

July 20, 1982

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole, to hear budget requests and recommendations, on July 20, 1982 at 6:15 P.M. in the Commissioners Room of the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Racine, roll call was held by County Clerk, Henry A. Skewis, and the following roll recorded.

Present: Comm. Carlson, Cheatham, Farrell, LaMere, LaPin, Leone, Lowe, May, Steele, Villeneuve and Racine.

Absent: Comm. Juidici.

Also present were the following support persons, Duane Beard, Patricia Micklow, Henry Skewis, Gary Yoder, Bruce Rukkila and Karen Chubb.

Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the agenda was by the general consensus of the County Board.

Chairperson Racine opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming and Chairperson Racine closed the public comment section.

Discussion of the 1983 Budget continued.

#### Register of Deeds

Paul Nykanen, Register of Deeds was present to support a budget of \$101,116.00 for 1983.

He stated that he was in agreement with the budget that he proposed for 1983 and did not think any reductions should be made. He stated that the cash register system he is using this year is not working out to his satisfaction and requested that he be allowed to investigate using a NCR cash register such as they do in Midland County.

Comm. Farrell asked if anything had been done about setting up a user's fee for use of the tract index. When the answer was no, he suggested that effort be made to look into this matter in the next 6 months for possible additional revenue in 1983.

Mr. Nykanen stated that his department had cost more to operate in the last two years than revenue taken in. This was not the case in the eight prior years. He felt this was because real estate sales were down as compared to two years ago.

#### Equalization Department

Henry Schneider, Equalization Director, was present and stated that his proposed budget for 1983 would only provide the same level of service as provided in 1982. He stated that the increase in amount requested for 1983 over 1982 was do to inflation, additional printing costs, need for more updated reference material, need for more money to operate vehicles and pay travel due to the need to do more field studies.

A discussion was held on what could be expected in work load if one, the 1983 budget eliminated one appraiser position, and conversion of Manatron services to the county's own computer.

Henry Schneider suggested that if it was necessary to save money in 1983 than some of the ways to do this would be:

1. Not to maintain assessment rolls and tax roll changes, this would then be done locally.
2. Not provide copies of deeds to local assessors or any sales information.
3. Not to send transfer sales data verification to local assessors, buyers, and sellers. Cost of this verification is approximately \$1.00 per sale.
4. Charge local units for copies of appraisal cards.

Commissioners questioned Mr. Schneider on the value of verification studies, Mr. Schneider stated that in the past the County Board had taken action to require his department to do

1. Sales Verification Studies.
2. 1971 to provide copies of deeds to local assessors free of charge. This was done by the Executive Committee.
3. In the 1940's and 50's the County Board had ordered sales studies and assessment studies made.

Duane Beard stated, he felt that if the county would go one way on the printing of the assessment rolls, whether it be by computer or by one company, that better service would be provided.

Mr. Schneider stated that at present the county was paying 50% of the costs of maintaining the Monatron corrections.

A lengthy discussion was held on the methods of operation of the Equalization Department in determining the County Equalized Value, and the methods that each assessor uses to assess his unit of government.

It was determined that neither the Equalization Director or the County Board has any control over the value a local assessor places in a parcel of property. Mr. Schneider then left the meeting.

#### County Treasurer

Mr. Sodergren expressed a need for an increased 1983 budget over and above what he originally proposed and what the Controller recommended. He stated the reasons for the need are:

1. Statuatorial duties of his department.
2. Compliance with the statutes that have not been fully done in the past.
3. Dog License sales now a County Treasurer function.
4. Township and City Treasurers bonds now paid by county and reimbursed by unit at a later date.
5. Probability of not being able to sell 100% Delinquent Tax Bonds next year at a proper rate of interest.
6. Probability of more taxes going delinquent in 1983 than ever before and the added collection expense.

Mr. Sodergren requested his 1983 budget be increased from his proposed \$86,693.00 to \$111,000.00. He stated that his department must adhere to the state statutes. Mr. Sodergren then left the meeting.

#### Controller Budget

Mr. Beard stated that he had reduced his original budget, he stated his goals and objectives for 1983 and spoke of some of the spending safe guards he intends to blend into the computer program. He gave a thorough explanation of his requested modified budget.

#### Personnel Budget

Mr. Girard had been on annual leave but it was stated, he was in agreement with his 1983 budget.

#### Prosecuting Attorney Budget

Gary Walker, David Peterson and Patricia Micklow, spoke in support of the budget for this department. Mr. Walker stated that the elimination of one position of assistant prosecutor could only be considered if the 96th District Court in Ishpeming was discontinued and even then it would work a severe hardship on his department because the work load would only be transferred and the savings would be in travel and travel time only.

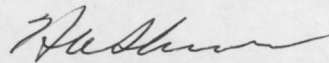
He explained his method of operation in reviewing all complaints that come to his office before a warrent is issued or a complaint filed. Mr. Walker, Mr. Peterson, and Ms. Micklow answered all questions put to them in regard to the normal operation, criminal operation and civil operation of the office. Mr. Peterson provided the County Board with statistics on the increased work load over the past five or six years. Ms. Micklow provided the County Board with information on progress and increase in civil work load. Mr. Walker & Mr. Peterson then left the meeting.

#### Planning Commission and Building Code

Alan Chase, County Planner and Steve Carlson, member of the Planning Commission were present to support their original 1983 budget requests. Mr. Chase suggested that if the county opted to make mechanical inspections then the Planning Inspector could probably handle this matter. Mr. Chase and Mr. Carlson stated that it was the opinion of the Planning Commission and its Chairperson Mark Maki that the 1983 budget should stand as requested originally. In regard to the Building Code Budget, it was stated that in order to make the proper inspections on time, the elimination of a building inspector position would not allow this to be accomplished. Mr. Chase and Mr. Carlson then left the meeting. They had both agreed that some work on the Comprehensive Plan could be postponed but in order to complete it on time, they would need all of their staff.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, it was moved by Commissioner Villeneuve, supported by Commissioner Leone and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Henry A. Skewis  
County Clerk

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, July 20, 1982, 6:15 p.m.  
Courthouse Annex, Marquette, Michigan

1. Meeting Called to Order.
2. Roll Call by the Clerk.
3. Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Public Comment.
5. Approval of the Agenda.
6. Hearings on 1983 Recommended Budget:
  - a. 6:15 p.m. Register of Deeds.
  - b. 6:45 p.m. Equalization
  - c. 7:15 p.m. Treasurer
  - d. 7:45 p.m. Controller
  - e. 8:00 p.m. Personnel
  - f. 8:15 p.m. Prosecuting Attorney
  - g. 8:45 p.m. Planning/Code Department
7. Additional Business.
8. Announcements.
9. Public Comment.
10. Adjournment.