

September 26, 1979

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole, on September 26, 1979 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson May and roll call was held by the Dep. County Clerk, with the following roll recorded.

Present: Comm. Anderson, Cheatham, Clark, Coombs, Farrell, Juidici, Krook, Leone, Lowe, Racine, Steele and May.

Absent: None

Chairperson May announced that there are additional communications to item #10 of the agenda, regarding the Marine & Snowmobile Division. The agenda was then approved by the general concensus of the board.

Chairperson May opened the meeting for public comment.

Paul Oja, of the Marquette County Search and Rescue Unit spoke, concerning the proposed cuts of the Marine and Snowmobile Division, from the budget this year. Mr. Oja feels the Search and Rescue Unit will be severely hampered if these budget cuts go through.

Paul Slater, of the Dept. of Natural Resources, spoke in support of the Marine enforcement. He stated that since the Marine Safety Div. was in force, registration of boats has increased but drowning incidents have decreased.

Rod Holberg said that Sheriff Maino should be given a chance to do his job, by letting him cut where he feels necessary. Comm. Juidici responded to this by saying that the Sheriff was given that choice and he did not want to make the decision and left it up to the Finance Committee.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson May declared the public comment section closed.

A communication from Peter Kok, Director, office of Services to the Aging and Paul Eickmeyer, Chairperson, commission on Services to the Aging, regarding the Region XI Area Plan of the Dept. of Management and Budget, was read. After comments by Richard Stoddard, Director Marquette County Commission on Aging, the communication was ordered placed on file.

A communication from CUPPAD, regarding Local Project Coordination for 1979-80, was read and placed on file.

A report from the Health Dept. for the month of August and a letter from Dr. Potter, informing the board that a mild outbreak of Aseptic Meningitis in the county, appears to have run its course, was read. Comm. Coombs commented on the last sentence in the letter which states that a total of twelve cases were diagnosed and reported. He would like to know where these outbreaks occurred, within the county. It was decided to check with Dr. Potter and have this information for the next meeting. The report and letter was then ordered placed on file.

A copy of a communication from Albert Denton, Commanding Officer of the Negaunee State Police Post, to Mike Zorza, Emergency Services Dir., commending the Marquette County Rescue Team, for their efforts at a Sept. 8th accident, was read and placed on file.

A communication from Dr. Daun Martin, Executive Dir., Alger-Marquette Community Health Center, regarding the tentative reduction of their 1980 appropriation by \$5,000.00, was read. Dr. Martin stated that this reduction may cause cut-backs in the delivery of Mental Health Services during 1980. It was moved by Comm. Coombs, supported by Comm. Lowe and carried to refer this communication to the Finance Committee for response.

Letters from Ron DeMarse, Secretary, Marquette Township Fire Dept.; Mathew Kivikko, Secretary, Ishpeming Township Fire Dept.; Wesley Larson, Negaunee Township Supervisor; Henry Ilenich, 107th Engineer Battalion, National Guard; Faye Williams, Pres. Michigan Waterfowl Association; and Members of the Marquette County Search and Rescue Unit, expressing their concern with the possible elimination of the Marine Safety and Snowmobile Division of the Sheriff's Dept. were read. There were also approximately 1250 petition signatures presented, in support of the Marine and Snowmobile Div. These letters and petition signatures were ordered on file.

Comm. Coombs commented, that he felt all departments should have equal time to address the board. He was informed that all departments had the same opportunity to discuss their budgets. A short recess was taken to wait till Sheriff Maino arrived for his discussion with the board, which was next on the agenda.

Sheriff Maino addressed the board, and presented a revised budget, which comes to within \$5,617.00 of the Finance Committee's recommendation. In his revised budget, the Sheriff is recommending that the three patrol vehicles funded from the county budget, not be replaced in fiscal year 1980 and that the \$16,500.00 allocated for the replacement be reallocated - 15,000.00 to the Rescue Safety Service Div. and the remaining \$1,500.00 to vehicle maintenance.

Comm. Farrell asked Sheriff Maino, why he waited so long, that he should have brought this revised budget to the Finance Committee a month ago. He asked if the Sheriff's Dept. could operate with the cuts he is recommending, or is he going to ask for more money before the year is up.

There was concern voiced by other commissioners, regarding the cuts in Vehicle Operations, they felt there was better ways to save money.

Comm. Racine asked the Sheriff if they anticipated any change in the State allocation for Road Patrol and Sheriff Maino said he anticipates a 7 or 8% decrease.

Comm. May asked Mr. Slater of the Dept. of Natural Resources, what percentage the State portion would be if the equipment now in the Marine & Snowmobile Div. would be sold if they are eliminated. Mr. Slater said the State portion is 2/3 for the Marine Safety and 3/4 for the Snowmobile Div., but he added the amount received for old equipment would be minimal.

Chairperson May thanked Sheriff Maino and all the others for taking the time to come and discuss this issue.

Comm. Clark said he feels the issue should be separated, the Marine and Snowmobile Div. from the Search and Rescue Unit. He spoke highly of the Search and Rescue Unit and suggested it be handled as an appropriation.

Tom Mallett, Dep. in the Sheriff's Dept. spoke in support of the Marine & Snowmobile Division. Mr. Mallett feels the decision should be up to the Sheriff, as to how his budget money is spent. Comm. Farrell said that all department heads had this opportunity to cut or change around their budget the way they felt was right, within the limits of the budget figure.

