

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 26, 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. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 12, 1992 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. James Sodergren, Marquette County Treasurer, was present and reported good news on CFR legislation. This morning on the State Senate Floor, Senator Don Koivisto was able to amend Senate Bill 395, and put back into the Bill payment of \$1.10 an acre by the landowner, and reduce review time from 10 to 5 years. Also, Senator Faust amended Section 13(a) which will provide for a 10% cutting fee.

Mr. Sodergren has contacted William Hyry, Superintendent of the NICE Schools, who is the Legislative Coordinator for all schools in the Upper Peninsula. Mr. Hyry has been in contact with our legislators. We must be aware that the timber industry will be lobbying to revoke these amendments; however, they will need 20 votes to override them. Tomorrow is a crucial day on the Senate Floor, and Mr. Sodergren requested that the County Board fax a letter to Senator George McManus, Jr. and ask that he support the \$1.10 an acre, the 5 year review time, and Senator Faust's amendments.

Chairperson Corkin directed Staff to fax Marquette County's support of these amendments to Senator McManus, and also requested Comm. Arsenault, President of the Upper Peninsula County Commissioners Association, to request similar support from other counties. Chairperson Corkin thanked Mr. Sodergren for the report.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period May 9, 1992 thru May 22, 1992, in the amount of \$894,204.00 be approved.

The Committee of the Whole was to receive an update from Darryll Sundberg, Marquette County Drain Commissioner, regarding the Orianna Brook and the Whetstone Brook Drainage Districts. Mr. Sundberg sent a note to Administrator Aloia stating that due to another commitment he is unable to attend tonight's Committee of the Whole meeting, but will attend the Regular County Board meeting of June 2, 1992 to provide an update.

The Committee considered a request from the Ishpeming Housing Authority for a land conveyance of a parcel across the street from the Valente Medical Care Facility building for the purpose of constructing 25 low income family apartments. The request has been reviewed by County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, and forwarded to the Marquette County Planning Commission and the Marquette County Department of Social Services, as provided by Land Conveyance Policy #425. Administrator Aloia, the Department of Social Services, the Medical Care Facility staff, and the Planning Commission recommend the rejection of this request. They believe this land should be reserved for potential future expansion of the Medical Care Facility. It was pointed out that the Certificate of Need approved by the County, prior to the building of the new Medical Care Facility, includes provisions for development of self care and step down care living units, as well as low income living units for the elderly.

Rev. King Hanna, DSS Board Member, was present to discuss the request and answer questions. Mr. Hanna explained that he is not aware of any negotiations that have taken place between the Ishpeming Housing Authority and DSS, the DSS Board would not be opposed to the land transfer if the low income housing units were reserved only for the elderly. The Medical Care Facility in recent weeks has begun to study and evaluate the potential for expansion. Rev. Hanna summarized the DSS concerns: First, the Medical Care Facility cannot develop beyond the parameters of its Certificate of Need. Second, if part of the land is gone will there be enough for future development for senior services? And third, if part of the land is gone, how will that effect the present Certificate of Need?

Jim Kippola, Senior Planner, was present to answer questions regarding the Planning Staff recommendation supporting the land conveyance. The request complies with the Comprehensive Plan adopted by Marquette County. There is a significant need for housing the elderly in the County, and this request would meet such a need. In addition, they felt that the mix of low income housing on the land adjacent to the Medical Care Facility would insure that low income housing occupants would be a part of the existing community, and would compliment senior services provided at the Medical Care Facility.

Opal Giroux, Director of the Ishpeming Housing Authority, was present and explained that they received a grant from HUD in the amount of \$1.9 million dollars to build 25 low income family housing units, the site yet to be determined. Ms. Giroux showed slides of five potential sites that were reviewed, and the first choice was the site on Saginaw Street currently owned by the County adjacent to the Valente Medical Care Facility. All utilities are available, it has natural drainage which would help reduce costs, and is located along MarqTran and school bus routes. The other four Ishpeming City sites were rejected for various reasons: Site preparation would be too costly, too close to already existing low income housing, or too close to existing mine shafts. Also speaking in favor of the land transfer were Ishpeming City Council Members, Ken Olson and John Jackson. The City of Ishpeming fully supports this housing project. They pointed out that the commercial expansion taking place along U.S. 41 in Ishpeming are being done by private investors and the land there would be very very expensive. Remaining suitable sites in Ishpeming are very limited. The City of Ishpeming donated more land than was needed for the Valente Medical Care Facility, and asked the County to give back the 7 to 10 acres for the Ishpeming Housing Authority project. There would be plenty of property left for future expansion at the Medical Care Facility.

Also speaking in favor of the land transfer was Joyce Dupras of the Ishpeming Housing Commission, who pointed out that the elderly and children are very very compatible. A recent program where children in Ishpeming adopted a grandparent brought much joy and happiness to the residents of the Valente Medical Care Facility.

A lengthy discussion and question period followed. Comm. Corkin and Comm. Arsenault felt that the land transfer would be in the best interest of the citizens of Marquette County, that the \$1.9 million grant was money in hand, and that future expansion plans of the Valente Medical Care Facility are financially unfeasible, especially when the County and State can barely support what we already have. Comm. Angeli, Comm. Potvin, and Comm. Seppanen, felt it was too soon to grant the request, a more thorough study of the Medical Care Facility future plans should be done, especially since the Administrator, DSS Board and Staff, and the Planning Commission recommend the land transfer be denied.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and carried on a roll call vote three-to-two, with Comm. Potvin, Comm. Angeli, and Comm. Seppanen voting aye, and Comm. Arsenault, and Comm. Corkin voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board deny the land conveyance request.

