

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2004, at 7:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 West Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Coyne, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Nordeen and Comm. Tuominen.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 3, 2004 be approved.

**PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

Chairperson Corkin read the following proclamation entitled *Annual Hockey Game and Pigs-n-Heat Fire Relief Fund*:

*PROCLAMATION  
ANNUAL HOCKEY GAME AND  
PIGS-N-HEAT FIRE RELIEF FUND*

*WHEREAS, the Pigs-n-Heat Fire Relief fund has been in operation since 1984;*

*WHEREAS The annual contest has generated over \$253,000.00 over the years – and has distributed over \$210,000.00 to Marquette County fire victims; and*

*WHEREAS, County merchants have generously donated thousands of dollars of door prizes in support of the annual hockey game; and*

*WHEREAS, City and County governmental bodies have consistently backed the game and the relief fund; and*

*WHEREAS, The Mining Journal, WLUC TV-6 and Sunny 102 radio have sponsored the game through free advertising, information dissemination, and editorial support; and*

*WHEREAS, The Citizens of Marquette County have faithfully attended the game year in and year out; and*

*WHEREAS, Police and Fire Departments all over the County have been vigorous in their support and participation; and*

*WHEREAS, Pigs-n-Heat is another one of the many reasons that Marquette County has been designated an “All American County.”*

*Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Chairperson Corkin read the following proclamation designating Saturday, March 27, 2004 as Emergency Preparedness Day in Marquette County:

*PROCLAMATION*

*To designate Saturday, March 27, 2004 as  
Emergency Preparedness Day  
In Marquette County*

*Whereas, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has partnered with the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of USA to increase the level of citizen preparedness across the country by helping citizens prepare for emergencies of all kinds; and*

*Whereas, the Hiawathaland Council of Boy Scouts of America and the Peninsula Waters Council, Inc. of Girl Scouts of USA has designated Emergency Preparedness Awareness as the theme of their annual Boy Scout and Girl Scout Show; and*

*Whereas, these Scout Councils have been joined by Marquette County Emergency Management, the Marquette County Sheriff's Department, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Marquette General Health System Blood Bank, and many other providers of emergency services in the effort to increase awareness of Emergency Preparedness; and*

*Whereas, the designation of Emergency Preparedness Day provides an opportunity to inform the public about community safety and the life saving services available through individual, family, and community preparedness; and*

*Whereas, the residents of our community will benefit from the knowledge gained at the Emergency Preparedness Day;*

*Now, therefore, I, Gerald O. Corkin, Chair, Marquette County Board of Commissioners in special recognition of the need to enhance citizen awareness of Emergency Preparedness, do proclaim Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> as*

**Emergency Preparedness Day  
In Marquette County**

*All residents of Marquette County are encouraged to attend the Marquette County Emergency Preparedness Day at the Westwood Mall to learn and implement skills needed for individual, family, and community Emergency Preparedness.*

*Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Karen Anderson, Executive Director, Sawyer Operations Authority, addressed the County Board regarding the Sawyer Fitness Center. She assured the County Board that if Marquette County and the YMCA are able to arrive at a mutually agreeable solution to continue to operate the Fitness Center, the SOA would support that arrangement.

Michelle Butler, YMCA Board Member, requests the County Board support the Fitness Center from June 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004 or the date when Telkite takes ownership of the Fitness Center.

Sue LeGalley, YMCA Board President, requested County Board support regarding the Fitness Center. She asked the County Board to make the challenge an opportunity.

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 March 5, 2004 through March 11, 2004 in the amount of \$281,139.89 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

**PRIVILEGED COMMENT**

Larry Albertson, Gainsville, Florida, presented the County Board with the Incubator Consultant Status Report. Business incubation is a dynamic process of business enterprise development. Business incubators nurture young firms, helping them to survive and grow during the startup period when they are most vulnerable. Incubators provides hands-on management assistance, help in assessing financing and orchestrated exposure to critical business and technical support services. Incubators also offer entrepreneurial firms shared office services, access to equipment, flexible leases and expandable space – all under one roof. Mr. Albertson explained that an incubation program's main goal is to produce successful graduates, businesses that are financially viable and freestanding when they leave the incubator, usually in two or three years. A business incubator is being considered for the greater Marquette County area and the feasibility study is underway to assess both the need and the likelihood of success of such a program in the community. He asked the County Board to respond to questions that will help the Business Incubator Feasibility Study Task Force determine if the Marquette County area can support a business incubator program.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following informational items be accepted and placed on file:

- a. March 18, 2004 Jail Utilization Task Force Meeting.
- b. Floodplain Management Activities.
- c. Memo from Pathways regarding State Liquor Tax.
- d. Memorandum regarding drain Code SB217(S-4).
- e. Fiscal Year 2005 Budget – Operating Budget Calendar.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS CONTINUED**

9f) Marquette County Sheriff Michael Lovelace distributed and explained the Marquette County Sheriff's Office Labor Market Survey.

9g) Marquette County Sheriff Michael Lovelace updated Commissioners regarding the Marquette County Emergency Plan/Law Enforcement Annex. He explained that the Plan has been referred to Civil Counsel Cheryl Hill and Risk Manager John Greenberg for review.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Informational Items 9f and 9g be accepted and placed on file.

**ACTION ITEMS**

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve Action Items 10d, 10e, and 10f as follows:

10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to send a letter to the Upper Peninsula Power Company requesting reimbursement of flood costs.

10e) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a \$250,000 loan to B3PC according to terms and contingencies outlined, waiving maximum loan amount requirements as set forth in loan policy.

10f) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the MNRTF Grant Application for the Sugarloaf Mountain Stair and Railing Enhancement and adopt the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN RAIL AND STAIRWAY ENHANCEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette has adopted the 2002-2006 Recreation Plan, which recognizes various county recreation needs and specifically prioritizes improvements at Sugar Loaf Mountain;

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette proposes enhancements to the stair and railing systems that will provide greater access to the recreation facility for individuals of different physical capabilities;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is currently offering financial assistance for such projects through its recreation grant program to help defray costs of the Sugar Loaf Stair and Railing Enhancements;

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Planning Commission opened its regular meeting of March 3, 2004, to accept public comment regarding the Sugar Loaf Rail and Stairway Enhancements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby applies for assistance from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Grants Program and intends to undertake the Sugar Loaf Rail and Stairway Enhancements and provide local matching funds if a grant is offered.

Adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2004  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

**ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**

10a) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to request from Telkite a written proposal of the terms expected by Telkite to release the Fitness Center from the Sales Agreement with the County.

Commissioners and Staff engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the Fitness Center. A verbal request from Sue LeGalley and Michelle Butler from the YMCA Board of Directors request the County provide financial support from June 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004. The YMCA of Marquette County had indicated its intention to vacate the building by May 31, 2004. Telkite is obligated to take title to the building no later than December 31, 2004.

If the building is vacant as of June 1, 2004, Steve Powers, County Administrator, estimates between \$45,000 and \$50,000 to minimally heat the building and keep the cold water circulating.

It was Commissioner consensus that rather than expending funds to maintain a vacant building, expending the same amount of funds to keep the building open would be a better approach.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board provide minimal financial support for the operational expenses of the Fitness Center for the period June 1, 2004 and no later than December 31, 2004, in the form of direct payment of utility bills (obtain invoices of actual expenses), and further if other funding for the Fitness Center is available from other sources the County's cost will be reduced.

10b) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation regarding the TSA Lease. The Federal Transportation Security Administration has a full service lease for space in Building 731 and the terminal. The lease term is November 1, 2002 through October 31, 2004. The Federal General Services

Administration has reviewed the lease and determined that some improvements to Building 731 are the County's responsibility. Staff agrees with GSA. Building improvements that are the County's responsibility are Americans with Disabilities Act accessible bathrooms and building entrance, painting the exterior of the building, and providing window air conditioners.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and carried by voice vote 6 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Joseph) that the County Board approve the Committee of the Whole Recommendation authorizing the County Administrator to sign the lease revision to GSA Lease No. GS-05B-17203.

10c) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation regarding a two percent funding request to the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. The request is for \$216,000 from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and \$38,000 from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the Committee of the Whole Recommendation to request two percent funding in the amount of \$30,000 for the County Dental Clinic and \$186,000 for County Law Enforcement.

10g) The County Board considered appointments to Pathways. Comm. Coyne explained that she has been out of town and has not reviewed the applications.

Chairperson Corkin declared a brief recess to allow Comm. Coyne an opportunity to review applications.

.....RECESS.....

It was moved by Comm. Coyne, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board table appointments to Pathways until March 23, 2004 at which time a Special County Board Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. for the appointment of Pathways. Immediately following the Special County Board Meeting the Committee of the Whole will meet as scheduled.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Karen Anderson from the Sawyer Operations Authority, thanked the County Board for support of the Fitness Center.

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

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Coyne, as an adult Girl Scout, recognized Girl Scout Week.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam  
Marquette County Clerk