

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012 – 6:00 P.M. – ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855.

1. CALL TO ORDER – SALUTE TO THE FLAG – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- Call to Order by Chair at 6:00 p.m. – Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette.
- Roll Call: Present: Commissioner Quayle, Commissioner Corkin, Commissioner Joseph, Commissioner Arsenault, Commissioner Nordeen, Commissioner Bergdahl and Chairperson Pellow. Absent and excused Commissioner Cihak and Commissioner Heikkila.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to approve the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Regular meetings held on January 17, 2012 and January 19, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Nordeen. Motion adopted.

3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS. None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Chairperson Pellow asked to move agenda 10f) Northern Initiatives Resolution to agenda item 10aa and agenda item 10h) Marquette City K-9 Unit Request to agenda item 10aaa.

Board Action: Commissioner Bergdahl moved to approve the agenda moving agenda item 10f) Northern Initiatives Resolution to position 10aa and agenda item 10h) Marquette City K-9 Unit Request to position 10aaa. Seconded by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS.

Board Action: Commissioner Arsenault moved to pay the expenditures for the period January 13, 2012 through February 2, 2012 in the amount of \$1,159,124.65. The biweekly payroll for the period ending January 21, 2012 was \$681,980.62. Seconded by Commissioner Joseph. Motion adopted.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT. None.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS. None.

10. ACTION ITEMS:**a. Space Needs Study – John Oates, Sommerville, Inc.**

Mr. John Oates of Sommerville Inc. addressed the Commission concerning the Space Needs Study being conducted by his firm. He said he had already met with four Department Heads and looks forward to meeting with the rest. Commissioner Quayle asked if the Commission would get updates as the study moved forward or one final report at its completion. Mr. Oates said he would be giving the Commission updates and asking for input while the study is progressing.

aa. Northern Initiatives Resolution.

Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to support the request of Northern Initiatives to be designated the Regional Fund Manager for Region 1, the Upper Peninsula. Seconded by Commissioner Joseph. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Commissioner Corkin, Commissioner Joseph, Commissioner Arsenaault, Commissioner Nordeen, Commissioner Bergdahl, Commissioner Quayle, Chairperson Pellow. Nays: None. Motion adopted.

aaa. Marquette City K-9 Unit Request.

Captain Warchock of the Marquette City Police Department gave a brief history of the city's K-9 Unit's use in enforcing laws in Marquette County and their particular value in drug enforcement. The Commission discussed the merits of entering into a contract for services with Marquette City's K-9 Unit. Commissioner Quayle expressed his support for the agreement but would like the County Sheriff's Department to contribute \$1,000 from its budget toward the \$5,000 requested. Commissioners Joseph and Nordeen did not want to mandate the contribution from the department.

Board Action: Commissioner Quayle moved to authorize the Chairperson to enter into an agreement for K-9 services with the City of Marquette and provide \$5,000 from the Miscellaneous Expense line item. Seconded by Commissioner Joseph. Motion adopted.

b. County Road KK – Update.

Mr. Joe Holman of 210 Riverside Rd. Chocolay, Township, thanked the Commission for their support of those who want to legally access and fish the Salmon Trout River. He told of his experiences with the guards while fishing the river. He stated that at times off duty deputies from the Sheriff's Department moonlighted as guards for the Huron Mountain Club. He wondered if this created a conflict of interest situation and what liability may exist for the County per the action of those individuals.

Mr. John Hongisto of P.O. Box 115, Deerton, MI., asked the Commission to direct the County's Civil Council to research and provide answers to the legal questions he presented earlier. Chairperson Pellow confirmed to Mr. Hongisto that his questions had been copied to each member of the County Board and to Civil Council.

Mr. Dan Collins of Negaunee related that he has legally fished the Salmon Trout River since 1965. He told of his experiences fishing the river and interactions with guards from the Huron Mountain Club.

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Mr. Carl Lindquist of 352 E. Crescent St., Marquette, and an employee of the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP). He said the Salmon Trout River is a navigable stream with public access at the County Road KK Bridge. He said the SWP is happy to assist in solving the access problem on the river with funding to improve public access, signage that clearly states what is allowed and not allowed in the State when entering the water and taking steps to ensure that the access site does not become an erosion problem.

