

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 28, 1992, 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. Potvin, Comm. Seppanen, and Comm. Corkin. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the January 14, 1992 Executive/- Intergovernmental Relations Organizational Meeting be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 14, Solid Waste Survey, and Item 15, Dog License.

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

The Committee considered a proposal to support legislation to increase the State Tobacco Tax. Dr. Randall Johnson, Director, Marquette County Health Department, addressed the Committee regarding the State Health Department proposal to increase the state tax on cigarettes and establish a new state law on smokeless tobacco products (not presently taxed at state level), and to use a significant portion of the resultant revenue to improve funding of chronic disease prevention programs and support for local health departments in Michigan. The proposed new/increased taxes on tobacco products would generate approximately \$220 million dollars per year.

Dr. Ron Davis, Chief Medical Executive of the Michigan Department of Public Health, will be in Marquette on the evening of February 18, 1992. Dr. Johnson stated he would be willing to invite him to the Regular Board Meeting on that evening for a short presentation on the proposal and a question and answer session.

Commissioners felt that more information regarding the proposed legislation was needed, and requested Dr. Johnson to attempt to obtain a copy of the proposed legislation.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board invite Dr. Ron Davis, Chief Medical Executive of the Michigan Department of Public Health, to the February 18, 1992 Regular County Board Meeting.

The Committee considered a request from William Maki, Mine Inspector, for approval of Capital Funds for a Portable Radio purchase. Mr. Maki stated that as County Mine Inspector he is required to work alone in remote areas and in case of injury it is necessary for him to have the ability to call for help. Last year he requested to access the Central Dispatch System and arrangements were made to utilize a used radio from the Sheriff's Department. At present however, he cannot utilize the Central Dispatch System but has received permission from the Marquette County Road Commission to access their frequency.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that the radio is in need of repair and recommends that a new two-channel radio at a cost of \$350.00 be purchased instead of repairing the outdated radio for approximately the same amount, with monies to be appropriated from the Contingency Fund.

Comm. Seppanen stated he had questioned Michael Zorza, Emergency Medical Services Director, regarding the reason why Mr. Maki could not access the Central Dispatch System. Mr. Zorza is going to investigate and will report back to the County Board.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the purchase of a new portable radio for William Maki, County Mine Inspector, with monies being appropriated from the Contingency Fund.

The Committee considered a communication from James N. Callahan, Executive Director, MAC, regarding closing tax loopholes for Mobile Homes, SB 291, HB 4151 and HB 4152. Henry Schneider, Equalization Director, submitted a communication to the Committee stating that per their request he had reviewed the flier published by the Michigan Association for Equity in Taxes, titled Michigan's Double-Wide Property Tax Loophole. Based on the material contained in the flier and other relevant information, he found that in Michigan the owners of mobile homes located in mobile home parks are exempt from paying the ad valorem property tax that is paid by the owners of homes and mobile homes that are not located in mobile home parks. Instead, the owners pay a set tax of \$3.00 per month or \$36.00 annually.

Mr. Schneider estimated that under the current system of taxation, Marquette County mobile homes located in mobile home parks pay a total of approximately \$22,300 a year in taxes. If these units were taxed under the ad valorem system, the total tax revenue would exceed \$200,000 a year. A difference of \$178,000. However, the most compelling reason to eliminate the special treatment of these properties is "equity." Many of today's double-wide mobile homes are comparable to conventional homes, but are assuming a very small share of the cost to support local governmental services.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board contact our legislators supporting SB 291, HB 4151 and HB 4152, regarding Closing Tax Loopholes for Mobile Homes and encourage all County School Districts, Cities, and Townships to also lend support by resolution.

The Committee considered a purchase of 160 acres of land adjacent to the County Forest in Forsyth Township which could be funded from the County's Land Acquisition Fund or the Forestry Enterprise Fund. Ron Koshorek, Resource Management/Development Director, stated that Mr. George Hazares, local realtor, approached the County regarding the sale of the property. Mr. Hazares was present to answer any questions.

Mr. Koshorek reported that the Planning Commission has considered the usefulness of adding this property to County ownership, and both the County Forester and the Planning Commission recommend the property be acquired for the asking price of \$16,000. He also recommended purchasing the land with funds from the Land Acquisition Fund because the Forestry Fund supports the year to year implementation of the Forest Management Plan.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, supported the purchase of the land but recommended the purchase be made by the Forestry Fund not the Land Acquisition Account, due to pending projects which may require using available funds in the Land Acquisition Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize purchase of 160 acres of land adjacent to the County Forest in Forsyth Township.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and carried on a 4-to-1 vote with Comm. Arsenault voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board purchase the 160 acres in Forsyth Township from the Land Acquisition Fund.

The Committee considered a proposed \$30,000 contribution by the City of Ishpeming to the Cliff's Shaft Project being sponsored by the Marquette County EDC. Mr. David M. Savu, Ishpeming City Attorney, has advised the Ishpeming City Manager a Resolution is necessary from the County Board prior to the donation by the City of Ishpeming. The Resolution must declare that the project is a public purpose and the County Board approves of the project plan.