The Committee considered the Valente Medical Care Facility capital projects list. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, pointed out that the first eleven projects on the list have been completed and were previously approved by the County Board. The Medical Care Facility Board has begun work on several of the remaining projects on the list; however, the County Board has not officially provided its approval. There is a remaining balance in the Medical Care Facility capital projects fund of approximately \$109,305. Administrator Aloia recommends that projects 13 through 34 be authorized, and then if there are enough remaining funds, projects 35 through 37 could be undertaken. Should the Commissioners desire, the cost of studying potential use of the County property near the Valente Medical Care Facility could be added at the top of the list of items 13 through 34 projects.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and carried on a roll call vote four-to-one, with Comm. Corkin voting nay, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the schedule of projects to be completed at the Marquette County Medical Care Facility in the order of priority recommended by the DSS Board, and that the funds appropriated amount to a total of \$221,942 for all projects, including past appropriations. This is to be done with the understanding that all projects between 13 and 34 be completed prior to initiating projects 35 through 37. In addition, the DSS Board is requested to obtain an estimate for the cost of studying potential use of the County property at that site, and that the DSS Board bring that estimate to the County Board as soon as practical for possible inclusion into the list of projects.

The Committee considered a request from Sheriff, Joseph Maino, to purchase one radar for the new boat and one typewriter for office use at a total cost of \$4,150.00, with a State Equipment Grant paying \$1,650.00. Sheriff Maino was present and recommends that the \$2,500.00 balance be taken from the Rescue Services Millage Capital Outlay Fund, which has approximately \$23,000.00 remaining, leaving a balance of \$20,500.00. Sheriff Maino further explained that although the radar cost is much higher than originally anticipated, but the equipment is necessary for the safety of personnel in the Marine Rescue Division. When searching for drowning victims, the Coast Guard typically gives up the search when it has been determined that there is no hope of finding survivors. It is then the Sheriff's Department duty to continue the search, and if bad weather or fog rolls in, they must get their men and equipment in safely.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Special Equipment Purchase and Grant for the Sheriff's Department.

The Committee considered the Marquette County Solid Waste Authority Mission Statement. Civil Counsel, David Payant, reviewed the Mission Statement and wrote a letter to the Authority's Director, Mike Etelamaki, explaining that the Solid Waste Authority does not make policy. The ultimate policy making body is the Planning Commission which utilizes the Solid Waste Planning Committee to draft and update its 5-year plan.

Civil Counsel Payant explained further that some problems exist in the present plan, in that it is not very definitive but too general. For example, the Solid Waste Plan should have some mechanisms provided for enforcing the Plan. The Authority would still have no power to enforce the plan, but the County Board of Commissioners could through the courts.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Civil Counsel Payant to request the Planning Commission provide enforcement mechanisms in the five-year update of the Solid Waste Plan.

The Committee considered a grant from the Recreational Division of the Michigan DNR for \$38,250.00 to cover the cost of a snowmobile trail groomer. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that the County of Marquette would be responsible for accepting the check, issuing a new check to Marquette Country Trails, Inc., keeping a copy of the cancelled check and providing the DNR with an audit trail.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the State of Michigan grant in the amount of \$38,250.00 to cover the cost of the snowmobile trail groomer.

The Committee considered the Six-County Training Consortium Agreement. The Agreement is required pursuant to the Job Training Partnership Act of 1982, Public Act 7 of 1967, MCL 124.501 et. seq. The Six-County Training Consortium is established by mutual consent of Alger, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft Counties. Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, explained that the Agreement has been given administrative and legal review, and recommends its approval.

It was moved by Comm. Potvin, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Interlocal Agreement for the Six-County Training Consortium.

The Committee considered the matrix of criteria for hiring a new Equalization Director from Randell E. Girard, Human Resources Director. Mr. Girard was present and explained that the recruitment matrix has a series of characteristics identified in combination with assigned point values that are designed to objectively measure the candidates, one against the other. This matrix once approved, will be utilized to evaluate the new Equalization Director candidates and recommend the top candidates for the County Board to interview.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the matrix for the Equalization Director recruitment as presented.


It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole accept and place on file a memo from Michael E. Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, regarding the National Security Exercise "JUNEX-92" Message #8.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole accept and place on file a Notice of Michigan Tax Tribunal Hearing regarding Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company vs Townships of Republic and Humboldt. The hearing is scheduled for June 1, 1992, at 9:00 a.m. in the Michigan Tax Tribunal Offices in Lansing, Michigan.

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, May 26, 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 May 12, 1992.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Darryll Sundberg, County Drain Commissioner - Update on Orianna Brook and Whetstone Brook Drainage Districts. (No packet materials).
- Rec* 7. Recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, on Ishpeming Housing Authority request for property near the Valente Medical Care Facility.
- Rec* 8. Valente Medical Care Facility Capital Projects. (Materials forthcoming).
- Rec* 9. Sheriff's Department Special Equipment Grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
- Rec* 10. Marquette County Solid Waste Authority Mission Statement.
- Rec* 11. State of Michigan Legislative Grant for a Snowmobile Trail Groomer.
- Rec* 12. Six County Consortium Interlocal Agreement.
- Rec* 13. Criteria for hiring New Equalization Director from Randell E. Girard, Human Resources Director.
- File* 14. Information regarding National Security Exercise "JUNEX-92" from Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager.
- File* 15. Notice of Michigan Tax Tribunal Hearing Re: "C.C.I. vs Republic and Humboldt Townships.
- 16.
- 17.
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.