

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 30, 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. Bays, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Corkin. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 16, 1991 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Bays, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following additions: item 9) be a 8-minute video presentation on Marquette County developed by the EDC to promote the County as a site for the AMR (Simmons Airlines) Maintenance Facility; and item 10) a Closed Session on pending litigation.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period July 13, 1991 thru July 25, 1991, in the amount of \$687,742.19 be approved.

The Committee considered a communication from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director, Marquette County Health Dept., regarding potential County membership in the Michigan Medical Liability Reform Coalition (MMLRC). Dr. Johnson was present and explained that after reviewing the materials he recommends that the County Board get involved with the Coalition to raise public awareness of the liability insurance crisis in Michigan. No financial commitment from the County is required and such efforts could only produce positive results. In Michigan the medical liability coverage for physicians and hospitals is 2-1/2 times the national average, yet only 37 cents on the dollar awarded in law suits gets back to the patients. The MMLRC believes that these dollars could be better spent in other areas of health services, and that reforms are necessary in the medical liability system.

Commissioners were concerned about the disagreement on the medical liability crisis between doctors and lawyers, and would like more information as to what consumer groups, governmental entities, and associations, are a part of the Coalition.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee table the communication and have Staff investigate the potential cost and membership of the Michigan Medical Liability Reform Coalition for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Dr. Johnson for his review and recommendation.

The Committee considered a communication from the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board. At the AMCMH Board regular meeting held on July 18, 1991, the following two motions passed:

- 1) The AMCMH Board supports Bell Memorial Hospital's application for Certificate of Need of their proposed (over) eating disorder program.
- 2) The AMCMH Board endorses and supports plans to develop a wing at Bell Memorial Hospital for eight medically fragile AIS/MR client placements. (Developmentally disabled clients also with physical health problems)

There is no financial commitment involved. Commissioners felt that Community Mental Health should be given the County Board's support for these proposals.

On a motion by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried the Committee of the Whole recommends the County Board support the two resolutions of the Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Board.

The Committee considered a communication from Drain Commissioner, Darryll Sundberg, to Russell Gardner, Powell Township resident, regarding the fencing along the Lake Independence Dam. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, informed Drain Commissioner Sundberg and Mr. Gardner of this meeting; however, Mr. Sundberg is out of town, and Mr. Gardner has turned down the proposal to replace the chain link fence with a wooden fence and a buffer of apple trees. Mr. Gardner has turned down several proposals for fencing along the Dam, and it appears he does not want any type of fence there. It is the recommendation of Civil Counsel, supported by Staff and Commissioners, that some type of fencing must be there to protect the County and its taxpayers from potential liability, perhaps another chain link fence.

Commissioners believe they have gone the extra mile but will wait until the next Committee meeting to make a definitive recommendation, and requested that Staff invite Drain Commissioner Sundberg and Mr. Gardner to attend the next Committee meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried to table the matter until the next Committee meeting.

The Committee viewed an 8-minute video which serves as an invitation from, and a promotion of, Marquette County as the site for the AMR (Simmons Airlines) Maintenance Facility. Commissioners agreed, the tape was very well done and should be shown to the President of AMR, the President of Simmons, and also to our State Legislators.

Charles Manto, EDC Director, was present and explained that the tape was created with dollars from the Jobs Coalition and the filming done by WLUC TV. It is important to demonstrate to AMR that we are interested. Peter Piper, President of Simmons Airlines, saw the video, liked it very much, and feels that Marquette County is doing a good job in its efforts. Mr. Manto could not pinpoint when a decision will be made as to the location of the maintenance facility by AMR; however, stressed that is very important to continue in our promotion efforts. The EDC is also working on written proposals which will be ready in several weeks.

Administrator Aloia also pointed out that if Simmons Airlines does nothing, the County Board can be glad, because should they move the County could lose many jobs.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Mr. Manto and Administrator Aloia for their efforts on behalf of Marquette County.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole go into Closed Session to discuss pending litigation.

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CLOSED SESSION

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The Committee of the Whole came back into Open Session.

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



Commissioner Comments and Announcements

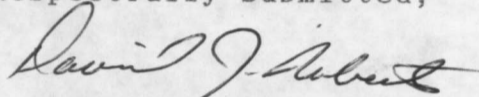
Chairperson Corkin announced that the date for the Tax Tribunal Hearing on the Specific Ore Tax issue has been scheduled for June 1, 1992.

Comm. Arsenault announced that an animal control meeting has been established for Thursday, August 7th at which Dr. Johnson from the Health Dept. will make a presentation.

Administrator Aloia announced that the mid-year budget review will show a substantial financial deficit of approximately \$200,000. By the next Committee meeting he will have recommendations for cost-cutting measures, and wanted Commissioners to know that Staff is exploring every possibility.

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, July 30, 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 July 16, 1991.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
- tabled* 6. Information: Communication from Dr. Randall Johnson, Director, Marquette County Health Dept., regarding Michigan's Medical Liability Crisis.
- Rec'd* 7. Recommendation from Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health regarding new programs proposed for Bell Memorial Hospital.
- tabled* 8. Lake Independence Fence Project.
9. *Viewing AMR tape by EDC*
10. *Closed session for pending litigation.*
- 11.
12. PUBLIC COMMENT.
13. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
14. ADJOURNMENT.