

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, November 8, 2005, at 6:30 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent: Comm. Cihak.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 25, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bill Pesola, SLP Development, Marquette, would like to address the Board regarding item 9) KI Sawyer Housing.

Joe Cram, Big Bay Visitors Association, Big Bay, presented a petition to the Board regarding not using County Roads 550 and 510 as trucking routes for hauling ore from proposed mining sites by Kennecott Minerals. Chairperson Corkin stated that the Petition would be provided to the Advisory Committee regarding this issue.

Cynthia Pryor, Big Bay, addressed the Board regarding sulfide mining and the Flambeau Mine. She provided a packet of materials to commissioners for their review.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following changes: move Item 10) Remonumentation Status Report to Item 6; move Item 12) Telkite Marketing Update to Item 7; and move Item 9) KI Sawyer Housing to Item 8.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 28, 2005 through November 3, 2005 in the amount of \$525,169.59 be approved.

The Committee heard a Status Report from Larry Bussone regarding remonumentation. Mr. Bussone stated that of the approximately 5,700 corners in the County that need to be done, 1,100 have been done so far. The Remonumentation Ad Hoc Committee meets each October to set up a work plan for the coming year. Last year, 87 corners were done, which is about the average numbers of corners done per year. The work is being done primarily in the most needed areas first - urban areas and where the most building is occurring. Funding for this program, like most federal/state/local programs has been declining and will continue to decline. Although this is a 20-year program, the County will not be completed in that time. Overall, good progress is being made. As an added benefit, the corner information is made available to the public, surveyors, engineers, etc., to assist them.

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It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole accept Mr. Bussone's Remonumentation Status Report for filing.

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The Committee heard a Marketing Update regarding Telkite from Vicki Kulju. Ms. Kulju presented a slide show and handout at the meeting. The presentation included historical information, a commitment to the County, current activities and results, and the outlook for the future. Telkite is actively marketing Sawyer through brochures, magazines, websites, and personal visits with prospective investors and companies. Telkite will continue to market and promote Sawyer and Marquette County to bring businesses, jobs, and new investments to the County.

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The Committee considered 4-plexes at Sawyer. Two 4-plexes were intentionally not included in the initial housing sale to SLP Development. The buildings were to be used for a town center or as housing models. As neither use is viable, the houses should be sold. SLP would like to purchase the two remaining 4-plexes for \$16,129 each. The buildings have been appraised at \$80,000 each.

Comm. Arsenault provided a brief history of the sale of housing at Sawyer. He stated that although many RFP's were distributed, no one responded. SLP stepped in and bought the housing when no one else was interested. He feels SLP should be given consideration to purchase the remaining housing units.

Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, and Comm. Heikkila had concerns regarding the price to be paid for the units, feeling a higher price should be considered or further negotiations should be undertaken.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and carried by voice vote 4 Ayes (Comm. Wallace, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Struck, and Chairperson Corkin) to 3 Naves (Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, and Comm. Pellow) and one abstention (Comm. Arsenault) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board sell the two remaining 4-plexes to SLP Development for the total price of \$32,258.

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The Committee considered a request from Robert Pecotte, Chairman of the Board of County Road Commissioners, on behalf of the Board, for an increase in the annual salary of Road Commission Board members.

Comparisons among U.P. counties and five market counties were provided. Steve Powers, County Administrator, stated that higher salaries and more attractive benefit packages are provided by the market counties.

Comm. Struck stated that it has been a long time since the Road Commissioners had received a raise. Comm. Pellow questioned giving raises at a time when the Road Commission has financial difficulties.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, and Chairperson

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Corkin) to 2 Nays (Comm. Pellow and Comm. Wallace) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board increase the salaries for the Road Commissioners as follows:

Chair – \$2,600 per year; Vice-Chair - \$2,300 per year; and Member - \$2,000 per year.

\$30 would be paid for each meeting in Marquette County; \$60 for each meeting outside of Marquette County. Mileage and meals would be reimbursed according to Road Commission policy.

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The Committee considered Fiscal Year 2006 IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contracts (CRP). Sue Vercoe has previously reviewed the applications. Judge Solka has signed the Contracts, and approval/signature by the Board is required.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Board Chairperson to sign the Fiscal Year 2006 IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contracts (CRP).

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The Committee considered the Disposal of Surplus Property Policy. The current policy for disposal of surplus personal property has been reviewed by department managers. The following changes from the existing policy are recommended:

- Computers will not be reused by county departments;
- Items of no value will be disposed of by the best available method, at the discretion of the County Administrator;
- Add county website and other websites for public notice of items available for sale;
- Allow use of auctions;
- Change report on sales activity to include name of the person buying items of more than \$500 in value.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the amended Disposal of Surplus Property Policy.

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The Committee heard an Update on Forsyth Township’s Request for Additional Fire Department Funding from Scott Erbsch, Sawyer Operations Manager. Mr. Erbsch contacted a number of businesses to see if they would be willing to assist in funding the volunteer fire department. Of the businesses contacted, little response was received. Concerns included: how would cost sharing be spread among businesses?; some businesses would not participate, why should we?; rate changes were not noticed by businesses. As far as the cost of insurance for Marquette County, no change would occur. Commissioners felt that more information is needed to effectively decide on this issue. They asked that additional information including breakdowns on costs to run the station and number of calls received be provided. Commissioners also suggested continued talks between the

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townships and businesses, with the matter to be placed on a future agenda so that the township and/or businesses could be present to address the Board.

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

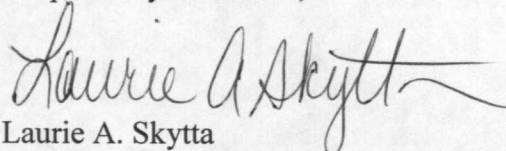
COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Pellow mentioned three items which were received by Commissioners in their mailboxes – information regarding prior questions about the Health Department, which contained quite a bit of information and she would like this looked at in the future; retiree health insurance which should be reviewed and she would like additional information regarding the legal issues; and the Ishpeming District Court which should also be added to a future agenda.

Scott Erbish, Sawyer Operations Manager, updated the Board on the status of the move to the new building which was planned to be completed by November 1, 2005. The building was not completely ready for everyone, but the Utility Department and office staff from the terminal building have moved. A Temporary Occupancy Permit has been received. Computers and phones are being worked on. Due to fire issues, the heavy equipment could not be brought in, but should be shortly. Commissioners were encouraged to stop in, and a grand opening will be held in the future.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Laurie A. Skytta
Marquette County Deputy Clerk

MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Tuesday, November 8, 2005, 6:30 P.M.

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

www.co.marquette.mi.us

1. ROLL CALL.
2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 25, 2005.
3. PUBLIC COMMENT.
4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.
5. Review of Claims and Accounts.
6. Road Commission Compensation Request.
7. Fiscal Year 2006 IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Contracts.
8. Disposal of Surplus County Personal Property.
9. KI Sawyer Housing.
10. Remonumentation Status Report. (no packet materials)
11. Fire Hall Status Report.
12. Telkite Marketing Update. (no packet materials)
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. PUBLIC COMMENT.
17. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.
18. ADJOURNMENT.

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