Mr. Stuart Bennet of 5963 Conway Lake West, Big Bay, spoke concerning access to his property across the bridge on County Road KK. He said it was a temporary one lane bridge put in place by the Longyear Corp. He believes that because the bridge is on a county road that the County is responsible for building a more permanent structure.

Mr. Donn Collins of 129 Sunset Dr, Negaunee, asked the County Board to request from the Sheriff's Office a list of past and present officers who have been deputized as guards at the Huron Mountain Club. He presented the Board with articles concerning public access to streams in Michigan.

Mr. Kurt Collins of 200 W. Peck St., Negaunee, spoke concerning his family's history and correspondence they have received from the Huron Mountain Club.

Matthew Wiese, Marquette County Prosecuting Attorney spoke that the Salmon Trout River is a navigable stream and can be legally accessed from the County Road KK Bridge. It is a crime to harass or interfere with a person legally hunting or fishing. His office will look into and prosecute any instances of recreational harassment as well as any violations of recreational trespassing.

Board Action: Commissioner Quayle moved to request the Marquette County Road Commission prepare a scaled map showing the easement boundaries on County Road KK, and to install markers to indicate where the right-of-way exists at the Salmon Trout River, and to work in cooperation with Lake Superior Watershed Partnership as much as possible to address the access problems. Seconded by Commissioner Corkin. Motion adopted.

c. District 1 – Commissioner Cihak Resignation.

Chairperson Pellow read Commissioner Cihak's letter of resignation from the Marquette County Board of Commissioners effective February 29, 2012. Commissioner Cihak represents District 1.

Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to accept with regret the resignation of Commissioner Cihak on the prescribed date. Seconded by Commissioner Joseph. Motion adopted.

d. Permit Fee Adjustment – Jim O'Donnell.

Building Code Manager, Jim O'Donnell attended the meeting to discuss the details of the approximate 2%-3% increase in building permit fees and the planned implementation timeframe. The board allowed the increases to be implemented immediately, but future increases should begin at the start of the fiscal year to provide consistency in the cost of permits in a given year. As the fee increases were already approved with the approval of the 2012 budget, no board action was required.

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Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to accept the fee increase document for file. Seconded by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

e. Change Meeting Date.

Chairperson Pellow asked the Commission to reschedule the February 21, 2012, Regular meeting of the Marquette County Board of Commissioner to February 22, 2012, to accommodate Board attendance at the Public Hearing for proposed County Road 595. She felt it was important that as many Commissioners as possible attend that meeting.

Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to reschedule the February 12, 2012, Regular meeting of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners to February 22, 2012. Seconded by Commissioner Quayle. Motion adopted.

g. MML Comparable Counties Study.

The Commission considered a memo from Heather Van Poucker, Director of Information and Policy Research at the Michigan Municipal League (MML). Ms. Van Poucker is conducting a study of expenditures of other counties comparable to Marquette in terms of departmental structures, staffing, pay and benefits. In the memo she identified Wexford, Tuscola, Barry, Montcalm, Ionia, Isabella, Shiawassee, Van Buren and Grand Traverse as the core group of counties comparable to Marquette County in terms of population, SEV, and budgeted expenditures. She also recommended supplementing the core group with data from Houghton, Delta and Chippewa Counties to provide a regional data set. She also suggested incorporating the City of Marquette, for pay and benefits portions only, to add additional depth to the regional labor market data.

Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to proceed with the study using the set of comparables presented by Ms. Van Poucker. Seconded by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

i. RenewaFUEL Renaissance Zone.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) recently advised that when the RenewaFUEL assets were sold to RNFL Acquisitions LLC, the Renaissance Zone extension did not automatically transfer. The MEDC did state the Renaissance Zone could transfer to RNFL Acquisition LLC, if the County Board and Forsyth Township supported the transfer.

