

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 27, 2004, 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. Coyne, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Tuominen, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Wallace.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 13, 2004 be approved.

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

Chairperson Corkin read a special tribute recognizing Marquette County as a Most Livable Community presented by Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor, Michael A. Prusi, State Senator, and Stephen F. Adamini, State Representative.

Stu Bradley, Marquette City Commissioner and Chairperson of the Partners for Livable Community Planning, was present and recalled coming to the County Board for \$25,000.00 when the project was started. Marquette County now being recognized as one of 30 Most Livable Communities in America gives tremendous long term economic development opportunities. He thanked the County Board for their foresight to look ahead at that time.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 10) Contract Award – Asbestos Removal Hangar 668, Item 11) FY 2004 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement, Item 12) Regnos IRP Loan, and Item 13) Secretary of State Announcement to Close the Ishpeming Branch Secretary of State Office.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 16, 2004 through April 22, 2004 in the amount of \$340,575.69 be approved.

The Committee held a public hearing regarding a proposed Community Development Block Grant Loan Application. The proposed application is for loan funds to provide assistance to B3 Computers, Inc., in their efforts to begin operations at the former K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base. CDBG funds of \$450,000 would be used for working capital and the purchase of inventory, furniture, fixtures, and computers. The company would be required to repay the loan according to terms set forth in the CDBG Grant/Loan Agreement.

Anne Giroux, Finance and Administration Manager, SIABC, explained that B3 Computers has entered into a lease with Telkite for 30,000 square feet in the Sage Building. Their plan is to create 110 jobs over the next two years. The CDBG Application includes two parts: a \$350,000 loan from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to be used for working capital and inventory, and a \$100,000 loan from the Marquette County EDC to be used for furniture, fixtures, and computer equipment.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize submittal of the Michigan CDBG Application for the B3 Computer's, Inc., Loan Project, and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the Authorizing Resolution and all other documents relating to said Grant Application.

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The Committee considered first quarter budget amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and noted all departments were requested to review their revenues and expenditures. These recommended budget amendments were prepared based on requests and information from all departments. The first quarter budget amendments include the following funds: #4 General Fund, #5 Airport Fund, #6 K. I. Sawyer Development Fund, #7 Caretaker Fund, #8 Public Improvement Fund, #9 Central Dispatch, #10 Commission on Aging, #11 Friend of the Court, #12 Remonumentation Fund, #13 Probate Child Care Fund, and #14 Rescue Safety Fund. All of these budget amendments will appear in the minutes in line item detail after approval at the May 4, 2004 County Board Meeting.

Sue Vercoe answered questions and provided some highlights regarding the first quarter budget amendments. The total General Fund budget was increased by \$18,135. This represents a .1% increase, bringing the total General Fund budget to \$16,872,801.

The largest impact on the expenditure side is the reorganization of the Juvenile Division and expansion of the Probate Child Care Fund Services. Personal line items for Juvenile have been reduced and moved to the Probate Child Care Fund where they will be 50% reimbursed by the State. Overall, the Probate Child Care Fund budget is increased, but the Probate Child Care Fund ended 2003 with a fund balance. That fund balance, along with an additional General Fund appropriation will fund the County’s share of the expanded services of the Probate Child Care Fund. The net financial impact to the County is a \$20,000 budget savings.

Separation of family court matters from Circuit Court criminal cases has created additional transcription work for the Circuit Court Recorder. The amendment increases the transcription line item to allow use of a transcription service to alleviate the problem until the situation can be reviewed and future direction determined. The net increase to the Circuit Court budget is \$2,000. The appropriation to the FIA Social Welfare Fund is increased by \$4,000 to cover FIA Board expenses. The General Fund contingency began the year \$160,000 and remains at \$159,118 with this amendment.

On the revenue side, revenue sharing and SBT inventory tax have been reduced by \$150,000 as a result of reductions to the State’s 2004 budget and an estimated 17 percent reduction to revenue sharing for the State’s 2005 budget which begins October 1. The State Court Administrator’s Office has reduced court equity funding for operation of mandated court services by \$16,147 which is an 8% decrease.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the first quarter budget amendments as presented as staff.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Coyne, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Sawyer Financial and Passenger Reports be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee considered the Board of Commissioners Rules of Order V-3 Motion for Reconsideration. Comm. Joseph requested clarification as to when Roberts Rules of Orders apply or when the Board of Commissioners Rules of Order apply.

Section IV-11 of the Rules of Order of the Board of Commissioners provide that *“The rules of parliamentary practice set forth in Roberts Rules of Order Revised shall govern the Board in all cases to which they are applicable, providing they are not in conflict with the Board’s rules or the laws of the State of Michigan.”*

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, explained that Roberts Rules of Order provide that a motion for reconsideration must be brought at a meeting at which the action was taken, or at a meeting of the body on the next succeeding day. It also provides such a motion may only be brought by a member who voted with the “prevailing side”. The Board of Commissioners Rules of Order state a motion for consideration shall be in order when the motion is made the same meeting or the following meeting and by one who voted with the “majority” on the original motion; or the motion is made by a new commissioner seated since the previous meeting. A question arises when the “majority” is not the “prevailing side”.

It was moved by Comm. Coyne, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board modify the Rule so as to require that a motion for reconsideration be brought up by the person who voted with the prevailing side, or by any sitting Commissioner not present when the original motion was decided.

The Committee considered a recommendation from Hal Pawley, SIABC Director, for Contract Award, Asbestos Removal, Hangar 668. The FY 2003 MAP grant received included \$136,800 in federal funding for demolition of Hangar 668. Bids for demolition were opened, and the contract was awarded in the amount of \$89,000 on April 20, 2004. Testing revealed there is asbestos-containing material in the roof coating, and on some of the structural steel and piping, in the Hangar. At the strong urging of prospective bidders during the pre-bid meeting, removal of the asbestos was made a separate project. Bids for asbestos

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removal were opened. There was only one bid received from Pierson Asbestos Abatement, Inc., in the amount of \$21,398.

The total price of the two projects is \$110,398 which is less than the grant funding amount of \$136,800. Mr. Pawley requests the Board approve the award of this asbestos removal contract for \$21,398.

It was moved by Comm. Tuominen, seconded by Comm. Coyne, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the award of the Asbestos Removal Contract Hangar 668 for \$21,398 and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Notice of Award and the contract agreement.

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The Committee considered the FY 2004 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement for Marquette County from Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Management Coordinator. The award for Marquette County is \$24,715. Even though the award is higher than last year, the reimbursement rate is 39.52%, which is down from 42.44% last year.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that these funds are provided by the Federal Department of Homeland Security to the State and are passed through the County to help support wages for Emergency Management Coordinator. The funds were formerly Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the FY 2004 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement for Marquette County.

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The Committee considered a request from Comm. Nordeen for an explanation on the modification of the Regnos IRP loan collateral which failed at the April 20, 2004 County Board meeting. Anne Giroux, Finance and Administration Manager, SIABC, explained that Regnos has negotiated a release with the University of Michigan Hospital to provide and secure the surgical instruments for their operating rooms. To finance this contract, Regnos is signing a lease to General Funding Corporation. General Funding Corporation requires the County to release our position on those specific instruments related to the U of M Contract. Ms. Giroux recommends the County release the security position on specific instruments relative to the U of M Contract.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board release security position on specific instruments relative to the U of M Contract, provided: 1) Past due interest on IRP loan of approximately \$1,500 is paid in full; 2) Lease instrument is paid in full; and 3) Signed contract with University of Michigan is received.

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The Committee discussed Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land's plan to close the Ishpeming Branch Secretary of State Office. Secretary Land's plan is to consolidate the Ishpeming and Marquette offices to form a plus office. The closure of the Ishpeming Secretary of State's Office negatively impacts Marquette County residents. Marquette County does not support loss in services.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Tuominen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to Secretary of State Terry Lynn Land opposing the closing of the Ishpeming Secretary of State's Office with a copy to our Legislators and encourage all Cities and Townships in Marquette County to do the same.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Mike Quayle, 1700 Mildred Avenue, Marquette, addressed the County Board regarding statistics and financial reports of the 2003 year-end closeout. He also discussed frustrations with the request for labor market surveys.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin read a letter from Ely Township regarding the Road Commission Task Force.

Comm. Nordeen reported on his trip to Washington D.C. He thanked County Commissioners for allowing him to participate in recognizing Marquette County as a Most Livable Community.

Comm. Coyne voiced concerns regarding County Health Insurance Premiums.

Comm. Cihak suggested extra voted millage to fund the Ishpeming District Court.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole the meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk