
The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, 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. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Tuominen.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on December 9, 2003 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Greg Seppanen, Chocolay Township Supervisor, addressed Commissioners regarding item 6, Timber Sale. He stated that the County has in the past worked to minimize traffic and use of Silver Creek Road but now looks to use it for the main access to a timber stand. He asked that Commissioners consider the request submitted by Chocolay Township regarding restrictions to be placed on the timber sale contract and would amend those restrictions to include hauling from December through March rather than just February and March.

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

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 9) Grant Administration Amendment and Item 10) FY2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Exercise Grant Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period ending December 31, 2003 in the amount of \$349,462.55 and biweekly payroll for the period ending January 3, 2004, in the amount of \$593,096.44 be approved.

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The Committee considered the proposed Timber Sale from the County Honor Camp property that the Marquette County Forestry Commission is preparing to put out on bids. Over the past year, the commission and planning staff have walked the property, gathered public input, and requested comment from adjacent property owners and from Chocolay and Sands Townships. The sale specifications ensure maintenance of the property's park-like setting. The sale is ready to bid. The successful bidder will have two years from the date of contract award to complete the logging. Timber volume is estimated to be about 1,100 cords or about 55 to 65 truckloads. Greg Seppanen, Chocolay Township Supervisor, addressed the Committee during public comment. The Marquette County Forestry Commission is charged with and responsible for timber management on county-owned lands. The commission has decided to proceed with the sale. The property contains mature and over-mature timber that should be harvested. The bid specifications are restrictive as to hours and days of hauling. Timber management is the statutory and policy responsibility of the Forestry Commission. No Board action is required regarding the sale, and the timber sale information is being provided to the Committee for informational purposes.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Nordeen, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the timber sale information be accepted to file.

The Committee considered the 2004 Access and Visitation Grant Contract. The Grant is 100 percent funded by the State of Michigan through the State Court Administrative Office. The program is operated by Child and Family Services of Marquette providing for a safe place for parents to exchange their children for parenting time and also provides supervised visitation for problem cases. The County has been awarded this funding for the past several years. The amount of the Grant is \$25,000.

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 2004 Access and Visitation Grant Contract.

The Committee considered a Truck Purchase for the Sheriff's Department. Bid requests were sent to 12 potential bidders. Bids were received from 5 bidders. Three bids did not meet specifications. A short bed, one ton, 4WD pickup was specified. Turning radius and length of vehicle with a towed boat are reasons a short bed was specified. A one ton truck is needed for towing capacity. Chevrolet manufactures a long bed or a ¾ ton vehicle. The 1998 F250 4WD pickup has 90,000 miles. The 2004 capital improvements budget has \$38,000 for the vehicle. An appropriation from the Rescue Safety millage is the funding source.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl , seconded by Comm. Joseph , and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept Crown Ford's \$37,358 bid for a one-ton 4WD pickup truck and \$7,500 trade-in for the 1998 4WD pickup.

The Committee considered a Grant Agreement Amendment between Marquette County and Linda Howlett, d/b/a Community Development Services. The State of Michigan Economic Development Corporation is requiring an agreement for program income from federal Community Development Block Grants. The County received the block grants to improve buildings and facilities at K. I. Sawyer. While with CUPPAD, Linda Howlett was instrumental in the County receiving the grants and in the County's compliance with state and federal requirements. Since early 1999, the EDA grants received by Marquette County to assist with the development of K. I. Sawyer have been administered by CUPPAD. Linda Howlett, as CUPPAD's Chief Planner, was the primary staff person responsible for administration. Ms. Howlett is no longer employed by CUPPAD. Contracting with Ms. Howlett to serve as the County's grant administrator will ensure continuity as the remaining three grants are closed out. While with CUPPAD, Ms. Howlett's work with the EDA grants was excellent. All paperwork was current. The additional work will be completed within the agreement's estimated cost of \$20,000.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace , seconded by Comm. Cihak , and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board amend the agreement between Marquette County and Linda Howlett, d/b/a Community Development Services, to include Community Development Block Grants for AMR infrastructure, Superior Extrusion infrastructure, and PICO infrastructure.

The Committee considered an FY2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Exercise Grant Agreement with the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division. The purpose of the agreement is to provide federal pass-through funding capabilities of the state to respond to an incident of domestic terrorism or incident involving weapons of mass destruction. This grant will be used to cover allowable costs that are incurred during the planning, conducting, and evaluating progressive exercises with the emphasis on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive devices. This grant is a 100 percent funding reimbursement, and Marquette County will not be responsible for providing matching funds under this grant program. The grant award for Marquette County is \$12,000. Administrative and legal reviews have been conducted and approved.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak , seconded by Comm. Nordeen , and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the FY2003 State Homeland Security Grant Program Exercise Grant Agreement.

The Committee discussed the Road Commission Task Force. Commissioners discussed the importance of the task force meeting with townships and/or the Marquette County Township Association to hear their views, opinions, or input. They also discussed the importance of the task force meeting with the Road Commissioners before presenting a final report to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioners stated the task force was doing a good job and accomplishing the objectives set by the Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Comm. Nordeen, seconded by Comm. Berghdal, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board request the Task Force meet with the Township Association to receive their input prior to meeting with the County Board or preparing a final report.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board instruct the Task Force to meet with the Road Commission Board to review draft findings and recommendations prior to presenting a report to the County Board and that the report be presented to the County Board with findings and recommendations regardless of the Road Commission's approval or disapproval of the findings and recommendations.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Mike Quayle, Marquette, addressed the Committee of the Whole regarding the lease with Pioneer Square Mall, the owners of Pioneer Square Mall LC, and the election of the County Board chair.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Cihak mentioned an unsigned December 30, 2003 letter that was given to all of the Commissioners regarding the jail. It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried

by voice vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Wallace) that the letter be forwarded to Sheriff Lovelace for his information. Comm. Cihak also thanked the Road Commission for a job well done in keeping up with plowing and winter roads. Lastly, Comm. Cihak advised that he had received high praise from visiting tourists while skiing on the Noquemanon trails recently which is good news for the County and its economic impact.

Comm. Coyne invited everyone, especially women, to attend the Women's Ski Tour. On Thursday, there is a fashion show at the Landmark Inn. On the 31st, there is a health fair at the Landmark Inn. On February 1st, there is a ski and snowshoe tour at the Golf Course. The event is being held to benefit the Noquemanon Ski Trails and Harbor House.

County Administrator Steve Powers advised Commissioners that the Road Commission Task Force may need additional time, especially in light of the Committee's proposed directives to the Task Force, to complete their objectives by the initial time frame for completion which had tentatively be set for the end of this month. He will talk with the Task Force and provide additional information and time frame requests to the Board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Skytta
Marquette Deputy County Clerk