

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 24, 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. Balbierz, Comm. Seppanen and Comm. Corkin. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Balbierz, and unanimously carried that minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on September 10, 1991 be approved. Chairperson Corkin thanked County Clerk Roberts, and his Administrative Secretary for the transcript of the public meeting held on Nursing Home Beds.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following Late Additions: item 18) become an IRS Agreement on employment taxes; item 19) a discussion on Apportionment; item 20) a letter regarding disposal of tires at the Landfill; item 21) Marquette General Hospital Nursing Home Bed plans; and item 22) a DNR grant proposal for Sheriff's Department Marine equipment.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Balbierz, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period September 7, 1991 through September 20, 1991, in the amount of \$763,303.72, be approved.

The Committee considered the final FY 1992 budget recommendations from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator. The General Fund budget for FY 1992 amounts to \$11,104,173, almost exactly the same as last years budget, and the Capital Improvements budget totals \$227,143. Administrator Aloia pointed out that this budget includes a lump sum user fee line item of \$150,000.00, with the user fees taking effect in January, 1992.

Commissioners requested that the District Judges, the Prosecutor, and the Sheriff, be asked to respond to possible implementation of drunk driving user fees, which presently are not a part of the FY 1992 budget. Also, Commissioners requested that the Humane Society Board be invited to attend the next Committee meeting on October 8, 1991, to discuss the County's budget recommendations for the Humane Society.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the FY 1992 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$11,104,173.00, and the FY 1992 Capital Improvement Budget in the amount of \$227,143.00, at the Annual Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m., October 8, 1991.

The Committee considered a memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding further proposed cuts in general revenue sharing amounting to \$45 million dollars. The memo states that Senators Posthumus and Gast have three bills in their possession which will be introduced to provide necessary amendments to enact the proposed \$45 million cuts. MAC urges action be taken now by County Boards to prevent cuts in general revenue sharing by contacting their legislators at once.

Gary Yoder, Finance Manager, estimated the projected cuts to be at 5% which would mean a \$50,000 reduction out of the projected \$850,000 Marquette County would receive in state revenue sharing.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole direct our County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, to immediately write our legislators opposing the proposed revenue sharing cuts.

The Committee considered a continuation contract for the next fifteen months between the Marquette Country Trails, Inc., and the Marquette County Department of Employment Programs. The contract will provide for approximately 2,600 man hours of work, not to exceed \$20,000.00, for Marquette Country Trails, Inc. to develop new trails and upgrade existing trails. The contract has received legal and administrative review.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Balbierz, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the contract between Marquette Country Trails, Inc., and the Employment Programs Department.

The Committee considered the proposed Local Emergency Management Work Agreement for FY 1992, as presented by Michael E. Zorza, Administrative Lieutenant, Emergency Program Manager. The agreement is an administrative tool designed to provide a summary of projects and activities that the County intends to carry out during FY 1992 (October 1, 1991 through September 30, 1992) to enhance the overall community safety through the County Emergency Management Program. The Work Agreement is a statement of intent on the part of the County, and the approval of the County Board and the signature of the Chairperson is required prior to submission to the Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the FY 1992 Local Emergency Management Work Agreement.

The Committee considered several requests from various staff members of the Marquette County Health Department for exemption to the out-of-County travel policy. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Director, Marquette County Health Department, was present to answer questions.

First, Jayne A. Slavin, RN, BSN, Field Services Administrator, is requesting exemption to the travel policy as Immunization Representative for the Upper Peninsula. The performance of duties requires Ms. Slavin to travel to other health departments and to schools throughout the Upper Peninsula. All direct expenses and most indirect expenses are paid by the Immunization Division of the Michigan Department of Public Health.

Second, George Sedlacek, Health Education Division, requests permission to attend two meetings (October/December) in Lansing. Also, Mr. Sedlacek is required to travel 400 miles per month out-of-County to consult with work sites and providers. Marquette County appropriation supports 10% of this program budget.

