

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 25, 1991 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette, MI.

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

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bays, it was unanimously carried that the minutes of June 11, 1991 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, it was unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the addition of item 12) a proclamation to name Friday, June 28, 1991, Geraldine DeFant Day in Marquette County.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, it was unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period May 26, 1991 thru June 21, 1991, in the amount of \$950,797.15, be approved.

A report was presented by Cyndi Beaudry, Office Manager/Risk Management Specialist, regarding Marquette County's property and liability insurance renewal, effective January 1, 1991, and the County's worker compensation policy renewal, effective July 1, 1991.

The County's property and liability insurance policy, through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), has been renewed effective January 1, with an increase over last year of \$45,455.00, bringing the total insurance premium to \$308,588. Several factors contributed to the increase in premium: First, the value of County property increased from \$30,405,244.00 to \$34,445,065.00, the major reason is the \$3,465,000.00 value of the completed Geraldine DeFant Building. Second, the Michigan Catastrophic Claim Association instituted an increase in its surcharge, effective January 1, 1991, which brought the charge from \$67 per vehicle to \$101 per vehicle. And third, the MMRMA authorized a 15% capital surcharge on all renewals effective July 1, 1990. This action was necessary in order for MMRMA to build sufficient surplus in capital to serve as an adequate buffer against the financial uncertainties of the insurance industry and ensure the continued stability and solvency of the Authority.

Ms. Beaudry, at first glance, thought the increase over last year to be \$56,317; however, after thorough review, she discovered that the MMRMA made an error. They used old figures instead of using current figures for the actual number of County vehicles shown on the renewal questionnaire. Community Mental Health went on their own insurance in 1990 so the result is a reduction in premium of \$10,862.00. It has been beneficial for Marquette County to have staff monitoring our insurance policies.

Ms. Beaudry also reported that the County's worker compensation policy premium will increase beginning July 1, 1991 by \$53,474.00, which will bring the total premium to \$124,950. The major factor for the increased premium is the County's past and expected future claim history.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the Committee of the Whole, thanked Ms. Beaudry for her report and for her efforts in saving Marquette County thousands of dollars in insurance costs.

The Committee considered a request from the 96th District Court to perform substance abuse assessments in house. James M. Collins, District Judge, was present and explained that Michigan Law requires, in drunk driving cases for which the maximum penalty is 90 days in jail, the sentence must be imposed within 90 days of the date of conviction. An alcohol assessment is required by law on all OUIL and OWI convictions. An alcohol assessment consists of a written questionnaire, a diagnostic interview, and an interview regarding the personal and family history of the client. The assessment takes approximately two hours to complete. With this change in

caseflow management and the overall increase in the District Court caseload, the increased demand for substance abuse assessments has placed a burden on the District Court Probation Department which can no longer be met.

District Court is requesting a budget amendment to provide funds for a temporary position, over a 16-week period of time, one 8-hour day per week, to perform substance abuse assessments. Mr. George Grawn, a Marquette County Employee, who has worked in the past on a temporary basis performing substance abuse assessments, is employed on a 32-hour per week basis at the Youth Home. Mr. Grawn is willing to perform the assessments for the court at this time. The total cost for Mr. Grawn's employment for a 16-week period would be \$1,362. He would perform four assessments each day he works, with a \$65.00 fee charged by the court for each assessment. The total revenue for the County from these assessments would amount to \$4,160. If the assessments were referred to an outside agency the County would lose that revenue, but by having Mr. Grawn perform the assessments in house we save \$2,798.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends that the County Board approve the request for District Court to hire Mr. George Grawn for 8 hours per week for 16 weeks, and that the cost of his employment be taken from the revenue generated by the assessment fees by the approval of the appropriate budget amendments.

