

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 8, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Courthouse 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. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the September 24, 1991 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Balbierz, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period September 21, 1991 through October 4, 1991, in the amount of \$1,462,803.59 be approved.

Jay Clancey, President, Marquette County Humane Society, and several members of the Humane Society Board were present to discuss the County Board 1992 appropriation to the Humane Society. The 1992 recommended budget provides for a \$15,000.00 appropriation, contingent upon two members being appointed to the Humane Society Board by the Marquette County Board, and no County boarding fees. Mr. Clancey thanked the County Board for its past support of the Humane Society. The present Humane Society Board consists of nine members who are elected by its membership. In order to change the makeup of the Board, it would be necessary for the whole membership to approve a revision in their bylaws. Mr. Clancey felt the Humane Society Board has always conducted open meetings, and anyone interested in becoming a member is welcome to join, and by virtue of their membership may run for its Board. Mr. Clancey contends that the dollars spent by the Humane Society, from whatever source, is well spent because they provide a necessary service for the citizens of Marquette County.

Chairperson Corkin pointed out that the Humane Society has decided to accept public monies to provide services. Over the years, Marquette County has provided approximately \$100,000.00 to the Humane Society, plus animal boarding fees. The County Board believes that either two of its present nine members, or two additional members, should be appointed by the Marquette County Board.

Mr. Clancey thanked the Board for the opportunity to discuss the matter. Mr. Clancey and Humane Society Board members then left the meeting.

The Committee considered a memo from Judge Edward A. Quinnell outlining revision of the Family Counseling Services Agreement. The changes included an increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00 per session for counseling, the addition of the SMILE Program (Start Making it Liveable for Everybody), and authorization for three additional counseling sessions in certain cases.

Finance Manager, Gary Yoder, did an analysis which indicates that the Family Counseling Fund can accommodate the fee increase. In a typical year about \$10,000.00 is generated from marriage license application fees, and the fund currently has a \$19,000.00 balance. The \$40.00 counseling fee would be billed to the County from such counseling agencies as Catholic Social Services, Lutheran Social Services, Community Mental Health, etc.

Civil Counsel, David Payant, suggested that the agreement be amended to include an indemnification clause to protect the County from liability in case a lawsuit is filed against one of the counseling agencies.

It was moved by Comm. Balbierz, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve and execute the Family Counseling Services Agreement with an indemnification clause amendment as suggested by Civil Counsel.

The Committee considered a memo from the Michigan Association of Counties regarding Department of Social Services budget reductions for 1992. On Friday, September 27, 1991, the State Legislature approved the DSS budget as provided for in Senate Bill 277. This budget appropriated only \$43 million dollars and created a block grant program to replace the present emergency need program and is seriously underfunded.

Chairperson Corkin has been in contact with Rep. Jacobetti who has committed himself to work hard to amend the Social Services budget and provide additional funding for emergency needs. These emergency needs should not be dumped on Counties by the State of Michigan.

Comm. Arsenault pointed out that the reductions in funds will directly affect such programs as: health care for the elderly and poor, wheel chairs, dental programs, and home heating assistance. Comm. Arsenault referred to Governor Engler's budget the "Shift and Shaft" philosophy, in other words, "Shift" the responsibility of administering programs to the counties, and then "Shaft" them by not providing the necessary funds.

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

The Committee considered the Courthouse Barrier Free Soffit Repair bid recommendations. Ron Koshorek, Director, Resource Management Department, was present and explained that the County has received two sealed bids in response to the newspaper ad. The budgeted amount for they FY 1991 Capital Improvement Project is \$6,500. Two bids were received as follows:

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| 1) | Sunrise Builders, Inc., Marquette, MI 49855 | \$11,486.00 |
| 2) | Ted's Paint & Drywall, Ishpeming, MI 49849  | \$ 5,500.00 |

The Resource Management Staff recommends to accept the low bid and award the project to Ted's Paint & Drywall.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the low bid of \$5,500.00 from Ted's Paint & Drywall, Ishpeming, MI for the Courthouse Barrier Free Soffit Repair Project.

The Committee considered a request from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, for a waiver of a \$35.00 registration fee for inservice training, so that she may attend a conference. Ms. Hanson has agreed to pay all of her other expenses. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, recommends that the \$35.00 registration fee be waived from the travel freeze.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Balbierz, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board waive the \$35.00 registration fee from the County travel freeze for Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court.

The Committee considered a memo from Karen R. Tarrant, Executive Director, Office of Highway Safety Planning, Michigan State Police, regarding Marquette County U.S. 41/M-28 Enforcement Project Grant #MDH-91-015. The grant will be ending September 30, 1991, and in order to assure that Marquette County will be eligible for all reimbursements, the Office of Highway Safety Planning is requesting that all the accounting records are provided and requirements met. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, assured Commissioners that this grant will receive the proper legal and administrative review.

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

The Committee considered a memo from the Marquette County Planning Commission regarding the County Waterfalls Park Proposal from Richard Hendrickson and David Olson. Norman Holmes, Planning Commission Chairperson, was present to discuss the proposal and answer questions. The

Planning Commission was unanimously in support of the concept of a waterfalls park; however, had these concerns: First, three months time is unrealistic to properly develop the project, and in fact the FY 1992 Capital Projects ranking of recreational projects has already occurred. Second, the Planning Commission does not want to discourage Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. Olson from pursuing public acquisition of waterfalls; however, it is not clear how they can do this using State grants without some sort of local match. Third to properly address the County's role in a waterfall project it is necessary that a waterfalls park appear as a priority item in the County Recreation Plan.

According to Planning Staff, State Recreational Grant applications are not due until March; however, Mr. Olson is leaving the area in January and would like to complete his grant proposal before the end of 1991.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff to draft a letter to the State explaining that Marquette County will accept the lands containing waterfalls at no cost or obligation to the County, and further encourage Mr. Hendrickson, Mr. Olson, and Planning Staff to work together on the project.

It was further moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board go on record stating that Marquette County will provide no monies, the exchange of County forest lands, or other financial compensation, to any project participants in order to make this project work, but rather the project must be funded completely through grant or private funds.

The Committee reviewed a letter from Rex A. Beuttgenbach, General Manager, Bresnan Communications, explaining Bresnan's converter phase out program. Comm. Seppanen sees the \$2.00 fee for the converter box as a rate increase in disguise. The letter from Bresnan points out that all seniors age 62 and over, who are heads of households and are eligible to receive medicaid, can receive a converter box without a monthly rental fee. Also, 75% of Bresnan's cable subscribers do not need the converter box because they have purchased cable-ready sets.

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

The Committee considered a Notice of Hearing on a possible rate increase for the customers of Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. Civil Counsel, David Payant, was present and explained that the Attorney General's Office regularly appears at such hearings on behalf of Michigan Citizens and recommended we continue to rely on them. For Marquette County to appear at such a hearing would require expert witnesses at extraordinary expenses.

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

The Committee received a communication from Cathy Andriacchi, Administrative Aide, Resource Management/Development Department, explaining that it has been their policy to send the minutes of various boards and commissions, staffed by the Resource Management Department, to County Board members after they have been approved. Most of the boards meet monthly, some may not meet for several months, and as a result there has been a lengthy delay in providing approved minutes. In the future Ms. Andriacchi will send draft copies of all minutes as soon as they are completed. Commissioners requested that Mr. Koshorek thank Ms. Andriacchi on their behalf.

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

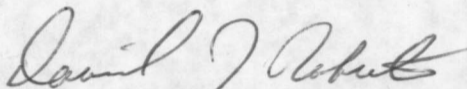
The Committee considered a letter from Governor, John Engler, acknowledging receipt of a recently adopted County Board resolution. The letter does not indicate which issue has been addressed in the resolution, and quite frankly is a meaningless form letter. The same letter has been sent by the Governor several times in the past.

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

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, October 8, 1991, 5:30 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 Tuesday, September 24, 1991.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Discussion with Humane Society on their FY 1992 Budget Appropriation.
- R7. Family Counseling Services Agreement.
8. DSS Budget Reductions for FY 1992.
- R9. Courthouse Barrier Free Soffit Repair Project Bid Recommendation.
- R10. Request from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, for a Travel Freeze Waiver.
11. Highway Safety Grant #MDH-91-015: "U.S. 41/M-28 Enforcement Project."
- RR12. Marquette County Planning Commission memo on County Waterfalls Park Proposal.
13. A letter from Bresnan Communications regarding Converter Phase-Out Plans.
14. Notice of Hearing on possible rate increase for customers of Michigan Consolidated Gas Company.
15. Memo from Cathy Andriacchi, Resource Management/Development Department, regarding minutes from various boards and commissions.
16. Acknowledgement of receipt of Marquette County Resolution from Governor Engler regarding \_\_\_\_\_.
17. ~~NRK~~
- 18.
- 19.
20. PUBLIC COMMENT.
21. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
22. ADJOURNMENT.