Third, Mrs. Joan Rudman, Health Educator, and Mrs. Kathy Carlson, Co-Chair of the County's Wellness Committee, request to attend the Second Annual Wellness Council of the Upper Peninsula Conference (WELCUP) on October 17-19, 1991 on Mackinac Island. Marquette County is in a unique position to be a Regional Center for worksite wellness, a provider of worksite and wellness programs, and a worksite that is implementing a wellness plan. An investment in staff education at this conference has excellent potential for saving the County dollars in the short and long term. Cost per person will not exceed \$200.00, ride and room sharing is planned. The Health Promotion Screening Programs are supported 34% by County appropriations.

Fourth, Mrs. Lenore LaForest, Vision Technician, requests to attend an Annual Training Update at Mackinac City on October 23, 1991, and also to allow two hearing technicians to attend an Annual Training Update at Mackinac City on October 24, 1991. This training is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will require one nights lodging. The training is part of continuing education and certification for these technicians. Ride and room sharing is planned at a total cost not to exceed \$250. School health programs are supported 60% by County funds.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, recommends these exemptions to the out-of-County travel policy. The staff members involved are sharing rooms and rides to cut costs, the programs are essential to their positions, and also these programs are only partially funded by general fund dollars.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the various out-of-County travel requests from the Health Department staff.

The Committee considered a request from the Family Support Division to allow Janet Harry and Merle Olsen to attend the Michigan Family Support Council Training Conference scheduled for October 17-18, 1991, in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Total cost is \$471.65, but under the Title IV-D Contract only 25% of the cost would be the County's responsibility. That means the County would only be paying \$118. Administrator Aloia recommends that the County Board approve the request because of the importance of the Conference and the minimal cost.

It was moved by Comm. Balbierz, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the travel request for Family Support staff to attend the Training Conference.

The Committee considered a memo from Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource/Management Development Department, regarding the Jail Air Handling Project. The 1991 capital budget provides for work on the Jail garage air handling unit, which has been a chronic problem because of freezing of the heating coil. Several years ago the coil broke and they have been unable to heat the garage since. The capital project involves replacing the heating coil and installing new controls to prevent future freeze up.

Mr. Koshorek felt that it might be advantageous to obtain a price for the work from the contractor currently involved in the Jail dormitory project, and therefore solicited a price of \$7,712.25 from Closner Construction. \$10,800.00 was previously budgeted for the project. The Building Authority has reviewed the quote and recommends a change order be authorized incorporating this work into the Jail remodeling, and also requests a transfer of \$7,712.25 from the Public Improvement Fund to the General Law Enforcement/Jail Alterations Activity Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Jail air handling project as a part of the current Jail dormitory project for a price of \$7,712.25 from Closner Construction, and that the appropriate budget amendment be approved.

The Committee considered a memo from Randell E. Girard, Director of Human Resources, regarding pre-placement examinations for additional staff to the part-time, on-call roster, utilized by the Sheriff's Department to fill shifts vacated by resignations, holidays, and vacations. Currently there is a need for six part-time staff members to be recruited. In mid-1990, a program was started in the Sheriff's Department establishing pre-placement psychological and physical examinations, as recommended by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association. A psychological evaluation costs \$400 per exam, and the physical examination costs \$200 per individual. Mr. Girard is requesting amendment of the Human Resources budget, Line Item 810.00 "Professional/Contractual Services" in the amount of \$3,600 to provide funds for this need.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that Mr. Girard is currently attending the Annual MERS Conference and cannot be present to discuss the matter. He has some concerns he would like the Board to consider before approving this request, but would like Mr. Girard to be present. He recommended the matter go to the October 1, 1991 regular Board meeting without a Committee recommendation.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole forward the request for Sheriff's Department pre-placement examinations to the County Board agenda without a Committee recommendation.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, to amend the Insurance Fund budget. The present litigation against Blue Cross/Blue Shield, will require witness fees, transcripts, and travel. Civil Counsel Payant provided estimate of the costs, which is approximately \$8,930.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the budget amendment to the insurance fund for litigation expenses.

