

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 14, 2005, at 6:30 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on May 24, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Vikki Kulju, representing the National Marrow Donor Program, explained that Michael Willard, Owner of White's Party Store, has been diagnosed with cancer and is in need of a bone marrow transplant. She explained stem cell transplant and distributed a question and answer brochure. She stated that there is a Stem Cell Transplant Program drive on July 20, and 21, 2005. Volunteers, donors, and financial contributions are needed. She explained that citizens can contact herself or the Lake Superior Community Partnership.

Lani Duquette, Sawyer Six Project Committee, thanked the County Board for their help regarding this project. He showed signs that will be erected within 24-hours and announced that the F-106A Delta Dart Jet will be returned to KI Sawyer by noon on Wednesday, June 15, 2005.

Alan Thompson, representing Delphi, requested to speak to Item 14 regarding the Delphi Lease negotiations.

Lynn Swadley, Chair, Building Codes Task Force, requested to speak to Item 7) Building Codes Task Force Report.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 15) Information regarding PILT, Item 16) Information regarding Medical Support Memo, Item 17) Letter from the DEQ to Arne Sirtola - USGS, and Item 18) Letter regarding Reduced Speed Limits in Champion Township.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Abstention (Comm. Bergdahl) that Claims and Accounts for the period June 4, 2005 through June 9, 2005 in the amount of \$271,085.72 (including Check No. 63294 in the amount of \$369.99 made payable to Bergdahl's. Affidavit of Disclosure follows); and bi-weekly payroll for the period ending June 4, 2005 in the amount of \$561,581.55 be approved.

The Committee considered Computer Purchases for 2005 presented by Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager. Mr. Nault explained that bids were solicited in May for the purchase of 50 personal computers, and two GIS workstations. All of the computers to be purchased this year are replacements of existing equipment that have been in service at least five years.

Four vendors submitted bids in a timely manner for the purchase of 50 PC's. Three of the four submitted qualified bids. Lasco Development Corporation of Marquette submitted the lowest qualified bid for the 50 PC's in the amount of \$68,777. Lasco Development is a Value Added Reseller for B3 Computers of Gwinn, Michigan. Four vendors submitted timely bids for the GIS workstation purchase. Northern Networking of Gladstone submitted the low bid for the two GIS workstations in the amount of \$4,960. The 2005 Copy/Computer Fund budget contains the necessary funds to purchase the replacement equipment. Mr. Nault recommends the County Board award the Personal Computer Bid to Lasco Development Corporation and the award the GIS Workstation Bid to Northern Networking.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Personal Computer Bid to Lasco Development Corporation in the amount of \$68,777, and the award the GIS Workstation Bid to Northern Networking in the amount of \$4,960.

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The Committee considered the report and recommendation on the County Building Code Department Operations and Procedures presented by the Building Codes Task Force. Lynn Swadley, Chair, Building Codes Task Force Committee, read the following report and recommendation into the record:

***REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE COUNTY BUILDING CODE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES***

***BACKGROUND:***

*The Building Codes Task Force was charged by the County Commission on March 4, 2005 to seek out ways to improve the service provided by the department to the citizens of Marquette County. We were asked to meet regularly to discuss and explore new, innovative and cost effective ways of providing service. The Task Force is also to be an ongoing public forum for discussing issues and problems. We have met three times in the last month and have had Mr. Sicotte, and the other two Chief Inspectors Bruce Ward and Jim O'Donnell participate in this consultative process for two of those meetings. Since we all feel that time is of the essence given the primary building season has started, we feel an initial report and recommendation to you would be helpful in your ongoing monitoring of the situation. We hope that through your discussion and consulting with the staff, that our suggestions, ideas and observations will provide you with the necessary information to implement meaningful changes and direction for the department.*

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*The Task Force decided at our meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> to focus on two aspects; first to reduce re-inspections by a goal of 50% this year, and to improve communications and customer service. In years 2000 – 2004 there were between 7700 to 8800 inspections per year with an average of at least 25% or 2100 considered as missed or failed. By reducing this number by even 25% could save upwards of 500 inspections per year, with the result of greater efficiency for the department and cost savings for everyone. We recognize that many inspections deserve and should fail for a variety of reasons; work not complete or correct, work delayed by weather, poor communication, poor directions, and other preventable reasons.*

