary of Energy as the primary individual responsible for developing and implementing the proposed electromagnetic radiation studies.

The Board of Health took action to recommend that the County Board of Commissioners encourage the federal legislation to reintroduce a modified version of H.R. 4801, and that it assign the primary individual responsible for developing and implementing health-effect studies of electromagnetic fields to either the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Director of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, or the Director of the Center for Disease Control.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of Whole unanimously recommends the County Board encourage our Federal Legislators to reintroduce a modified version of H.R. 4801 as proposed by the Marquette County Board of Health.

The Committee considered grant proposal of \$2,000.00 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to purchase amateur radio, audio, and visual communication equipment. Lt. Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, was present to discuss the project and answer questions. The grant proposal is considered a pilot project by FEMA to evaluate future funding of such equipment for other counties. The project would greatly enhance emergency communications and decision making by emergency responders by improving the quality of emergency incident assessment and documentation.

The Commissioners were concerned about funding for the grant and cost that this equipment may generate in the future. The Committee preferred not to use monies from the contingency account, but rather requested that Lt. Zorza and Administrator Aloia work together to see if funding for the 50/50 match can be found within the Department. Lt. Zorza pointed out that a response to the proposed grant must be provided to the Federal Government by June 5, 1991, the day after the next Regular Board Meeting.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the request be sent to the County Board without a recommendation.

The Committee considered a memo from James F. Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding federal legislation H.R. 1495 (Federal PILT Payments). Mr. Sodergren was present and explained that Marquette County has 17,708 acres of federally owned lands, which are located in Humboldt, Michigamme, and Skandia Townships. Last year the County received \$12,403.00 and distributed it in the same way as the property tax dollar. This payment amounts to less than 75 cents an acre. H.R. 1495 will increase individual County PILT payments by a factor of two-to-three times, and also a provision in the bill provides for annual adjustments with inflation. Mr. Sodergren recommends that the County Board should respond to the request for supporters of H.R. 1495 by the National Association of Counties.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board support federal legislation H.R. 1495, which will increase Federal PILT payments, and send the recommendation to the appropriate federal legislators.

The Committee considered a letter from the Upper Peninsula County Treasurers Association to Governor, John Engler, requesting that the Commercial Forest Act (P.A. 94 of 1925 as amended 1980) be abolished. Mr. Sodergren was present and explained that the Upper Peninsula County Treasurers recently received a report entitled "Analysis of Michigan's Commercial Forest Act," which was prepared for the Michigan Dept. of Commerce and the House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Forestry and Minerals by the Dept. of Forestry at Michigan State University. The Michigan Association of County Treasurers established a committee to study the Commercial Forest Act, and were working with former State Representative, Richard Sofio. Last year the Treasurers Association adopted a resolution calling for the landowner's payment to be raised from 30 cents per acre to \$1.00 per acre, and the State payment from 70 cents per acre to \$1.50 per acre.

However, analysis of the Commercial Forest Act shows that the cutting fees are not being paid, the administration of the act is very difficult because it is a complicated act, and enforcement is negligible. There are only two DNR foresters covering the entire Upper Peninsula, whereas the State of Wisconsin has 100. Also, Mr. Sodergren reported that the State has shorted the County by 11% of the 70 cents for 1991, and is sure that we will never receive the full amount.

A spreadsheet worked out by Lois Fighter, Luce County Treasurer, shows the lost revenues because of the Commercial Forest Act for 15 Upper Peninsula Counties during the period 1981 through 1989. Marquette County has lost approximately \$7.9 million dollars during this period. The Upper Peninsula County Treasurers believe that there is no longer any alternative but to recommend that the Commercial Forest Lands return to the advalorem tax rolls. Most property owners use the CFA as a tax dodge.

Mr. Sodergren requested that the County Board convey, through the Michigan Association of Counties, the deficiencies in the Commercial Forest Act, and either try to resolve these or abolish the Act. The U.P. Treasurers believe that Governor Engler would support the abolishment of the CFA, because it would relieve the State of Michigan of the 70 cents per acre payment, and additional administrative costs required to enforce the Act. It would also help the local units of government by placing these lands back on the advalorem tax roll.

On a motion by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board support the Upper Peninsula Association of County Treasurers in their recommendation that the

Commercial Forest Act be abolished, and further that when this recommendation goes to the full Board on June 4, 1991, that Staff request someone from the DNR to be here to discuss the matter.

The Committee considered a memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding general revenue sharing payments. Currently the House Appropriations General Government Sub-Committee is deciding the fate of how general revenue sharing will be cut, and counties need to impress upon the members of the Sub-Committee, and their own State Legislators, that any cut in the general revenue sharing payments should be fairly distributed between all local units of government. Counties should not bear the major burden of these cuts.

The MAC memo requests that county boards immediately encourage the Appropriations General Government Sub-Committee and the Legislature to fairly distribute any cuts in general revenue sharing payments. To accomplish this fair distribution of cuts, 50% of the cuts should come from the income tax portion, and 50% of the cuts should come from the intangibles tax portion of the general revenue sharing payments.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board concur with the Michigan Association of Counties memo and immediately encourage our State Legislators to accomplish a fair distribution of general revenue sharing cuts as requested.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Administrator Aloia on the Mine Inspector's Salary. William C. Maki, County Mine Inspector, is resigning effective July 1, 1991, and the appointment process has begun with advertisements appearing in the newspaper. The County Clerk has received inquiries as to the duties and starting salary of the County Mine Inspector. Administrator Aloia distributed a chart showing the elected department heads salary structure as adopted by the County Board in October of 1990. It shows the starting salary for Mine Inspector to be \$16,400.00; after one year \$17,630.00; after two years \$18,860.00; after three years \$20,090.00; and after four years \$21,321.00 (which is the current Mine Inspector's salary).

County Treasurer, James Sodergren, was present and declared that Bill Maki is the finest Mine Inspector that Marquette County has ever had, often going out in the evening to respond to calls from the general public. Mr. Sodergren would like the County Board to request that Mr. Maki reconsider his resignation.

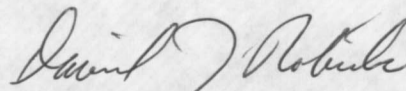
The Committee of the Whole directed Chairperson Corkin to either write or meet with Mr. Maki requesting that he reconsider his resignation. In the meantime, the appointment process as advertised will proceed. Mr. Aloia recommended that the Committee of the Whole reaffirm its elected department heads salary structure.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends the County Board reaffirm the salary structure adopted for elected department heads.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Roberts  
Marquette County Clerk

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, May 28, 1991, 4:30 p.m.

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

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD ON MAY 14, 1991.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
- ✓ 5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
- ⑥ 1991 CIP Groundskeeping Tractor Recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager.
- ⑦ Memo from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding the remaining Valente Medical Care Facility millage funds.
- ✓ 8. A request from Robert S. Wood, Assistance Professor of Physical Education, NMU, to form a local President's Council for Physical Fitness.
- ⑨ Analysis from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Health Dept. Director, on Federal Legislation H.R. 4801 (Electromagnetic Radiation).
- No rec'd ⑩ A proposed grant of \$2,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to purchase amateur radio, audio, and visual communication equipment from Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager.
- ⑪ Memo from James Sodergren, County Treasurer, regarding H.R. 1495 (Federal PILT Payments).
- ⑫ A letter from the U.P. County Treasurer's Association to Governor Engler urging abolishment of the Commercial Forest Act.
- ⑬ A memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding General Revenue Sharing Payments.
- C.O. w/ d.V. ⑭ *Mrs Inspector Salary*
- 15.
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.