

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 25, 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, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and excused because of sickness, Comm. Seppanen.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the February 11, 1992 meeting be approved. )

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the agenda be approved with the following Late Additions: item 11, a Michigan DNR Grant for two outboard motors for the Sheriff's Department Marine Safety Division; item 12, the EDC Promissory Note is due February 28, 1992 for the Cliff's Shaft Project Loan; and item 13, an update by Comm. Arsenault on the implementation of 9-1-1.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that Claims and Accounts for the period February 7, 1992 thru February 21, 1992 in the amount of \$1,850,436.67, excluding a claim from the Marquette County Airport in the amount of \$423.12 to be paid to Angeli Bakery, be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote with Comm. Angeli abstaining, that the claim for \$423.12 from the Marquette County Airport for services from Angeli's Bakery be paid.

The Committee reviewed a memo from Henry W. Schneider, Equalization Director, regarding the projected revenue loss by Marquette County from the 1991 levy on property located in Marquette Township's TIFA district. Mr. Schneider was present and explained that the captured SEV in Marquette Township's TIFA district totals \$6,301,685.00. This would have generated a total of \$37,810.11 to the County's general fund and when tax losses from the Commission on Aging, Central Dispatch, Search and Rescue, Transit Authority, and Valente Medical Facility debt are added, the total comes to \$51,988.92. When Marquette Township first established the TIFA district the County had our financial consultants review the matter, but nothing could be done. The County also requested that Marquette Township exclude the County from the TIFA district, but was denied.

The intent of TIFA districts and Downtown Development Authorities is to assist areas that are economically declining, and in many cases TIFAs do help; however, there is a tendency for units of government around the state to include undeveloped areas. An Attorney General's Opinion says that the unit must show a decline in a "significant" number of parcels in such districts; however, the Opinion does not define what is "significant." In the Marquette Township TIFA the most valuable property in the Township, along U.S. 41 and Wright Street, was included in the district.

The City of Ishpeming is considering expansion of its Downtown Development District, and Chocolay Township has also been considering the establishment of a TIFA district. The County Board is concerned that such efforts will continue to erode the County's tax base.

The issue of fairness was also discussed. The taxes that township and city residents are normally paying for schools and other public services are then put into the development of these TIFA districts for a select few. Commissioners felt the County Board must begin to do all it can to prevent expansion of unwarranted TIFA districts.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole request a staff analysis of the effect of DDA and TIFA districts had on County revenues for the past ten years, and also a legal analysis of what counties can do, a review of the City of Ishpeming proposal, and finally that the communication from Henry Schneider be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee considered a memo and recommendation from Randell E. Girard, Director of Human Resources, regarding the Employee Assistance Service (EAS). The Marquette County Board has consistently supported the EAS which provides confidential help for staff in dealing with personal problems that may have a negative impact on their work. Since its inception in 1986, the use of EAS has steadily increased and has proven to be highly successful; however, as use has increased so has the cost. The County Board has consistently supported EAS which has been available to staff as a fully funded benefit by the County through the Human Resources Department budget. In an effort to continue to provide these services within the budgeted funds for 1992, Mr. Girard recommends a modification in the EAS structure.

The EAS will continue to be available to all staff members as in the past. The County will continue to provide the EAS at no cost for the first twelve (12) sessions following pre-certification. Should it be necessary to exceed twelve sessions, the County would pay 80% of the cost up to a maximum of an additional \$2,000.00 per year. The individual staff member would be responsible for the remaining 20% of the costs, and any costs beyond the \$2,000.00 yearly maximum.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board continue to provide Employee Assistance Services to all County staff members at no cost for the first twelve sessions following pre-certification, then should it be necessary to exceed twelve sessions, the County will pay 80% of the cost to a maximum of an additional \$2,000.00 per year.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, that the County Board of Commissioners accept a new lease agreement that he has negotiated with the Department of Social Services. Under the old lease the State was paying approximately \$6.50 per square foot for rent, while County tenants in the new Geraldine DeFant Building are paying \$11.21 per square foot. Also, the old lease allowed for termination only the Department of Social Services with a 90-day notice.

The new lease is less restrictive than the past lease. It has a term of 20 years; however, either party can terminate the lease with a one-year notice. Other responsibilities have been clarified within the lease which provides that more responsibility be placed on the State. Financially the lease is a great improvement. The new agreement starts off at a base rate of \$154,978.20 per year, which is an increase in the first year of \$75,000.00. In addition, the lease provides a designated 3% inflationary rental increase over a ten-year period.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board, commends Administrator Aloia for his excellent work in renegotiating the D.S.S. lease agreement.

It was moved by Comm Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the lease agreement and authorize its Chairperson to sign the lease on their behalf.

The Committee considered a letter from David M. Lick, Attorney, with an enclosed check for \$4,378.57 from the trust account of Federlein, Grylls, & Keranen, on behalf of Kessler. This check is the principal amount without interest. County Administrator, Dennis Aloia, explained that with this check the County has received the full \$300,000.00 in settlement agreements for the Valente Medical Care Facility roof.

Mr. Aloia also added that Attorney, David Lick, needs to know if the County is satisfied with the enclosed check, or if the County Board also would want him to pursue the interest which amounts to about \$200.00.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Angeli, and unanimously carried that the County Board accept the check as presented from Attorney, David M. Lick, and notify him that the County does not wish to pursue the matter further.

The Committee was to consider a report from Civil Counsel, David Payant, on the access road for the Marquette County Fairgrounds. Mr. Payant has not yet received the necessary maps to report on the matter, and so it will be considered at the next Committee meeting.