*However we also recognize that there is a definite need for improvement on the part of the Inspection department to improve their customer service, and public perception of how they handle inspections as well. Our recommendations that specifically address these issues are as follows:*

**Action suggestions to achieve goal of reducing re-inspections by 50% this year**

- *Start using the "field correction" notices in a bright color to be left on the jobsite for Licensed Contractors and Builders only, to allow work to proceed with minor adjustments that the Inspector feels that might be needed. This will help to eliminate the need for everyone to reschedule inspections for the frivolous type of small details, and that certainly shouldn't hold construction up and bog the department and the professional community down. We strongly feel that the Builders and Contractors license has to count for something. However the Code Official has to promote within the department the importance of the need to use this as a method to provide professional cooperation and to furthermore demonstrate a sincere willingness as individual inspectors and as a department that they will work together with the Builders and Contractors. By far most of the complaints from contractors, are of this nature and could be solved for the most part without compromising the intent of the code. We have been told many times by the Code Official that the Individual Inspectors have such discretionary powers, however their rigidity and inflexibility in the most trivial of details has led to the public outcry for a more common sense, reasonable approach to government.*
- *Code Official should promote an atmosphere of professional courtesy and enhanced customer service attitude, through education and discussion within the inspector's individual disciplines, of allowable tolerances that do not contradict the intent of the code. However for this to work the Code Official and staff have to acknowledge that there is a real need for improvement in the department, and sincerely seek out a better public perception. Discretionary powers of the inspector should be viewed as a positive form of communicating, not a negative tool, which sometimes has been the case, even overruling the project engineers opinions on jobsites at times.*
- *Code department to begin an information campaign with the Professional community to provide education on the most efficient process needed for successful inspections. Prepare list of most common errors. Produce and distribute handouts to each permit applicant, with most common mistakes. This should be updated annually.*
- *Code Official to write a monthly article in the UPBA and Builders Exchange newsletters describing common errors and address other major code changes and issues.*

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- *UPBA will provide ongoing ads in newsletter reminding everyone to "Be Ready. Double check work" before inspections to promote greater efficiency for the process of scheduling and having inspections.*
- *Contractors are to be encouraged by the trade organizations and the department to plan better, call ahead for inspections, and when one has to reschedule an inspection because of delays in weather, product, etc, to do so in advance of the previously scheduled date to reduce inefficiencies.*

**IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS**

- *A large percentage of the annual permits pulled are by individual Homeowners who then hire contractors to do portions of their work. At the application time, Staff should inform applicant as a part of the new emphasis on handouts, instructions to have the actual contractor who is doing the work to be the one who actually calls and schedules the inspections, not the Homeowner. Often Homeowners try and "hurry the contractor" by being optimistic as to when work will be ready for inspection, not informing the contractor. Again a part of the information campaign to educate the Homeowners. Also a part of the handouts should state the times that inspectors office hours to take questions on the respective disciplines.*
- *The Builders Association will promote the need for "jobsite information boxes" that are available for sale at the lumberyards. They are waterproof, and have places where lot numbers and address can be posted, as well as the permit to help in identification of the job. The new field correction notice could be placed in here as well if one is available. These are usually placed near the street, next to jobsite signage. It will take a while, but could catch on as the place everyone looks first for communications between the inspectors and the trades if its available onsite. Truss drawings and other structural records could be kept there also.*
- *Increase the use of pictures via cell phones to make onsite decisions of anything questionable to the inspector. Especially if there is a disagreement, the chief inspector could be contacted to clarify and make the call to reduce the possibility for re-inspection. However if the inspector does not want to be challenged with his decision, he simply won't exercise this option. Construction is quite technical, and both the professional community and the inspectors are constantly educating each other on how things work, and if this is used more as a professional courtesy it will help in certain situations. The Task Force still feels that certain allowances should be made for licensed contractors to be able to send live photos to an inspector on certain items to prove correction is done, thereby eliminating the need for an additional trip and resulting delays.*
- *Research into the practical and economical feasibility of having the newer technology available for the inspectors to digitally send in the inspection results via their cell phones directly to the office computer system the results of the inspection. If it doesn't pass, a short note as to why. The objective would be that this would eliminate the need for the data entry by the office staff everyday for inspection results into the records, and to have the information up to date and available for the customers to go online within 24 hours or less to access the status of their inspections. No-one would have to play phone tag, information would be readily available, and in the instance of remote locations save people time in having to travel to see if it has been inspected and ready even the same day. This potentially could be of tremendous use, and in a forward thinking environment, something that the department should have in the near future to operate at maximum technological efficiency.*

*Given the need to have a seasonable part time inspector on the team to help accomplish the goal of meeting a 72-hour goal with a particular priority to hiring a building inspector for footings and foundations is a pressing need. However, the Board may want to encourage more efficiency and progress by confirming that the Code Official is actively creating a new atmosphere of cooperation and flexibility from the department, rather than simply hiring more people and potentially keeping the status quo on the departments rigidity and inflexibility. Perhaps this should be monitored monthly and see how the Boards' directives and goals are being met.*

*We believe that the Code Official has broad discretionary powers within the code to solve these problems and challenges. There are many reports from around the State and particularly from the UP that other inspection departments use their discretionary powers in a much more proactive manner, working much closer with the professional community. Obviously they feel they are working within the law and framework of the Code.*

*We want to quote Section R104.1 from the Michigan Residential Code: "The Building Official is hereby authorized and directed to enforce the provisions of this code. The Building Official shall have the authority to render interpretations of this code and to adopt policies and procedures in order to clarify the application of its provisions. Such interpretations, policies, and procedures shall be in conformance with the intent and purpose of this code. Such policies and procedures shall not have the effect of waiving requirements specifically provided for in this code."*

*The Building Codes Task Force will continue to meet regularly to provide ongoing review, analysis, and feedback to the department and Board on how things are working from the professional community and public, and if effective change is happening. All of these suggestions and directives still are dependant on the Code Official and his team's willingness to first acknowledge that there are problems, and agree that there is a necessity to adjust and change procedures, systems, and even attitudes in some cases. The Board will have to determine if other measures beyond these suggestions are necessary in order to achieve the objectives it has established for the department and the public's expectations.*

Commissioners and Staff engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the Report and Recommendations presented by Mr. Swadley.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board refer the Report and Recommendations presented by the Building Codes Task Force to the Building Codes Department for review and comment with a report back to the Board at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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The Committee considered a memo from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Marquette County Health Department, regarding proposed Health Department Fee for Expanded School Food Safety Inspections. Dr. Johnson was present and explained that on June 30, 2004, President Bush signed Public Law 108-265 which amends the National School Lunch Act. Under this law, beginning July 1, 2005 each

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school participating in the National School Lunch Program must have at least two food safety inspections each school year and these inspections must be conducted by a State or local governmental agency.

Under Michigan's Food Law, local health departments must conduct one inspection of each school food service establishment that operates nine months a year or less, or every six months for those school food service establishments that operate more than nine months per year. In addition, under State law schools are exempt from paying State and local fees. As a result, currently most schools in Michigan (all in Marquette County except for NMU) receive one inspection per year and pay no fees for this service.

As the new federal regulation is implemented and two inspections per year are provided, MDA is indicating that local health departments, at their discretion, may charge a fee for the required second inspection and required follow-up, if any. Local health departments must decide whether they will provide the additional required inspections, and if so, whether they will charge for this service.

At their May 25, 2005 meeting, the Marquette County Board of Health adopted a motion to approve charging 50% of the 2005 average school cost for school which request an additional inspection in the 2005/2006 school year and to charge 50% of the previous year's school-specific cost in all subsequent years, and to recommend adoption of this new fee by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve charging 50% of the 2005 average school cost for schools which requests an additional inspection in the 2005/2006 school year and to charge 50% of the previous year's school-specific cost in all subsequent years, as recommended by the Marquette County Health Department.

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The Committee considered the U.P. Area Agency on Aging's (UPAAA) FY 2006 Annual Implementation Plan for Services to Upper Peninsula Elderly as required by the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA).

Marquette County is not required to take any action on the Plan, but Jonathan Mead, Executive Director, UPCAP, requests the County Board support and approve a resolution regarding the Plan.

Jackie Boxer, Commission on Aging Director, was present and explained that she and the Commission on Aging Board have reviewed the 2006 Annual Implementation Plan and fully support it. She also explained that the U.P. Area Agency on Aging has hired a Registered Dietician to be accessible for U.P. service providers to provide better nutrition and nutritional education for seniors.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Resolution regarding the U.P. Area Agency on Aging's FY 2006 Annual Implementation Plan.

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The Committee considered a request from West Branch Township for a License Agreement regarding KI Sawyer Parcel B1-F. Pursuant to discussions regarding the West Branch Community Center,

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West Branch Township requests a License Agreement for KI Sawyer Parcel B1-F which serves an auxiliary parking lot for the Community Center. Doreen Takalo, West Branch Township Clerk, explained that Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, has informed them that this parcel is scheduled to be purchased by Telkite sometime in the next five years; therefore, an Agreement between the Township and County would last only until that time. Following the property transfer to Telkite, West Branch Township would need a License Agreement with Telkite. While the parking lot in question is not considered primary to the Community Center, it is the one most used by the public.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the License Agreement for KI Sawyer Parcel B1-F.

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The Committee considered Acceptance of Roof Bid for Building 850 presented by Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager. Mr. Erbisch explained that the bid tabulation for the Roof Repair Project for Building 850 was advertised in the Marquette Mining Journal and sent to the Marquette and Delta County Builder's Exchange. A total of 12 contractors requested bid documents and four (4) bids were received. The lowest response was submitted by Great Lakes Roofing with a bid of \$496,500. Great Lakes Roofing meets the requirements set forth in the RFP. The Project Consultant, Rich Uren of Northern Design Works, is recommending the County award the Project to Great Lakes Roofing.

Building 850 roof has many large and small leaks. Patching will not correct the problem. The existing ballast, insulation, and membrane will be removed and a new roof system will be installed. The Air Force Caretaker Program provided the County of Marquette \$600,000 to complete this project. Once is the project is complete the Air Force will finalize the transfer of this property to the County. The County will then transfer the Building to Telkite. Mr. Erbisch recommends Great Lakes Roofing be awarded the Roof Repair Project for Building 850. The Project will be paid for with Caretaker money. There is no County match required.

Comm. Arsenault distributed a memo from Bell Roofing Company regarding concerns over the acceptance of Local Roofing Company's bid. Bell Roofing states that Jim Newland, Sr. from Local Roofing Company entered his bid a few minutes late. He further explained that he was told the bid would be accepted.

Commissioners discussed the importance of a bid deadline. A formal statement should be made stating "bidding now closed." Mr. Erbisch assured Commissioners that Great Lakes Roofing submitted a timely bid.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Roof Repair Project for Building 850 to Great Lakes Roofing in the amount of \$496,500.

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The Committee considered Budget Amendments #27 and #28 – Airport Fund, presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager. Ms. Vercoe explained that the Budget Amendments reflect the budget impact of the Telkite transaction and the reduction in fuel sale revenue resulting from the change in the GA rate.

#27 – AIRPORT FUND

Airport expenses are increased by \$64,600. Airport revenues are decreased by \$236,337. The amount of the transfer in the Airport Stabilization Fund is increased by \$300,937.

#28 – AIRPORT STABILIZATION FUND

This budget amendment reflects the \$2,000,000 to be received from Telkite in June and the increase in the amount to be transferred to cover airport operations.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Budget Amendments No. 27 and No. 28 – Airport Fund presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

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The Committee considered a Resolution imposing 2005 Summer Property Tax Levy and Notice of Certification of County Allocated Tax Levy. Marquette County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect County allocated property taxes. The General Property Tax Act has been amended by PA 357 of 2004, being MCL 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy, with the summer tax levies for 2005 and 2006 to be in the amount of 1/3 and 2/3, respectively, of the total County allocated tax, with the full amount of County allocated tax to be levied and collected as a summer tax levy in 2007. Pursuant to PA 357 of 2004, the Marquette County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2005, at the rate of 1/3 of the amount allocated after application of the “Headlee” millage reduction fraction or 1.8284 mills.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Resolution imposing 2005 summer property tax levy pursuant to PA 357 of 2004, and Notice of Certification of County Allocated Tax Levy.

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The Committee considered Delphi Automotive Lease Negotiations. Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, explained that in May, 2005, the County Board of Commissioners authorized Staff to submit a response to Equis Corporation agreeing to the renewal terms with Delphi Automotive. Staff brought those renewal terms to the Board because it was the understanding that negotiations were finished with the exception of negotiating Equis’s commission. After receiving authorization, County Staff contacted Equis Corporation and advised them of the Board’s decision. Staff further reduced Equis’s commission to \$11,240.

During these discussions, the Equis Representative advised Staff that the Department Director for Delphi’s Sawyer Operations is now requiring that an option to terminate the agreement after three years be



included in the renewal. Equis advised that this is now going to be standard language in all Delphi leases. Staff advised Equis that the inclusion of this language is a significant change and will need to be brought back to the County Board for their review and consideration. Staff further advised Equis that Staff would not have recommended the previous renewal terms with a three-year termination clause and that for further consideration a payout would be required.

For the option to terminate after three years, Equis has agreed to have Delphi Automotive pay the County one additional year of rent (\$202,400) and a prorated portion of the Equis commission (\$4,496).

In addition to the termination language, there are two additional issues that remain unsolved. Both items have been rejected throughout the negotiations. They are as follows:

- 1) Delphi continues to reinsert this language – *“In the event Tenant is unable to obtain the governmental approval necessary to install the improvements described in Tenant’s work. Tenant shall have the right to terminate the lease upon written notice to Landlord and Tenant shall thereby be relieved of all further obligations hereunder, or to terminate the Expansion Premises portion of the lease and reduce the Base Rent payable to seventy-five percent (75%) of the Base Rent then due.”*
- 2) County Staff has included language in the renewal terms that the *“Landlord will not be obligated for any additional commissions relative to this renewal term, or subsequent options.”* Equis removes this language insisting that the commission, if any, on subsequent options can be negotiated.

According to the Equis Representative, the Delphi Department Director has agreed to accept the renewal terms with the payout option to terminate after three years, the inclusion of the option to terminate if the snow and ice circle can’t be installed, and the removal of the County’s language that removes County obligation to pay any further commissions. Mr. Erbisch explained that they are seeking County Board directions on these three outstanding issues.

Commissioners and Staff engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the new terms presented by Delphi. Chairperson Corkin stated he was under the impression that Marquette County had an agreement. He stated that renegotiating an already approved agreement is not the proper way to do business.

Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, and Comm. Wallace felt the County and Delphi should continue negotiations.

Alan Thompson, Delphi Representative, was present and explained that Delphi is trying to make this Agreement equitable for both sides. He stated that if the County doesn’t accept these terms, Delphi is done negotiating.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes to 3 Nays (Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, and Comm. Wallace) that the Committee of the Whole

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recommend the County Board deny the Delphi Automotive Lease negotiations and direct Staff to notify Delphi that the County Board will stand by the previous Agreement approved in May, 2005.

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The Committee considered an MTA Announcement regarding the State's 2006 budget. The Senate Appropriations Committee is expected to approve the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) budget, which includes a recommendation to slash payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) to local units of government on State owned land by \$700,000. The cut to PILT comes at the recommendation of the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee on DNR. In January, Gov. Granholm signed into law a Bill to freeze the amount of money that the State gives to local governments for DNR owned property. After five years, payments will increase from year to year at the rate of inflation. The law also allows the DNR to make partial payments if it doesn't have all of the money to make immediate payments. MTA and MAC are urging the State to honor its obligation on land it currently owns. Further, the State needs to understand how dependent basic local government services are on property taxes, including those on State owned land.

The State is also considering closing the Newberry and Manistique Correctional Facilities and cutting funding to Northern Michigan University by ten percent.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole direct Staff to send a letter to our Legislators and Gov. Granholm opposing the plan to cut payments in lieu of taxes to local governments on State owned land, closing the Newberry and Manistique Correctional Facilities, and cutting funding to Northern Michigan University by ten percent.

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The Committee considered a memo from Sue Vercoe, Finance Manger, regarding Medical Support Enforcement. The first quarter amendment increased the General Fund appropriation to the Friend of the Court fund to cover the reduction in State funding effective April 1<sup>st</sup> for the grant year ending September 30<sup>th</sup>. The amended CRP budget eliminated the Medical Support Program. The County Budget Amendment recommended retaining the Medical Support position by including it under the Friend of the Court Operating Budget for the remainder of the current year that ends September 30, 2005.

The Medical Enforcement Specialist position is a 32-hour per week position. Prior to the budget reduction effective in April, the position was 100% funded. The amount the Grant allowed for personal expense exceeded the amount needed for 32-hours per week. The Medical Enforcement Specialist was allowed to work an additional 4 hours per week under the grant at no cost to the County. The first quarter amendment that increased the General Fund appropriation was based on retaining the position as a 32-hour per week position. Sick leave and vacation accruals as well as health care coverage are based on the 32-hour work week. To retain this position at 36-hours per week instead of the 32 hours budgeted would require and additional \$2,500 from the General Fund Contingency Account for a total General Fund appropriation to the Friend of the Court operation of \$250,858.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the additional \$2,500 from the

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General Fund Contingency Account to retain the Friend of the Court Medical Enforcement position at 36-hours per week instead of the 32 hours budgeted.

