

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 9, 2010 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes: Delete Item 12) Changes to EDC CDBG Revolving Loan Fund; and Add Item 14) Professional Services Agreement – Taxiway Lighting Rehabilitation Project.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Mike Quayle, 1700 Mildred Ave., Marquette, spoke regarding Retire/Rehire issues.

Jim Gallant, Skandia, spoke regarding the Board of Commissioners Rules of Order.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 12, 2010 through February 19, 2010, in the amount of \$603,002.87, be approved.

Brent Nault, Information Systems Manger, and Charlie Hopper, Pastynet, provided a Digital Divide Update. The County of Marquette entered into a grant agreement with the State of Michigan's Digital Divide Investment program to provide broadband internet services to 5 Low to Moderate Income (LMI) townships within the County of Marquette. Pastynet was awarded the bid by the State of Michigan to install the broadband service. To date, Pastynet has installed wireless broadband services in Michigamme Township, Republic Township, West Branch Township and limited service in Ewing Township. Wells Township has not yet been served by Pastynet.

The terms of the grant stipulated that the grant period ends March 31, 2010. Pastynet requested an extension of 90 days to provide service to Wells Township, and extend their coverage in other townships.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the extension to June 30, 2010.

The Committee considered a request from William Carlson, Negaunee Township Supervisor, for support of designated road projects in Negaunee Township. Mr. Carlson explained that he is very concerned as to the condition of two major transportation corridors within the township and the impact of those conditions on the safety of their residents along the corridors.

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Those corridors are Highway 502 (Midway Drive) and Highway 510 which comprise the connector route for the new Dead River Bridge to the US41/M28 transportation corridor; and Highway M-35, a connector route to the Empire and Tilden Mines and to Co. Rd. 480, which serves K.I.Sawyer International Airport. Mr. Carlson provided a history of these transportation corridors and the challenges they are facing with the extremely poor conditions of the roads. He explained that Negaunee Township does not have the funding to make improvements to these corridors.

Due to the extent of reconstruction these routes would require, Mr. Carlson feels it necessary to obtain outside assistance. Funding for the CR 502/510 project is currently Small Urban and Rural Construction Funds. Cost for the M-35 project would come from State and Federal monies generated from gasoline taxes. Along with these funding possibilities other sources need to be explored. In addition to the support of the County Board, Mr. Carlson also requests that our legislators be urged to move forward with legislation to increase the monies needed to maintain our road transportation system. He also requests that a meeting be scheduled with our legislators, all city and township supervisors, managers, and the County Administrator, to discuss a plan of action. Discussion followed.

Comm. Struck stated that all of our roads need to be addressed. They either need to be maintained, repaired, or rebuilt. With the issues at the state level, if we don't work cohesively and cooperatively with each other we are not going to be successful in getting things done. He feels that the stronger we are, the more successful we will be.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support Negaunee Township in their efforts to seek funding for these designated projects.

The Committee considered the Marquette County Treasurer 2009 Annual Report and the Marquette County Land Bank Authority 2009 Annual Report. Anne Giroux, Marquette County Treasurer, was present and briefly explained the statistics regarding parcels forfeited and parcels foreclosed. She explained that the numbers are up, like they are all across the State. Marquette County however, is much far better off than most. She explained that Marquette County's foreclosure rate is at 4% which is well below the State-wide average of 11%. Ms. Giroux also discussed 2009 Preliminary Budget Results, the 2009 Tax Foreclosure Auction, Banking, Investment Highlights, changes to the Dog Licensing system, and creation of the Land Bank Authority. Other accomplishments highlighted by Ms. Giroux were the acceptance of credit card and electronic check payments for delinquent property taxes, increase in office hours to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at the Ishpeming Service Center, and cooperation between the Treasurer's Office and the Equalization Department to complete an internal audit of invalid principal residence exemptions. Questions and answers followed.

Ms. Giroux also presented the first Annual Report of the Marquette County Land Bank Authority. The Marquette County Land Bank Authority was created in May of 2009 at a time when there were 17 County Land Bank Authorities in Michigan. There are now 31, 4 of which are in the U.P. (Marquette, Gogebic, Delta and Houghton). She explained that the Authority met several times throughout 2009, approving articles of incorporation, electing officers and adopting by-laws. In 2009, 7 tax-foreclosed properties were acquired by the Land Bank. Ms. Giroux presented a chart showing the current status of the properties that were acquired, and a

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description of the three properties that were sold. The sold parcels presented a great example of why the Land Bank Authority was put into place. No funds were budgeted in 2009 for the Land Bank Authority, however in 2010, the budget includes a \$25,000 transfer from the foreclosure fund, and the sale of the 3 properties has generated \$2,100. Commissioners commended and applauded Anne for her initiative in the creation of the Land Bank Authority.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Marquette County Treasurer 2009 Annual Report and the Marquette County Land Bank Authority 2009 Annual Report be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee considered Sheriff's Dept. Vehicle Bids. David P. Lemire, Captain, Marquette County Sheriff's Dept., explained that on Monday, February 8, 2010 proposals were opened from four potential vendors for two Police Patrol Vehicles and one Administrative Vehicle. Seventeen total requests for proposal letters were sent out for the vehicles and the specifications posted on the Marquette County website.

