

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 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. Seppanen, and Comm. Corkin.
Excused: Comm. Potvin, out of town.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the July 28, 1992 Committee of the Whole meeting be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following addition: item 10) a request for a rent waiver for the "Passages Program" at the Acocks Facility.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period July 25, 1992 thru August 7, 1992, in the amount of \$941,138.64, be approved.

The Committee considered a list from William C. Maki, Marquette County Mine Inspector, of abandoned mine shafts and pits fenced but not capped or filled. Mr. Maki was present and highlighted the list for the Committee of the worst situations. He believed them all to be dangerous and the best solution would be that each shaft or pit be capped or filled, whatever the situation calls for. Present State law does not adequately address the abandoned mine shafts and pits that has been in existence for nearly 150 years.

Civil Counsel, David Payant, furnished a Prosecutor's Opinion #P.A.O. 92-5, which points out that the statute granting the mine inspector's powers to ensure mine safety and to police abandoned mine shafts has the authority to notify the owner, owners, or agent, of the mine shaft either personally, or by publication of a notice in a newspaper, that the abandoned shaft or pit must be suitably fenced as provided by law. If the owner does not do so the mine inspector has the authority to have the mine shafts fenced or railings erected and the costs of so doing could be assessed on the property taxes of the owner.

Chairperson Corkin would like the County Board to be responsible for informing the public of the danger of these abandoned mine shafts and pits, and further that they request the owners of the property to cap or fill the abandoned shafts and pits. A letter could be sent to each owner as per the Mine Inspector's list asking them to cooperate and eliminate any dangers, with copies of the letters sent our Legislators.

Mr. Maki introduced Rudy LaFreniere, who won the August 4, 1992 Primary Election and will succeed Mr. Maki as Marquette County Mine Inspector. Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board welcomed and congratulated Mr. LaFreniere and asked that he work with Mr. Maki during the transition.

Mr. LaFreniere pledged to the County Board that he will continue to work towards the ultimate goal of having all abandoned mine shafts and pits capped or filled which would be in the best interest of the landowners, local government, and the safety of Marquette County citizens.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Civil Counsel to draft a letter for signature by the Chairperson and the Mine Inspector, to request that property owners whose land contains abandoned mine shafts or pits cooperate to eliminate any danger by capping or filling the shafts and pits, and further that copies of these letters be sent to our State Legislators.

The Committee considered the FY 1993 request for direction, control, and warning funds, from Marquette County to Lt. Leonard Anthos, District Field Coordinator, Michigan State Police. Lt. Michael Zorza, Emergency Program Manager, was present and explained that the funding list is to be sent to the State for prioritizing in an attempt to recoup some federal funding for various emergency operations and equipment maintenance.

Comm. Arsenault noticed that on the list was a \$2,000.00 item for inspection fees for underground storage tanks. Lt. Zorza explained that this is a new item but is now required for the inspection and maintenance of the County's underground storage tank for the emergency generators. This item pertains only to the storage tank under the County Courthouse Complex.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Seppanen, and unanimously carried to accept the list for information and place it on file.

The Committee considered the recent billing received from Republic Township for the Specific Ore Tax litigation. The total cost for this set of billings is \$26,512.00, with the County portion for payment being \$4,931.34. There are enough funds budgeted in this line item to cover this billing.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board pay the County's portion of the recent billing for the Specific Ore Tax litigation amounting to \$4,931.34.

The Committee considered a draft resolution from the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners (UPACC), and a recommendation from the Marquette County EDC, to support the continuation of the Michigan Department of Commerce field representative for the Upper Peninsula. Comm. Arsenault, who is UPACC Vice-President, explained that the Department of Commerce plans to handle economic development matters through the Cooperative Extension Service, but the UPACC expertise that is required would be best handled through a Department of Commerce field representative.

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 similar resolution of support for the continuation of a Michigan Department of Commerce Field Representative for the Upper Peninsula.

The Committee considered a proposal to waive the rent for "Passages Program" which provides a home for teenage mothers at the County Acocks site. Comm. Seppanen reported that because of recent budget constraints this program is having difficult financial times. If the monthly rent could be waived through December "Passages" has agreed to pay the utilities.

County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, reported that currently Passages pays \$717.00 a month which included utilities, and estimates the utilities would cost them \$150.00 to \$200.00 a month. The waiver of rent would save them approximately \$500.00 to \$550.00 a month for the remainder of 1992. At that point the financial situation for the Passages Program would have to be evaluated.

It was moved by Comm. Seppanen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board waive the monthly rent for the Passages Program housed at the County Acocks site and only require them to pay utilities through the month of December, 1992.

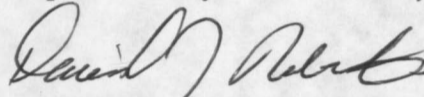
Comm. Angeli reported that the Ad Hoc Soil Erosion Control Committee has met twice and has now broken into sub-committees. He will give a detailed report in the future.

Chairperson Corkin announced that Mr. David Gillet did not accept the County's initial offer for the position of Equalization Director and made a counter offer. The County has made a second offer and we expect Mr. Gillet's answer by next Friday. The County Board will review the Equalization Director position at the Regular County Board meeting next week.

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, August 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 July 28, 1992.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
- R* 6. A report on the ownership of abandoned mine shafts and pits from William C. Maki, Mine Inspector.
- Info file* 7. FY 1993 request for direction, control, and warning funds, from Michael E. Zorza, Emergency Program Manager.
- R* 8. Latest billing for Specific Ore Tax Litigation.
- R* 9. Resolution to support continuation of Department of Commerce U.P. Representative.
- R* 10. *Rent for "Passage" at Alocks*
- 11.
- 12.
13. PUBLIC COMMENT.
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
15. ADJOURNMENT.