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The Committee considered a communication to Mr. Arnold Sirtola, Ewing Township, regarding proposed USGS Studies. The DEQ states that they support the Concerned Citizens of Big Bay for a baseline hydrologic assessment of the Yellow Dog Plains Region by the US Geological Survey (USGS). The proposed USGS Assessment would collect and evaluate data on surface water and ground water quality, groundwater levels and flow patterns, surface water flow rates, and inter-relationships between surface water and groundwater. The Study would include the watersheds at the Yellow Dog River, Salmon Trout River, and Cedar River – an area of about 1,800 square miles. The data would be used to develop a conceptual model of the hydrologic system. The DEQ further states that this type of information would be very useful in evaluating baseline hydrological characteristics and in understanding the water resources in a watershed. The USGS proposal would also have transfer value for other areas. Data and modeling for the Yellow Dog River, Salmon Trout River, and Cedar River watersheds will help in understanding other watersheds in the Upper Peninsula where the geology, hydrology and weather patterns are similar. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) supports the USGS proposal. However, they do not believe that the proposed study is a necessary prerequisite for approval of potential mining operations.

Existing State laws and regulations, as well as the rules now being drafted to implement the new Nonferrous Metallic Mining Law, require a company that proposes to open a mine to conduct a detailed, site-specific hydrologic study as part of its application for the required permits. One requirement of such a study would be to develop and submit detailed data and information describing existing ground water and surface water characteristics. This type of inspiration will also be generated by a study such as that proposed by the USGS on a more regional scale. Additional data is always useful; however, permits will not be issued unless the prerequisite information is provided, whether by the applicant or a third party.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter of support to Kennecott and other mining companies that are exploring USGS studies for funding to conduct a baseline hydrologic assessment by the USGS.

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The Committee considered a 45 mph speed limit within Champion Township. Comm. Pellow explained that she attended a meeting on Saturday, June 11, 2005 at the Champion Township Hall. Comm. Pellow is requesting a letter be sent to our Legislators, MDOT, and the State Police requesting a study concerning reduced speed limits in small communities.

She explained that Champion Township is requesting the speed limit along the U.S. 41 highway in Champion Township be reduced to 45 mph. At the meeting residents were informed that a national average is used to determine lower speed limits.

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It was moved by Comm. Pellow by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to our Legislators, MDOT, and the State Police requesting a study concerning reduced speed limits in small communities.

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

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

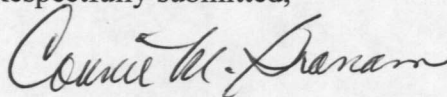
The Committee considered the County of Marquette Bidding Process. Based on the discussion regarding the Roof Bid for Building 850 at Sawyer, Commissioners discussed setting a time for bids to be closed.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board set a time and announce "Bids Closed" prior to the opening of any bid for any project.

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There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie M. Branam  
Marquette County Clerk

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005, 6:30 P.M.

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

[www.co.marquette.mi.us](http://www.co.marquette.mi.us)

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD ON MAY 24, 2005.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Personal Computer Bid Award.
7. Building Codes Report.
8. Proposed Health Department Fee for Expanded School Food Safety Inspections.
9. Resolution regarding U.P. Area Agency on Aging's (UPAAA) FY 2006 Annual Implementation Plan for Services to Upper Peninsula Elderly. (A complete copy of the Plan is available in the Commissioners' Room)
10. West Branch Township Request for A License Agreement for KI Sawyer Parcel B1-F.
11. Acceptance of Roof Bid for Building 850.
12. Budget Amendments No.'s 27 and 28 - Airport Fund.
13. Resolution Imposing 2005 Summer Property Tax Levy and Notice of Certification of County Allocated Tax Levy.
14. Delphi Lease.
15. *into re Pit - Pen*
16. *" re Med. Sup. memo - Pen*
17. *ltr from DEQ to Aine Srta - 21565 - Pen*
18. PUBLIC COMMENT.
19. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
20. ADJOURNMENT.

*COW/HR*

*R* *ltr re mg. Champ Twp - Pen*  
*Bids - Set time*

*14 Recs*