Board Action: Commissioner Corkin moved to support the transfer of the Renaissance Zone to RNFL Acquisitions LLC. Seconded by Commissioner Nordeen. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Commissioner Corkin, Commissioner Joseph, Commissioner Arsenault, Commissioner Nordeen, Commissioner Bergdahl, Commissioner Quayle, Chairperson Pellow. Nays: None. Motion adopted.

j. Resolution in Support of Michigan House Bill 4025.

Airport Manager, Keith Kaspari, explained how the State Aeronautics Fund (SAF) is primarily funded by an aviation fuel tax which has not changed since 1929. The State of Michigan has determined that this fuel tax revenue no longer supports the administration of MDOT's Office of Aeronautics and the 236 public use airports comprising Michigan's Airport System Plan (MASP). He stated Michigan

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House Bill No. 4025 (HB 4025) would increase the fuel tax revenue and restore a number of local programs that have been suspended since 2006. He asked Marquette County Board of Commissioners to pass the resolution below supporting the passage of HB 4025 to increase funding to Michigan's State Aeronautics Fund.

Board Action: Commissioner Nordeen moved to support the following resolution for the passage of House Bill 4025 to provide an increase in to Michigan's State Aeronautics Fund. A roll call vote was conducted. Ayes: Commissioner Nordeen, Commissioner Bergdahl, Commissioner Quayle, Commissioner Corkin, Commissioner Joseph, Commissioner Arsenault, Chairperson Pellow. Nays: None. Motion adopted.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AFFIRMING THEIR SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL NO: 4025 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE STATE AERONAUTICS FUND AND MICHIGAN'S SYSTEM OF AIRPORTS.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

WHEREAS, the current aviation fuel tax is \$0.03 per gallon, has remained at \$0.03 per gallon since 1929;

WHEREAS, the State Aeronautics Fund (SAF), created in 1945 by Public Act 327, allows for a 50% rebate per gallon on the fuel tax for airlines operating in Michigan;

WHEREAS, the current fuel tax no longer supports the administrative and capital responsibilities of MDOT's Office of Aeronautics;

WHEREAS, passage of House Bill No: 4025 would provide for an increase in funding to the State Aeronautics Fund;

WHEREAS, passage of House Bill No: 4025 would provide a long-term and sustainable source of revenue to support Michigan's system of airports comprised of 236 public use facilities;

WHEREAS, House Bill No: 4025 provides that in each Fiscal Year, 25% of the collection of the taxes imposed at the rate of 4%, directly or indirectly, on all fuels sold to propel aircraft, the sale of aircraft, aircraft rentals, the sale of aircraft parts and accessories, and all sales at airport concessions, including motor vehicle rentals located at airports, would be deposited into the State Aeronautics Fund;

WHEREAS, House Bill No: 4025, when fully implemented, would provide the funding required to the State Aeronautics Fund in order to restore its operating budget, including the programs currently suspended, as follows:

- Airport Awareness Marketing Grants;*
- Small Community Air Service Grants; and,*
- Automated Weather Observation System.*

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WHEREAS, House Bill No: 4025, when fully implemented, would restore the State and Local funding programs currently suspended, as follows:

- *Airfield Pavement (Paint) Marking;*
- *Turf Runway Marking Improvements; and,*
- *Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Training.*

WHEREAS, without passage of House Bill No: 4025, the following problematic issues are likely to occur soon:

- *Loss of FAA AIP funds due to the inability to provide the required State matching funds;*
- *Loss of State and Local programs;*
- *Possible loss of some airports;*
- *Potential layoffs of employees at MDOT's Office of Aeronautics; and,*
- *Significant deterioration of aviation infrastructure across Michigan.*

WHEREAS, House Bill No: 4025 has received support by the Michigan Association of Airport Executives (MAAE), the Michigan Business Aviation Association (MBAA) and, the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA).

Section I. Ms. Deborah Pellow, serving as Chairperson of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners, is hereby authorized to execute this Resolution of Support.

Section II. Mr. Peter Dishnow, serving as the Clerk of Marquette County, is hereby authorized to attest to the execution of said Resolution and is directed to make it known to the appropriate public officials.


11. LATE ADDITIONS. None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENT. None.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.



 Peter Dishnow
 Marquette County Clerk

 Deborah Pellow, Chairperson
 Marquette County Board of Commissioners