

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 11, 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. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 28, 1992, and the Finance/Personnel Committee meeting held on January 28, 1992, be approved.

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

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period January 23, 1992 thru February 7, 1992, in the amount of \$987,570.29 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin suggested to the Committee that when issues are being discussed at the Committee level that Roberts' Rules of Order which require a motion to be on the floor before discussion be waived. Most of the time at the Committee level, discussion of the issue comes first and then a motion is formulated out of that discussion. The Commissioner consensus agreed to follow this procedure at Committee Meetings.

The Committee considered a request from Alger-Marquette Community Mental for the financing of their Capital Improvement Needs. Dr. William G. Birch, Chief Executive Officer, and Douglas C. Morton, Chief Operating Officer of Community Mental Health, were present to discuss the request and answer questions.

Dr. Birch pointed out that the Newberry State Hospital will be closing in June, give or take 30 days, and all Community Mental Health Boards in the Upper Peninsula must provide alternatives for inpatient treatment programs and strengthening their residential care program. Dr. Birch has been in contact with other Community Mental Health Boards throughout the Upper Peninsula, and they generally agree that many of these services would be best provided for in Marquette County, mainly because of its close proximity to Marquette General Hospital. The State of Michigan has committed and redirected funding from centralized services, such as the Newberry State Hospital, and being redirected into local community programs. The projected capital needs of AMCMH is approximately \$1,414,000.00. Dr. Birch is not blindly optimistic that these programs will be covered because the State has no alternative to local community mental health programs. It took Community Mental Health approximately 30 years to gradually replace State hospitals and Community Mental Health is one of the few growth areas projected in State budgets. What AMCMH requests is County support for the funding of these capital projects, which would lower CMH loan rates by 1-1/2% to 2%, and thereby save many dollars that could be put into programs.

Doug Morton presented an itemized list of CMH projected capital needs showing the purchase and/or construction of a number of group homes, most of them in Marquette County and several in Alger County. Community Mental Health has purchased two homes already, and a third home has a purchase closing date set for February 28, 1992.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, presented an outline of four funding options: First, limited general obligations bonds could be sold through the Marquette County Building Authority for the full cost of the

purchases, this would be set up similar to the arrangements made to purchase the Geraldine DeFant Building. The County would then establish a lease arrangement with Community Mental Health to pay off the notes. Limited general obligation bond arrangement would require the County's pledge of their full faith and credit and would provide the lowest interest rate; however, it would take a minimum of four months to complete.

The second option would be to utilize installment purchase contracts for the various projects. These would be individual contracts and require no participation from the Building Authority, but they would also require the full faith and credit of the County Board. The interest rates on these would be slightly higher than a general limited obligation bond issue. This could be accomplished much faster and the money would be available probably in a month.

Third, the County Building Authority could be utilized to set up installment purchase contracts without the pledge of the County's full faith and credit. It is estimated that this will be the highest cost operation with interest rates 1% to 1-1/2% over and above the bond issues. These would take slightly longer than regular installment purchase contracts.

And fourth, Community Mental Health is investigating a local loan from a commercial lending institution. This appears relatively easy to accomplish and it will also require the full faith and credit of the County Board.

The Community Mental Health Liaison Committee will be meeting next Friday, and Chairperson Corkin suggested that the Liaison Committee review the matter and funding options and come back to the County Board with a recommendation on Tuesday, February 18th.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole refer the above matter to the Community Mental Health Liaison Committee for direction and a recommendation for presentation at the next Regular County Board meeting of February 18, 1992.

The Committee considered a request from Lynn Emerick, Director, Commission on Aging, that the County Board consider the waiver of penalty for late payment of property taxes by eligible persons who have filed for state income tax refunds. Ms. Emerick was present and explained that this does not just apply to senior citizens, but can also apply to paraplegics, eligible servicemen, veterans, widows, and disabled or blind persons. She does not believe that we are speaking of large numbers of individuals; however, it is very important to the few individuals that could benefit by this.

James Sodergren, County Treasurer, was present and further explained how the waiver would work under Section 59 of the tax law. The interest and penalties that would be waived must by law be placed into the delinquent tax revolving fund from the general fund of the County. He pointed out that the waiver would increase costs because Data Processing will have to rework its programs; however Mr. Sodergren is willing to do whatever the County Board wants. Because of the closing of the State Treasury Office in Marquette, and also because C.C.I. is late in delivering W-2s for its pensioners, 1992 may be an unusual year for Marquette County. For each \$1,000 in late taxes, 6% or \$60.00 would have to be transferred from the general fund to the delinquent tax revolving fund. There is no way to predict or estimate the total cost.

Commissioners thought that the County could try it for one year, and did not believe that the citizens of Marquette County would abuse the system.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution as described by MCL 211.59(3), which will allow for the waiver of penalty for late payment of property taxes by eligible persons who have filed for State income tax refunds to be tried for a one year period.

The Committee considered a request from Dr. Ray E. Johnson, D.D.S, P.C., Negaunee, Michigan, for County Board support to his appeal to the Michigan Department of Public Health in Lansing, Michigan, in their denial for a Certificate of Need to construct a new 100-bed nursing home in Negaunee. Dr. Johnson was present and explained that he applied in 1984 and then again in 1987 for the Certificate of Need, and was denied both times. In March of 1988, he appealed the Michigan Department of Health denial and received word in May of 1981 that Attorney General, Frank Kelley, was prepared to dismiss the appeal because the applicant had lost interest. Mr. Johnson immediately wrote to Frank Kelley stating that he had not lost interest and would continue his appeal. He also hired an attorney from Lansing, and his appeal will be heard on March 31st, and April 1st & 2nd, 1992 in Lansing. Dr. Johnson requests the County Board support his 100-bed nursing home in Negaunee with a resolution. He has worked many years and spent much of his own money and time trying to obtain a Certificate of Need. Mr. Johnson has been involved with the Norlite Nursing Home since 1972, and has studied and taken the State Board Examinations and is now a qualified Nursing Home Administrator.

Comm. Arsenault supported Dr. Johnson's request 110%. He has felt frustrated with the lack of nursing-home beds in our County, and his inability to help those who have to travel out of County to visit loved ones.

Comm. Corkin referred Commissioners to a recent survey of the various health agencies waiting lists which shows Marquette County has over 400 (non-duplicated) residents who are seeking placement in area nursing homes. Comm. Corkin supports more nursing-home beds for Marquette County regardless of who provides them, and contends that Dr. Johnson's appeal is an opportunity to go beyond dialogue and push the matter into court.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a resolution to the Michigan Department of Public Health requesting that more nursing home beds be made available in Marquette County, and also provide the survey documentation that there is a waiting list of 400+ residents in Marquette County waiting for nursing home beds.

Chairperson Corkin noted that Attorney Dennis Mikko was present and had to attend another meeting and suggested the County Board go into its Closed Session now and then continue with the rest of the agenda after the Closed Session.

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

6:10 p.m. Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess in order to clear Commission Chambers.

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CLOSED SESSION

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6:50 p.m. the Committee of the Whole came back into Open Session. No action was forthcoming as a result of the Closed Session.

The Committee considered a recommendation from George Wright, Facilities Manager, for the re-carpeting projects. Mr. Wright explained that the two projects constitute the second phase of a three-phase plan to replace the original carpeting which is now fourteen years old and badly worn to the point where tape has to be put down over loose seams and tears. In 1989 the first phase of re-carpeting was undertaken in the Courthouse Annex, Second Floor.

For the second phase, bids were requested for re-carpeting the Henry A. Skewis Annex groundfloor and the Administration areas on the first and second floors of the County Jail Building. Bids were advertised and two were returned by the deadline. The two projects consist of removing the old

carpeting and vinyl base, surface preparation, and installation of new carpet and vinyl base. Alternates were also requested for both projects for furniture moving, and an additional alternate for the Annex groundfloor for the carpeting of Conference Room 41 and the south hall. All work will be done after 5:00 p.m. to avoid disrupting normal County services.

Mr. Wright recommended that the low bidder on both projects, including the alternates, Sherwin Williams Company, be awarded the bid. Their bid price is \$3,100.00 under budget and they have done satisfactory work for Marquette County in the past.

Comm. Seppanen felt we should do the projects without carpeting Conference Room 41 and save \$600.00; however, the Commission consensus was to do the whole project now including the alternates.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Corkin, and carried on a roll call vote four-to-one with Comm. Seppanen voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the low bidder for the two carpet projects of Sherwin Williams Company with alternates totalling \$14,976.49 for the Courthouse Annex project and \$5,337.83 for the Jail Administration project.

The Committee considered the appointment of the Advisory Ad Hoc Committee for County Remonumentation. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that the State Survey and Remonumentation Act of 1990 suggests that every Michigan County develop a plan for remonumentation. Gerald Carlson, RLS, and partner at Sundberg, Carlson & Assoc., was appointed to the State Remonumentation Commission. Mr. Carlson has been working with Register, Patricia Manley, in the development of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Administrator Aloia recommends that the Board handle the development of the County Remonumentation Plan as they have other plans, such as the Community Corrections Plan, and charge the Resource Management Development Staff, particularly Jim Kippola, with the responsibility for plan development and background preparation on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee. Administrator Aloia further recommends that the Ad Hoc Committee appointments be made as suggested by Register, Patricia Manley. The Advisory Ad Hoc Committee on County Remonumentation is an all-volunteer committee and no per diem or travel pay will be provided.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board appoint the Advisory Ad Hoc Committee on County Remonumentation Members as presented by Register Patricia Manley, and that the Resource Management Development Staff, particularly Jim Kippola, be charged with the responsibility for background preparation and work on the plan development.

The Committee reviewed a communication from Civil Counsel, David Payant, regarding the disposition of dog license fees. Mr. Payant's legal research imcpvered a 1955 Attorney General Opinion which indicates that all funds collected for dog license fees should be paid into the general fund of the County. From the County general fund all costs of enforcing the dog law should be paid, and the County is entitled to increase dog license fees to pay for any of the following: 1) The cost of license forms and tags; 2) The cost of accounting control over, and distribution of forms and tags to townships and cities; 3) The cost of personnel and other office expenses involved in collections by the county treasurer; 4) The amounts paid to the supervisor or assessor for listing dogs; 5) The expense of preparation of the county treasurer's listing of unlicensed dogs for the sheriff and prosecuting attorney; 6) The expense of the sheriff and prosecuting attorney under this law; 7) The amounts paid for destroying dogs under this law; 8) Payments made on contracts with, or for services rendered by humane societies in connection with enforcement of the dog law, and the feeding and care of stray dogs by humane societies; and 9) The cost of feeding and care of unlicensed dogs in animal shelters maintained by the county. (OGA 1955, No. 2188, page 387).

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

The Committee considered a request from the CUPPAD Regional Commission for a County Membership Resolution. The resolution is required in CUPPAD's Economic Development Planning Project Application in which they are in the process of preparing.

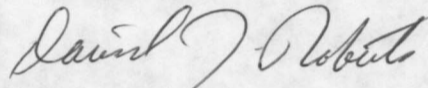
It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried on a roll call vote four-to-one, with Comm. Potvin voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board actively participate and support CUPPAD by adopting the County Membership Resolution.

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

Announcement: The Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority will hold its Annual Meeting on February 19, 1992 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex. All Commissioners are urged to attend.

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, February 11, 1992, 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 January 28, 1992, and the FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON January 28, 1992.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Committee of the Whole Meeting Procedures.  
(No packet materials).
- R?* 7. Financing of Community Mental Health Capital Improvement Needs.
- R* 8. Waiver of penalty for late payment of property taxes by eligible Senior Citizens who have filed for State refunds.
- R* 9. Re-carpeting Project Bids.
- R* 10. Appointment of the Advisory Ad Hoc Committee - County Remonumentation.
- R* 11. A request from Dr. Ray E. Johnson, D.D.S., for County Board support of his appeal for a Nursing Home Bed in Negaunee.
- file* 12. Disposition of Dog License Fees.
- R* 13. Marquette County Membership Resolution to the CUPPAD Regional Commission for 1992.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
17. PUBLIC COMMENT.
18. Closed Session to discuss pending litigation.
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.