David Payant, Civil Counsel, assured the Committee that adoption of the Resolution will satisfy the requirements of P.A. 1974, No. 338, Sec. 10, permitting the donation by the City of Ishpeming to the project and will not result in any financial or environmental liability to the County.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the resolution approving the project plan for the Cliff's Shaft project.



The Committee considered an invoice in the amount of \$1,385.65 for participation in a lawsuit by Michigan Counties to obtain State funding for local courts. David Payant, Civil Counsel, stated that Marquette County elected to participate in the lawsuit on January 18, 1989, and the requested payment is for costs of our recent efforts in this lawsuit. Mr. Payant explained that if Marquette County does not participate in the lawsuit, we would lose any right to recover funds from the State for the operation of our local courts which may accrue during the period of time the lawsuit is pending. The lawsuit can be expected to take several years, therefore the risk involved in nonparticipation is very great. At the present time, Wayne County is receiving State funding for their local courts.

Comm. Potvin requested Staff to investigate how our local representatives voted for Wayne County support when our Upper Peninsula Counties are receiving none.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize payment in the amount of \$1,385.65 to the Court Funding Litigation Escrow Account for the lawsuit by Michigan Counties to obtain State funding for local courts.

The Committee considered a resolution from Iron County requesting the State Legislature to adopt legislation making it clear that the DNR has responsibility for removing and disposing of dead animals from Michigan's roads.

In a letter received from J.E. Beerling, Supt./Engr., Marquette County Road Commission, he stated that the County Road Commission spends a great deal of time removing and disposing of dead animals. In fact, he feels that 85% of the deer kills were removed by the Road Commission. The County Road Association has in the past attempted without success, to shift the burden back to the DNR. Mr. Beerling urged the County Board to initiate a change and urge the legislature to adopt legislation making it clear that the DNR has responsibility for removing and disposing of dead animals from Michigan's roads.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the resolution from Iron County to adopt legislation regarding DNR responsibility for removing and disposing of Michigan dead animals, and a copy of this resolution be sent to our State Legislators.

The Committee considered a communication from Norman Holmes, Chairperson, Marquette County Planning Commission, stating that it is the intention of the Planning Commission to appoint the entire Planning Commission as the Forestry Sub-Committee who will act as the County's Forestry Commission. The Planning Commission requested Civil Counsel to determine if there are any impediments to such an arrangement. Should Civil Counsel concur that a six-member Forestry Commission is permissible, the Planning Commission will establish the Forestry Commission Sub-Committee in their bylaws. It would then be necessary for the County Board to formally designate this new body as the Marquette County Forestry Commission, pursuant to the Municipal Forest Act (Act 217 P.A. 1931, MCLA 320.201).

David Payant, Civil Counsel, will draft a resolution to be submitted at the next County Board of Commissioners Committee Meeting.

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

The Committee considered a progress report on the animal control program by Dennis Aloia, County Administrator. Mr. Aloia stated that staff is still in the process of investigating various alternatives that are available if the County discontinues their contract with the Humane Society. When a complete analysis is completed all options will be presented to the County Board.

Comm. Angeli requested to address item 15, dog licenses. He questioned the present fee, collection process and use of revenue. Mr. Aloia stated the process will be reviewed and staff will report back to the County Board.

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

The Committee considered a communication from Michael Etelamaki, Director, Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, regarding the 1992 Survey of Constituent Municipalities. Mr. Etelamaki requested the County Board's participation in the annual "Stockholder's Meeting" scheduled for February 19, 1992, 5:00 p.m. in Room 41 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, and the completion of the Survey. The Survey results will provide a clearer definition of the Authority's goals.

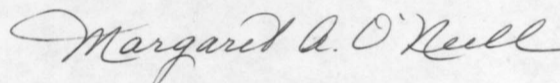
It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board review and take action on the Survey at the February 4, 1992 Regular County Board Meeting.

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

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, distributed a communication from John Korhonen, Negaunee City Manager, regarding County of Marquette, Ishpeming/Negaunee Water Supply System Bonds (Act 185) for County Board review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret A. O'Neill  
Deputy County Clerk



MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, January 28, 1992, 4:30 p.m.

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

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE/IGR COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON January 14, 1992.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
- Rec* - 5. ✓ Proposal to Increase the State Tobacco Tax.
- Rec* - 6. ✓ Request from William Maki, Mine Inspector, for a Portable Radio Purchase.
- Rec* - 7. ✓ Michigan Mobile Home Tax Loophole.
- Rec* - 8. ✓ Proposed Land Acquisition - County Forest.
- Rec* - 9. ✓ Resolution approving the Project Plan for the Cliff's Shaft Project.
- Rec* - 10. ✓ Court Funding Litigation Escrow Account.
- Rec* - 11. ✓ DNR responsibility for removing and disposing of dead animals from Michigan's roads.
- ✓12. Planning Commission Sub-Committee acting as Forestry Commission.
- ✓13. Progress report on the Animal Control Program.
- Rec* 14. ✓ *Solid Waste Survey*
15. *Log Licenses*
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.