

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, at 6:30 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. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and excused: none

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Regular meeting held on April 5, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin read the following Resolution proclaiming April 17 – 23, 2005 as National Volunteer Week.

***NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK  
APRIL 17 – 23, 2005***

***WHEREAS, the entire community can effect positive change with any volunteer action no matter how big or small; and***

***WHEREAS, volunteers can connect with local community service opportunities through hundreds of community service organizations like Volunteer Centers; and***

***WHEREAS, millions of volunteers working in their community utilize their time and talent daily to make a real difference in the lives of children, adults, and the elderly; and***

***WHEREAS, during this week, all over the nation, service projects will be performed and volunteers recognized for their commitment to service; and***

***WHEREAS, the giving of oneself in service to another empowers the giver and the recipient; and***

***WHEREAS, experience teaches us that government by itself cannot solve all of our nation's social problems; and***

***WHEREAS, our country's volunteer force of over 64 million people is a great treasure; and***

***WHEREAS, volunteers are vital to our future as a caring and productive nation;***

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson, Marquette County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim***

***April 17 – 23, 2005  
As  
National Volunteer Week***

*In Marquette County, Michigan, and urge my fellow citizens to volunteer and “light the way” in their communities. By volunteering and recognizing those who serve, we can replace disconnection with understanding and compassion.*

*Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Kathy Herrala, RSVP Coordinator, thanked the County Board for the National Volunteer Week Proclamation and announced that there will be a Volunteer Recognition Day at the Westwood Mall on Saturday, April 23, 2005 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Dennis Boe, Concerned Citizens of Big Bay, addressed Commissioners regarding sulfite mining and distributed a list of items that remain an issue for the Concerned Citizens of Big Bay regarding the rules-making process for Statute 632 – Non-Ferrous Mining.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 8, 2005 through April 14, 2005 in the amount of \$2,642,323.76 and bi-weekly payroll for the period ending April 9, 2005 in the amount of \$576,670.16 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 11a) a Communication from Ray J. Adamini, Supervisor, Charter Township of Marquette.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

- a. 1<sup>st</sup> Step Advisory Board Meeting Invitation.
- b. Marquette County Building Codes Task Force Meeting Summary.
- c. MCTA Spring Banquet Invitation.
- d. Letter from Lynelle Marolf, Assistant Chief, Remediation and Redevelopment Division, DEQ, regarding Notice of Approval for the Declaration of Restrictive Covenants for Parcels on the Site-Specific, Basewide Remedial Action Plan for the Former K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base (complete copy of the Notice is available in the County Clerk’s Office).

### **ACTION ITEMS**

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10b, 10c, 10d and 10f be approved as follows:

10b) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the purchase of a 2005 midsize pickup truck for the Marquette County Health Department from Crown Motors of Negaunee in the amount of \$13,875.20 with the funds to be withdrawn from the County's Improvement Fund to be paid back by the Health Department over a four-year period.

10c) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to award the Annex floor covering bid to Carpet Specialists in the amount of \$66,500 and authorize the contract.

10d) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to modify Sawyer's water and sanitary sewer department's non-sufficient check policy as follows:

*If the customer's utility bill is current, but the payment is made with an NSF check, allow the customer five days to come and pay the \$20 NSF fee and make their account whole. If customers fail to pay or make acceptable payment arrangements, then the shut-off process will begin. If the customer's account is past due, and payment is made with an NSF check, the service will be immediately disconnected.*

10f) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to award a County-wide Digital Orthophotography Bid to Kucera International, Inc., in the amount of \$54,630 and authorize the contract.

**ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED**

10a) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to modify West Branch Township's IRP Loan with a two-year moratorium on principal payments and reduce the interest rate to 1.25% for two years. West Branch Township will have the option of making monthly interest payments or accruing interest during the two-year moratorium.

Comm. Heikkila expressed concern with West Branch Township not paying monthly interest payments. He stated this is not a good practice.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board modify West Branch Township's IRP Loan with a two-year moratorium on principal payments and reduce the interest rate to 1.25% for two years. West Branch Township will make monthly interest payments during the two-year moratorium.

10e) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the National Association of Counties' (NACO) Code of Ethics as a *guideline* for elected and appointed officials of the County but not employees of the County.

Comm. Wallace explained that the NACO Code of Ethics states "properly administer the affairs of the County". He explained that as it is written, he does not administer, the Board of Commissioners sets policy. He further explained that he lives his life by a set of ethics and does not need another. He tries to do things right. For these reasons, he cannot support this recommendation. Comm. Joseph agreed.

Comm. Pellow stated the NACO Code of Ethics is a very good guideline. It shows that the County Board will be leaders of this community. It puts the County Board up to the high standards citizens expect.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, and Comm. Corkin) to 2 Nays (Comm. Joseph and Comm. Wallace) that the County Board adopt the National

Association of Counties’ (NACO) Code of Ethics as a *guideline* for elected and appointed officials of the County but not employees of the County.