The low bid was Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing for the proposal price of \$40,030.86 for the Patrol Vehicles; and \$19,039.16 for the Administrative Vehicle.

Capt. Lemire recommends that Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing be awarded the purchase order for the vehicles. The model is the Chevrolet Impala 9C1 police patrol vehicle and 9C3 administrative vehicle and both meet specifications.

Discussion followed. Comm. Cihak questioned the process of picking up the vehicles from Lansing. He explained that he travels downstate often, and offered to help in any way he can.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the purchase of the Sheriff's Dept. Patrol Vehicles and Administrative Vehicle to Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing.

The Committee considered the 2009 Annual Report of the Marquette County Planning Commission. The report highlights key accomplishments of the past year: Capital Improvements Programming; Solid Waste Planning; Local Community Assistance; Comprehensive Planning; Project Review; Geographic Information System; Marquette County 2009 Road Atlas Edition; and US-41/M-28 Corridor Committee.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the 2009 Annual Report of the Marquette County Planning Commission be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee considered a request from CUPPAD for a resolution in support of the Back Forty Joint Venture (Hudbay/Aquila Resources). In recognition of the need to support industry and create jobs in the Upper Peninsula, the CUPPAD Regional Commission passed a resolution in support of the Back Forty Joint Venture at its January 28, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting. CUPPAD carefully considered the resolution, acknowledging that the Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality has the primary responsibility for mining and that Michigan's mining rules are the best in the country for protecting the environment.

By passing this resolution, if and when the Back Forty Joint Venture meets state and federal requirements to protect the environment, natural resources and public health, CUPPAD has pledged its support for the project as a means to enhance the continued growth of the region.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a Resolution in Support of the Back Forty Joint Venture (Hudbay/Aquila Resources).

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The Committee considered a three-year amendment to the agreement with Health Professionals, Ltd., for inmate health services at the Marquette County Jail. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Health Professionals, Ltd., is a correctional healthcare provider specializing in small and medium-sized jails. Most Upper Peninsula jails are using Health Professionals, Ltd. Inmate healthcare is managed by professional healthcare providers. HPL is cognizant that jail is short term and that medical care and treatments should be short term. County liability is greatly reduced by having professional medical care in place.

Counties are mandated by law to provide healthcare services to inmates, including a health assessment. In the past, Marquette County contracted with Superior Walk-In Clinic and the Marquette County Health Department. HPL is the only provider interested in providing Marquette County a comprehensive approach to inmate health services.

Mr. Powers explained that medical and physician hours are increased, and mental health hours are decreased. The changes are based on actual usage. Medical needs increase with average daily population increases. HPL has provided good service.

The recommended contract amount for years one and two is \$107,808.70. Year three includes an increase of two percent unless an increase in services and/or staffing hours is required.

The 2010 budget for jail and detention center health services is \$131,508. The amount includes services that are excluded from the HPL agreement such as hospitalization, off-site medical services, and ambulatory services. In 2009, actual expenditures were \$148,301.

Comm. Pellow requested and was informed that the actual amount paid to Health Professionals, Ltd. in 2009 was \$106,109.00

It was moved by Comm. Cihak seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the three-year amendment to the agreement with Health Professionals, Ltd., for Inmate Health Services.

The Committee considered a Professional Services Agreement (Mead & Hunt, Inc.). Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, explained that in 2009, Sawyer was a recipient of \$1,939,000 in funds via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the Phase I construction of an on-airfield lighting vault, and taxiway lighting improvements to the south-half of Taxiway Alpha, and also Taxiways Charlie, Delta, Echo and Foxtrot.

The agreement is between Marquette County and Mead & Hunt for professional engineering, consulting and planning services at Sawyer. The agreement provides construction administration and inspection services for the following FY-2010 project at Sawyer:

1. Phase II, Amendment No: 2 – Taxiway Lighting Rehabilitation Project. Cost of services is approximately \$130,340.00. Estimated cost of construction, including construction administration is estimated at \$1,595,606. Bids will be downloaded by MDOT officials and available via their website by 10:30 a.m. on Friday, March 5.

Costs for services under the above agreement total: \$130,340.00, with a funding allocation of FAA at 95%, MDOT-Aero at 2.50% and Marquette County at 2.50%. Marquette County's 2.50% sponsor match will be derived from Sawyer's PFC Application No: 06-08-C-00-SAW.

Staff is awaiting the approval for the above agreements by MDOT's project engineer, yet is anticipated for the week of March 1st.

Due to time constraints imposed by the FAA, all administrative details are required to be submitted with a final grant application prior to the deadline of Friday, March 5th, in time to quickly turnaround a grant agreement (AIP 3-26-0153-3310) with FY-2010 Part A funds anticipated for mid-March.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board, pending approval by Sawyer's Project Manager at MDOT-Aero, approve the agreements for services on the above project by Mead & Hunt with a non-to-exceed total of \$130,340.00, and authorize Chairman Corkin and the County Clerk to sign all copies of the agreements.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Gallant, Skandia, spoke regarding Pathway's. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.


COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Cihak announced that the funding battle for the Jail Reimbursement Program (CJRP) continues in Lansing. He also explained that Community Corrections is also seeking additional funding.

Comm. Bergdahl announced that MSU Extension is pulling the dairy herd from the Experimental Station in Chatham because of Michigan's financial crisis.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk