

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 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. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm., Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Bergdahl.

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 County Board of Commissioners Regular meeting held on February 1, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Gene Champagne, Big Bay, addressed the Board on behalf of the Concerned Citizens of Big Bay who are opposed to sulfite mining in the Big Bay area. Mr. Champagne asked that the County Board become involved in public discussions with the mining interests. Comm. Corkin noted that there will be a meeting scheduled by Sen. Prusi on Saturday, February 19, 2005 from 11:00 to 12:30 p.m. at the Powell Township School in Big Bay regarding this issue. Comm. Pellow advised that she will be attending this meeting.

Cynthia Pryor, Big Bay, addressed the Board regarding sulfite mining in the Big Bay area.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 4, 2005 through February 10, 2005 in the amount of \$190,389.76 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with Late Addition 11a) Humane Society Cat Claim Status.

PRIVILEGED COMMENT

Chairperson Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, expressed sympathy to the family of Jill Lucarelli, Magistrate, Ishpeming District Court, who recently passed away.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following informational item be accepted and placed on file:

- a. Invitation to Attend a *Supervisor's Exchange of Ideas*, Thursday, March 10, 2005, 1:00 P.M., Negaunee Township Community Center.
- b. Program Information from the 32nd Annual Ski Breakfast for Class of 2004 Inductees to the U.S. National Ski Hall of Fame.
- c. Communication from State Senator Michael Prusi to MDOT regarding Advanced Warning Beacons and a Reduction to the Speed Limit in Champion/Humboldt Township.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Joseph and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve Action Items 10a, 10b, 10c, 10e, 10f, and 10g as follows:

10a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation regarding County Board and Committee of the Whole Meeting Times.

10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Accept a Bid from Crown Motors for Two Vehicles for the Codes Department in the amount of \$27,604.26.

10c) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Authorize a 1-Year Rental Agreement for the DEQ Lease.

10e) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Amend the Agreement with County Remonumentation Representative.

10f) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Authorize Sponsorship of Emergency Watershed Protection Projects and Approval of the Agreement.

10g) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve a Letter Agreeing to Sponsor the Application and Support the Goals of the Central Lake Superior Watershed Partnership Project.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10d) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Authorize the Addition of a Temporary Part-time Secretary for 2005.

Comm. Pellow questioned authorizing the position for a full year. She thought the position was to be authorized for six months and be re-evaluated.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize the temporary part-time secretary position at Sawyer International Airport through September and re-evaluate the position at that time.

10h) The County Board considered a communication from Connie M. Branam, County Clerk, regarding HAVA. The State of Michigan is moving into the next phase of voting system replacement. The next step involves completion of a Grant Agreement between the State and each County, City and Township purchasing new equipment. The Board had previously entered into a Grant Agreement which covered the purchase of Election Management (EMS) Software.

In addition to EMS Software, the State will also purchase one precinct-count tabulator for each County Clerk to assist with training and programming. Because equipment levels are changing at the County level, a new Grant Agreement is needed. This Agreement is similar to the documents signed last year but has been upgraded to reflect the 2005 round of voting system purchases. The Application requires the submission of a Proof of Authority from the County Board. This step formally documents the authority to allow the County Clerk to enter into this Agreement with the State. The Grant Application has been reviewed by Civil Counsel.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board adopt the following resolution granting the authority to Connie M. Branam, Marquette County Clerk, to enter the Agreement with the State:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION
PROOF OF AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners wishes to apply to the Secretary of State for a grant to purchase an optical scan voting system and related Election Management System (EMS) software to comply with the Help American Vote Act (HAVA).

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners has chosen to submit a grant application for a new optical scan voting system in 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Clerk is authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of Marquette County on this 16th day of February, 2005.

The Chairperson declared the resolution adopted.

*Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a memorandum from Steve Powers, County Administrator, regarding the Humane Society Cat Claim Status. The intent of the memo was to update Commissioners on the status of this issue. County Administrator Steve Powers will have a recommendation for committee consideration after additional information has been received regarding this matter. The Humane Society is requesting reimbursement of \$34,354 for impounded cats as a result of an animal neglect case. The costs for impounding the cats was approximately \$48,000 with slightly more than \$13,000 being paid by the defendants. The Humane Society is requesting the County reimburse them for the balance. There is currently a contract between the County and the Humane Society. There is some question, depending on interpretation, as to whether or not the County has a duty to pay for the costs incurred by the Humane Society. There has been past practice in the County for paying for the care of animals taken in similar animal neglect cases.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Gene Champagne, Big Bay, again addressed the County Board, regarding sulfite mining in Big Bay. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced the Governor’s Executive Order regarding budget cuts/amendments. If ratified as presented, the Order may have an impact on county agencies such as MSU Extension Office, FIA, or Corrections. The Executive Order regarding revenue sharing should be drafted within 30 days.

Comm. Struck discussed the recent MAC Conference. He noted that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is well respected in the State and considered a leader. Chairperson Corkin and other

Commissioners are thought highly of. Comm. Struck would like to commend and thank the Board and County Staff for their good work.

Comm. Wallace also discussed the recent MAC Conference. He noted that through property tax and income tax rollbacks from the State, money that could have been available on the state level is now money available on the federal level instead.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Comm. Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go into Closed Session to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute, to-wit: attorney/client privileged material MCL 15.268(h).

Chairperson Corkin declared a five minute recess to clear commission chambers at approximately 7:10 P.M.

.....CLOSED SESSION.....

The County Board came back into open session at approximately 7:30 P.M.

County Administrator Steve Powers explained that some information has previously been provided regarding the tax implications of mining operations, not specifically sulfite mining. Comm. Pellow suggested the County facilitate some type of public forum regarding the sulfite mining issue.

Comm. Arsenault questioned the status of Telkite discussions. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Telkite discussions will be on the agenda within the next week or two.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie A. Skytta
Marquette County Deputy Clerk