The Committee considered a notice from Boyd Kinzley, Resource Specialist, County Zoning Review Unit, Michigan Department of Commerce, notifying Marquette County that Zoning Amendment #111-RZ-TX-14 not be approved. Mr. Kinzley maintains that the public notices for six specific sections were considered adequate, but the County Board adopted a number of amendments to the zoning ordinance by reference and the public notice did not adequately describe the number, scope, or consequences of the so-called housekeeping changes.

County Clerk, David Roberts, explained that Planning Staff disagrees with Mr. Kinzley's decision, and believes they have properly complied with zoning amendment procedure. Patricia Gruber, Planner, requested Civil Counsel Payant to look into the matter. Civil Counsel Payant wrote a letter to Mr. Kinzley requesting that he reconsider his position, pointing out that there is simply no statutory authority for his decision.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried to place the communication on file.

The Committee considered a request from Michigamme Township to waive the sewer inspection permit fees for their township sewer project. Comm. Arsenault met with John Olson, Michigamme Township Supervisor, Administrator Aloia, Jim Pelkola, Plumbing Inspector, and Gordon Uren, Building Code Department, regarding the inspection fee. The Michigamme Township Bond Issue did not provide funds for the hook-up inspection fee. John Olson believes that because Michigamme Township has an engineer for the project the inspections are not necessary. A compromise was reached. The project engineer will get one blanket permit to cover all of the hook-ups, and it will be reviewed by Gordon Uren. Comm. Arsenault commended Administrator Aloia and Gordon Uren in their handling of the matter, and John Olson seemed satisfied.

The Committee considered a presentation from Fred Terres, Negaunee Resident, regarding Marquette County Umbrella Cable, Inc. proposal. Mr. Terres would like to see a County-wide cable system owned and operated by a seven-member county consortium, to provide better cable service for Marquette County. He specifically requested that the County Board do a County-wide survey to find out the amount of interest in a County cable system.

Comm. Balbierz pointed out that the U.S. Congress and the President want more competition to fix the cable system, not further regulation. For example, Michigan Bell has the fiber optic infrastructure currently in place which is capable of carrying cable TV signals; however, the law only allows their system to carry voice.

The Commissioners believed the idea has merit; however, were not interested in developing a cable system to benefit only specific portions of the County. The County Board requested a written proposal which must show who the system will serve, what the public benefits are, and costs, before the Board proceeds further.

Chairperson Corkin suggested that Mr. Terres and his committee place an ad in the Mining Journal asking people to respond should they be interested in a County-wide cable system.

Mr. Terres thanked the County Board for their time and their suggestions, and left the meeting.

The Committee considered an agreement reached with the Internal Revenue Service resulting from an employment tax audit. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that the IRS examined Marquette County's assessment and collection of taxes at the request of some Diversion employees. Marquette County is the first County audited in Michigan by the IRS. The IRS has determined that Marquette County must pay a total of \$22,565.27 in additional tax collections plus penalties. The penalties have been negotiated down to a rate of approximately 6%. The County can appeal this IRS decision and get an extension, but the penalty of 6% would no longer be guaranteed. It is possible that if an appeal was denied future penalties could be over 30%.

The additional taxes and penalties come from two sources. First, Diversion employees complained to the IRS about their tax deductions. They had been paying their own social security taxes because they were under contract, but the County must pay half now. Diversion employees will be entitled to a refund.

Second, the Court Reporters receive County payment for transcripts. Court Recorders are full time County employees; however, they use County equipment and time to produce transcripts. Approximately 75% of them must be paid for by the County because they are provided to public defenders. These extra monies earned by the Court Recorders have not been subject to withholding taxes.

Administrator Aloia and Civil Counsel are of the opinion that the County should pay these additional taxes and penalties out of the present contingency fund. Administrator Aloia will soon come back to the County Board with recommendations regarding future transcripts.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board pay the IRS the additional taxes and penalties totalling \$22,565.27 from the general fund contingency.

Comm. Angeli reported there may be some interest by citizens in appealing the recently approved 10 Commissioner District Plan and requested to know when the filing deadline was. County Clerk Roberts reported the plan was filed on September 18, 1991. Any citizen has the right to petition the Court of Appeals to review the plan within 30 days of its filing, which is October 18, 1991.