10g) The County Board considered a Training Grant with MDOT-Bureau of Aeronautics. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that to maintain certification compliance, the Federal Aviation Administration requires that personnel assigned to fire departments at airports with commercial airline service comply with Federal Aviation Regulation 139.319(j)(3) for an annual live fire burn. MDOT contracts with the Kellogg Community College for the use of mobile fire training unit (trailer) that is transported to airports all over the state to allow personnel to experience a semi-realistic experience for combating aircraft fires. As in the past, staff will invite fire departments from the surrounding townships to participate in the training of the Sawyer ARFF (Fire) personnel. The live burn training is scheduled for Tuesday, May 31, 2005.

The MDOT grant provides approximately \$5,500 not including the sponsor match which is approximately \$500 and the cost of supplies (propane gas) estimated at approximately \$1,000.

Comm. Struck requested that all municipalities be invited to participate not just the surrounding townships.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the agreement with MDOT for firefighting training for personnel assigned to the airport fire station and adopt the following resolution:

***RESOLUTION***

***RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FEDERAL AND STATE AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAWYER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNDER SPONSOR CONTRACT NO. 2005-0181.***

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

***Section I. That the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan shall enter into a Contract for the training of personnel at Sawyer International Airport, and that such Contract Agreement shall be as set forth hereinafter;***

***Section II. That the Chairperson of Marquette County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract Agreement on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and the County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest said execution:***

***Section III. That the Contract Agreement referred to herein shall be as attached.***

***Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2005.  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners***

**LATE ADDITIONS**

11a) The County Board considered a communication from Ray J. Adamini, Supervisor, Charter Township of Marquette, requesting County Board support in resolving an issue that will impact the future of regional cooperation between local units of government in Marquette County. Recently the City of Marquette announced a pending agreement to purchase approximately 2,400 acres of land within Marquette County from the Heartwood Forest Land Fund IV. Although 76% of that property, 1,810 acres, is within Marquette Township and Sands Township, neither local government was noticed of or involved in any of the discussions or planning leading to the announced pending purchase agreement.

Marquette Township has made a formal proposal to the City for cooperative partnership between the City of Marquette, the Charter Township of Marquette, and Sands Township, with an agreement to share in the purchase of the property – each entity individually purchasing the property within its boundaries – and to formulate a binding, three-way intergovernmental agreement governing the future use and development of the entire 2,400 acres.

The Charter Township of Marquette believes that such a partnership and agreement is in the best interests of the taxpayers and will further the recovery from prior issues of conflict, foster and improve relations between the three participants, and provide a framework for similar agreements dealing with other critical regional issues such as law enforcement/public safety, utility issues, transportation, and development in general.

Comm. Arsenault explained that he has had long discussions with Supervisor Adamini, and over the last few weeks with some of the other township supervisors as well. He explained that the townships are quite concerned regarding the lack of cooperation with the City of Marquette. He explained that this County Board, as an example, asks our administrator to attend meetings with township supervisors and city managers to try to work with other entities as much as possible. He emphasized that it is very important that this County Board go on record encouraging Marquette City to get along with its neighbors.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the County Board supporting the actual proposal made by the Charter Township of Marquette.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board support in concept the proposal from Marquette Township to the City of Marquette that includes intergovernmental cooperation between the City of Marquette, the Charter Township of Marquette, and Sands Township and further that the County Board strongly encourages all municipalities involved to work together to the benefit of all three municipalities. The County Board requests they be kept informed on the progress. A copy of the Board’s letter will be sent to Marquette City, the Charter Township of Marquette, and Sands Township and also a copy will be provided to the Lake Superior Jobs Coalition.

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

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, presented a forestry update to Commissioners. He explained that there are a number of items related to management of County forests that are ongoing or proposed for 2005. For informational purposes, he explained the timber sale for 2004 and the timber sale for 2005. He also explained the jackpine budworm outbreak. The 2005 reforestation program will replant the area currently being harvested. The County has reached a point in the forestry program where the forest is well-staked with

growing trees and are essentially operating on a “put and take” basis. This year the County will be planting 127 acres with 64,400 jackpine and 19,250 red pine. This will bring the total to 3.4 million trees planted since the program began.

Comm. Pellow requested the list of items presented during public comment from Dennis Boe, Concerned Citizens of Big Bay, regarding sulfite mining be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda. She also questioned the status of a meeting on the taxation issue with Kennecot.

Comm. Heikkila announced that he and Comm. Bergdahl attended the Community Development Block Grant Program Training Workshop last week. He explained that it was very helpful and informative.

Comm. Joseph requested updates on last week’s discussion regarding the Building Codes Department and Telkite documents.

There being no further business to become before the County Board the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam  
Marquette County Clerk