Comm. Farrell said that the figure that Mr. Slater gave of the State portion in the Marine & Snowmobile Div. is not correct, that in fact it's about 1/3, he wanted to set the record straight.

Chairperson May commented that there was a lack of communication, which caused this problem with the Sheriff's Dept. budget.

After the discussion was completed, it was moved by Comm. Leone, supported by Comm. Steele and carried unanimously to refer the Sheriff's Dept. budget back to the Finance Committee for further study.

A review of the Proposed 1980 budget was held by Comm. Farrell and he stated where the main cuts in the budget were. (1) County Road Commission, (2) Acocks Medical Facility, and (3) West End Prosecutor. Gary Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, was present and discussed the importance of keeping on the service of a West End Prosecutor on a part-time basis.

Comm. Coombs recommended that the following changes be made to the budget. The Road Commission have \$29,000.00 added to their budget for road maintenance, Mental Health Dept. have \$20,000.00 taken away, as they are subsidized by the State, CUPPAD appropriation be \$5,000.00 instead of \$8,000.00 and the Sheriff's Dept. have \$10,000.00 deducted because they never have provided Dog Control, which money was put in their budget for the past couple years and it was taken out of dog control and put in salaries.

Comm. Krook was in agreement with Comm. Coombs in regard to the need for more road maintenance.

Comm. Farrell said that what we give the Co. Road Commission is way above other counties, in regard to the Mental Health, he said that right now for every dollar the county puts in the state puts in nine dollars, so if we cut that budget, we would be cutting drastically the funds for that department.

After a lengthy discussion, it was moved by Comm. Racine, supported by Comm. Cheatham and carried unanimously to refer the above items and the West End Prosecutor issue for reconsideration to the Finance Committee.

Comm. Coombs commented on the RC&D Council. He said a group of individuals on that council took a canoe ride down the Chocoday River to see the work that had been done there, in terms of bank stabilization. Comm. Coombs said there has been some \$74,000.00 of federal and state money with a total of \$125,000.00 spent on the Chocoday River Stabilization and Soil Erosion Project.

Comm. Lowe reported on the Intergovernmental Relations, Policy Makers Conference, that was held recently. He said approximately 30 people attended and that a lot of good discussion was held.

Comm. May reported on the Co. Commission on Aging meeting she attended. She said the commission received the report from the consultants on the needs assessment for the Commission on Aging.

Comm. Leone reported he attended an AMCAP meeting in Munising.

Comm. Steele gave a statistical report on Tourist activity from the underwriters.

Comm. Racine commented regarding the Governmental Support Division. He said he thought that a couple years back when they got a personnel/manager, that this man would be the expert in Union negotiations and to give assistance to the out departments, except for those that have their own legal firms. He felt that was the mandate of that individuals responsibility. Chairperson May asked if he was referring to the recent request from the Health Dept. for help from the Governmental Support Division. Comm. Racine felt this was one of the main functions of the Support Division. Gary Walker stated that at this time with all the labor negotiations now in progress, the Governmental Support Division has a very heavy load.

Chairperson May announced the Fall meeting of the UP Association of County Commissioners meeting to be held Oct. 12, 1979 from 11 to 5 our time, at the Pine Mountain Ski Club in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

An announcement of a Special meeting of the Intergovernmental Relations Committee to be held with the different Transit Authorities on Friday, Sept. 28th at 1:30 p.m..

There being no further business to come before the board it was moved by Comm. Racine, supported by Comm. Clark and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joy Schlais*  
Joy Schlais, Dep. Co. Clerk

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Wednesday, September 26, 1979, 7:00 p.m.  
Commissioners Room, Courthouse Annex  
Marquette, Michigan

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Roll call by the Clerk.
3. Approval of the agenda.
4. Public Comment.
5. Communication from Peter Kok, Director, Office of Services to the Aging, and Paul Eickmeyer, Chairperson, Commission on Services to the Aging, on the Region XI Area Plan.
6. CUPPAD communication on local project coordination for 1979-80.
7. Report from the Health Department for August, 1979.
8. Copy of a communication from Albert Denton, Commanding Officer, Negaunee State Police Post, to Mike Zorza, Emergency Services Coordinator, commending the Marquette County Rescue Team for their efforts at a September 8 accident.
9. Communication from Dr. Daun Martin, Executive Director, Alger-Marquette Community Mental Health Center, on the tentative 1980 appropriation to the Health Department.
10. Letter from Ron DeMarse, Marquette Township Fire Department, expressing concern with the possible elimination of the Sheriff Department's Marine and Snowmobile Division.
11. Review Finance Committee's recommended budget for 1980, and recommended capital improvements program.
12. 8:00 p.m. Sheriff Maino and Undersheriff Johnson will attend to discuss their 1980 tentative budget.
13. Progress toward objectives/Standing Committee Reports:
  - a. Executive Committee
  - b. Personnel Committee
  - c. Environment, Lands and Buildings Committee
  - d. Finance Committee
  - e. Intergovernmental Relations Committee
14. Others:
  - a. Board of County Institutions
  - b. County Planning Commission
  - c. County Commission on Aging
  - d. County Board of Health
  - e. CETA Consortium
  - f. Alger-Marquette Community Action Agency Board
  - g. CUPPAD Criminal Justice Committee
  - h. RC&D Council
  - i. Central Dispatch Committee
  - j. OEDP Committee
  - k. Marquette/Marquette Twp./Chocolay Twp. Sewage Plant Board
  - l. UPTRA
  - m. MAC Committees
15. Additional Business
16. Announcements
17. Public Comment
18. Adjournment