Comm. Angeli presented a letter from Stanley Wittler, President, Superior Shredding, which contends that the Solid Waste Authority's tipping fee of \$1.00 per automobile tire does not cover the expenses incurred by the Authority. The result is that the County is losing money. Chairperson Corkin will submit the letter from Mr. Wittler to Mike Etelamaki, Director, Solid Waste Authority, and request a response in writing regarding the disposal of tires.

Comm. Angeli pointed out that during the public discussion on long-term nursing beds, it was mentioned that Marquette General Hospital may have plans for a nursing home facility. Chairperson Corkin will send a letter to MGH Administrator, Robert Nelberg, asking for comments on their long-term plans for nursing home beds.

Also, Chairperson Corkin wants to form a committee to further study the issue of long-term nursing home beds and see what should be done at the State and Federal level to improve our situation. County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, will have suggestions for membership of such a committee at a future meeting.

The Committee considered a request from Michael Quayle, Undersheriff, for authorization to apply for a grant to purchase a new boat, motor, and trailer, for the Sheriff's Department Marine Division. Undersheriff Quayle explained that he just received notice this afternoon from the Michigan DNR that they have extra funds available to provide a grant of 75%, with a 25% local match, for the purchase of boats, motors, etc. The DNR must have an

answer by 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 25, 1991. Undersheriff Quayle apologized for not having any written materials, but this notice caught everyone by surprise. The present Sheriff's Department boat, a Boston Whaler, is eleven years old and is budgeted for replacement in 1993. If the County moves the purchase of a new boat forward to 1991, the State of Michigan will guarantee payment of 75% of the estimated \$30,000.00 cost. Finance Manager, Gary Yoder, stated that there should be enough money in the equity fund to cover the 25% now. These funds are not out of the County general fund, but come from the millage for Search and Rescue. Undersheriff Quayle needs the authority from the County Board to inform the DNR we will proceed with the grant. He also made the Commissioners aware that the old boat is worth something, but he is not sure at this time whether its value will be deducted from the State grant monies or kept in the County.

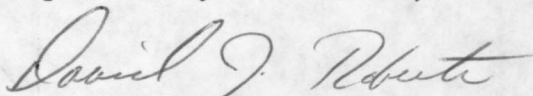
Administrator Aloia recommends the County Board apply for the 75% grant at this time. The new boat will be a good deal no matter what happens to the funds resulting in the sale of the old boat.

It was moved by Comm. Balbierz, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Sheriff's Department to proceed with the 75% grant for the purchase of a new boat, motor, and trailer, for the Marine Division.

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, September 24, 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 September 10, 1991.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
- R6: FY 1992 Budget.
- Direct from Co. W. D. 10: A notice from MAC of proposed State General Revenue Sharing cuts, totalling \$45 million dollars.
- R8: Contract with Marquette Country Trails, Inc., and the Employment Programs Department.
- R9: Local Emergency Management Work Agreement for FY 1992.
- R10: Health Department request for a travel policy exemption.
- R11: A request from the Family Support Division to allow staff to attend the Michigan Family Support Council Training Conference.
- R12: Jail Air Handling Project.
- BA - R13: Pre-Placement Examination Program for Sheriff's Department.
- to Bd no recall R14: Resolution Amending Insurance Fund Budget.
- F. J. R15: Notice from the Michigan Department of Commerce rejecting zoning amendment #111-RZ-TX-14.
- Tabled 16. Michigamme Township Sewer Project Permits. (No packet materials).
- Tabled 17. Marquette County ^Umbrella Cable Inc. Proposal. (No packet materials).
- R18. IRS agreement on employment
- Tabled 19. Appropriation
Tires 10th 21) M6H Red Core 20) ^Rmike Guayle, understanding
- 20) PUBLIC COMMENT.
- 23) 21. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
- 24) 22. ADJOURNMENT.
- 25)

at 15th
closed session Payat
out 8th Humane Society