Brad Cory, Director of the Valente Medical Care Facility, was present to report on the false fire alarms and the recent billings totaling \$6,197.00 received from the City of Ishpeming. Mr. Cory explained that the original fire alarms were the ionic type. The combination of a leaking roof and an inadequate air handling system often triggered the fire alarm. The system was analyzed by Foster Electronics, and the alarm detectors were changed to a photo-sensitive type, but recently five alarms have been triggered by insects. The insects gained access through a broken screen on the loading dock area. Mr. Cory and the DSS Board believe that with repairs to the loading dock screen, the air handling system, and a new protocol for reporting fire alarms to the City, the false alarms should be eliminated. The Medical Care Facility staff had been under the impression that when a fire alarm sounded, the concern for the safety of 120 patients is of supreme importance, and that the fire department should be immediately summoned. However, the State Fire Marshall's Office will allow an assessment by staff of the alarm. The Fire Marshall believes that because of the sprinkler system and the fire doors, there is enough time for staff to assess any alarm to determine if there is really a fire before calling the City Fire Department. Mr. Cory and the DSS Board believe they have done everything they can to solve the problem and welcome any suggestions. Commissioners questioned the false alarms because many other public buildings in Marquette County have similar alarm systems, and do not have problems with false alarms. The County Board would like to get to the bottom of the problem once and for all. The Committee thought an independent analysis of the fire alarm system would be useful.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole direct staff to evaluate the fire alarm system with Mr. Cory to determine if an independent consultant is necessary. Administrator Aloia will report back at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee considered a letter Darryll Sundberg, Marquette County Drain Commissioner, to Russell Gardner, adjacent land owner to the Lake Independence Dam. The letter proposes cedar fencing and apple trees for the south abutment to the dam near Mr. Gardner's property. Mr. Sundberg was out of town and was not available for the meeting; however, Chairperson Corkin did speak with the Drain Commissioner and learned that Mr. Gardner has rejected the proposal. Comm. Arsenault suggested that perhaps the Committee consider just replacing the previous fence, in that no cooperation is forthcoming from Mr. Gardner. The main concern of the Committee is liability and not looks.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, it was unanimously carried to table the Lake Independence Dam Fencing Project for consideration at a future Committee meeting.



The Committee considered the "25 by 96 Initiative", which is a proposal to bring local level control to lands designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. A resolution passed by the Marquette County Labor Council supporting the local "Initiative" concept calls for local citizens, business interests, and local governments to be involved in the river planning and management process. The Committee was concerned about the cost of managing federal lands being passed on to the local level by the "Initiative" proposal; however, did support an amended resolution that does not commit the County financially, but does support the concept of local control over Upper Peninsula wild rivers and lands.

On a motion by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried, the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board adopt the attached Resolution on Local Resource Management and Planning.

The Committee considered a memo from Philip N. Bareham, Legislative Coordinator, Michigan Association of Counties, regarding House Bill 4792. MAC has supported this bill, sponsored by Representative David Anthony, which would require that one member of the State Transportation Commission be a resident from the Upper Peninsula.

On a motion by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, the Committee of the Whole unanimously recommends that the County Board support by resolution House Bill 4792, which would require one member of the State Transportation Commission to be a resident of the Upper Peninsula, and send a copy to the State Transportation Committee and our Upper Peninsula State Legislators.

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution proclaiming Friday, June 28, 1991, as Geraldine DeFant Day in Marquette County.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF THE COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  
PROCLAIMS FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 1991 AS  
GERALDINE DEFANT DAY  
IN MARQUETTE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the people of Marquette County have had the good fortune of being served by diligent public servants; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine DeFant has dedicated over four decades to promoting the prosperity of the community and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine has represented residents of the County of Marquette for eight years, as Marquette County Commissioner, working for "good government" in Marquette County through her many years of tireless service; and

WHEREAS, Geraldine has promoted the general welfare of the people of Marquette County statewide, through her appointments by Governors Milliken and Blanchard on state commissions, and her service on the staff of two Michigan United States Senators. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby extends its sincere appreciation and thanks to Geraldine DeFant for her commitment and dedication, and congratulates Geraldine DeFant for her distinguished service to the community; and do hereby declare Friday, June 28, 1991 to be Geraldine DeFant Day in the County of Marquette.

GERALD O. CORKIN, CHAIRPERSON  
MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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## Announcements:

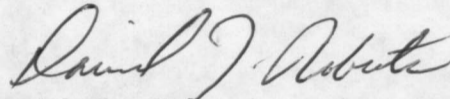
Open House and Dedication of the Marquette County Geraldine DeFant Building Friday, June 28, 1991, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., with the dedication ceremony to take place at 4:00 p.m.

Also, there will be a reception honoring Geraldine DeFant at Clarks Landing on Friday, June 28, 1991, from 5:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

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, June 25, 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 JUNE 11, 1991.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
- F6. A memo from Cyndi Beaudry, Risk Management Specialist, regarding rising insurance costs.
- R7. A proposal from 96th District Court regarding Substance Abuse Assessments.
8. False Alarms - Valente Medical Care Facility.
- Tabled* 9. Lake Independence Dam Fencing.
- R10. The 25 by 96 Initiative (Wild and Scenic Rivers Designation).
- R11. MAC memo regarding proposed House Bill 4792 which would require one member of the State Transportation Commission to be from the Upper Peninsula.
- A12. *Proclamation Gen Defiant Day Fri 6/28*
- 13.
- 14.
15. PUBLIC COMMENT.
16. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
17. ADJOURNMENT.