The Committee considered a memo from Sheriff, Joseph I. Maino, regarding a grant from the Michigan DNR for the Sheriff's Department 1992 Marine Safety Program for two outboard motors. The grant will provide for 75% of the cost of the actual purchase price, not to exceed reimbursement of \$8,159.25.

Undersheriff, Michael Quayle, was present and explained that in October of 1991, the County Board took action to purchase a new boat for the Rescue Safety Division. The purchase was made possible with grant funds from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources which paid 75% of the cost, and the remaining 25% came from the County Search and Rescue Millage Funds. At that time the cost to purchase the motors for the new boat were not available due to limited funds available from the DNR; however, the DNR indicated they would approve the 75% cost of the motors in early 1992. Bids have been attained for the new motors and submitted to the DNR for approval.

Capital purchases are a part of the rescue and safety millage, and a line item of \$20,000.00 was set aside for the purchase of boat, motor, and trailer for the Marine Safety Division. The opportunity to use the DNR 75% grants saves thousands of dollars in this millage line item.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Potvin, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the DNR grant for 75% of the purchase price of the two new outboard motors, and appropriate the remaining \$2,720.00 from the Rescue Safety Fund with the appropriate budget amendment.

The Committee considered a notice that a \$12,000.00 Commercial Promissory Note with MFC First National Bank is due on February 28, 1992. Charles Manto, EDC Director, was present and explained that the EDA is still working on the grant proposal; however, the bank will renew the promissory note at 7-1/2% interest for another six-month period, with a payment of the \$450.00 interest currently due.

Mr. Manto has been making regular contacts with representatives in Washington D.C. Congressman Davis is now involved with the matter and has insisted that this item be moved from Chicago, where it apparently was stuck for about a year, to Washington D.C. This can only be viewed as a positive sign.

Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, pointed out the County Board has two options: to pay the whole balance off at this time, or to pay the interest and wait for the EDA grant to come through. In the long-run, if the EDA grant does not materialize the County will be responsible for the full sum.

It was moved by Comm. Angeli, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board pay the \$450.00 interest due on the promissory note, and renew the note at 7-1/2% interest for another six-month period.

Comm. Arsenault reported that the 9-1-1 Implementation Committee met today. Time is nearing the cutover date to 9-1-1 services, and the Implementation Committee felt the need that a Public Relations committee should be formed 30 to 45 days before the cutover. This PR Committee

should consist of 7 to 10 members, and would be responsible for the development of a public information and educational campaign prior to the cutover to provide for a smooth transition.

Chairperson Corkin requested that Comm. Arsenault put the 9-1-1 Public Relations Committee proposal in writing for review at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

At the request of Administrator Aloia, Chairperson Corkin asked if Commissioners were willing to meet as a Committee of the Whole on a Saturday morning in March, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, to hold departmental hearings on the Morley Study. A Saturday morning session would be a good time where most department heads should be available. Commissioners were agreeable.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Cihak, a member of the Marquette City Commission, was present and spoke on two issues: First, as a member of the Marquette City Commission, Mr. Cihak informed the Committee that the City of Marquette is in the preliminary stages of a proposal for a joint water authority to pipe Lake Superior water along the U.S. 41 corridor to the Ishpeming/Negaunee area as well as the City of Marquette.

Second, as a citizen, Mr. Cihak thought that there could be one EDC for the entire County. The City of Marquette has an EDC, the County has an EDC, and there are other EDC's in the County. Perhaps it would be in the best interest of all if we could form one EDC.

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

Commissioner Announcements:

Comm. Potvin reported that several finalists have been interviewed for the Airport Manager's position, and on March 5, 1992 there will be several more interviews. The application list has been honed down to 10 to 12 well qualified individuals.

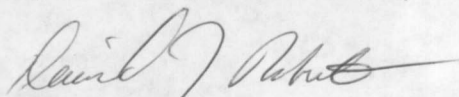
Comm. Potvin brought much information and papers back from the MAC Conference. The materials covered such issues as mandated County costs, MAC legislative priorities, State-wide millage rates, etc. Mr. Potvin will meet with Administrator Aloia to discuss some of the issues and give copies to the Administrative Staff so they can in turn make copies for Commissioners.

Comm. Corkin reported on his recent trip to Lansing where he met with State Senator, Don Koivisto, and State Representative, Dominic Jacobetti, on the nursing home issue. Senator Koivisto and Representative Jacobetti are very supportive and appreciate the information from the survey that Marquette County took of the local medical facilities. Senator Koivisto is planning to introduce legislation which would allow for more discretionary nursing home beds, and Representative Jacobetti will be attending the court appeal of Dr. Ray Johnson on the denial of his Certificate of Need.

Comm. Corkin also reported that Representative Jacobetti is still working very hard to procure the Sports Shooting Complex grant for Marquette County.

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, February 25, 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 February 11, 1992.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
- fl.* 6. Memo from Henry Schneider, Equalization Director, projecting County Revenue Loss resulting from Marquette Township TIFA.
- R* 7. Memo from Randall E. Girard, Director of Human Resources, regarding Employee Assistance Services.
- R* 8. Recommendation from Dennis Aloia, County Administrator, regarding the Department of Social Services Lease.
- R* 9. Letter from Attorney David M. Lick regarding final billing for the Valente Medical Care Facility Roof Arbitration.
- referred to 10.* 10. Civil Counsel Report on Access Road for Marquette County Fairgrounds. (No packet materials).
- B.A. R* 11. *Boat motor grant*
- B.A. R* 12. *EDC. Promissory note (loan - fr Cliff's staff)*
13. *Comment on 9-11-*
14. PUBLIC COMMENT.
15. ANNOUNCEMENTS.
16. ADJOURNMENT.