
The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, 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. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Joseph.

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 January 18, 2005 be approved.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND AWARDS

Chairperson Corkin read the following resolution honoring Dale Mercure on his retirement:

*MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING DALE MERCURE ON HIS RETIREMENT*

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, quality services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Dale Mercure was hired on February 1, 1977 as a Maintenance Mechanic in the Buildings and Grounds Department which has since been reclassified as Facilities Mechanic in the Resource Management/ Development Department; and

WHEREAS, Dale Mercure will retire on January 28, 2005 after dedicating 28 years of service to Marquette County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully expresses its appreciation to Dale Mercure for his 28 years of excellent service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all County Citizens, the Marquette County Board wishes Dale a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

*Proclaimed this 1st day of February, 2005
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Mr. Mercure was present to accept his award. He addressed the County Board regarding concerns he has with Larry Gould, Facilities Manager.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Tom Clark, Attorney representing Telkite, Inc. addressed Commissioners and explained they were available to answer any questions.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote (Comm. Joseph absent) that Claims and Accounts for the period January 21, 2005 through January 27,

- Involvement with the Builders and Developers regarding the Building Codes Task Force and Ways to Increase Efficiencies.
- Participation to Help Support the Efforts of the County Airport to Enhance Aviation Opportunities at Sawyer.

Comm. Wallace thanked Mike Gokey for his significant contributions to the Partnership.

Mr. Gokey on behalf of the Partnership and the EDC thanked the County Board for their involvement. Without County Board involvement none of these projects would be possible.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

- a. Communication from U.S. Senator Carl Levin Sharing Achievements and Disappointments of 2004 and Thoughts of 2005.

ACTION ITEMS

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

10a) A request from CUPPAD to renew membership in the CUPPAD Regional Commission.

10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to endorse the Lake Superior Community Partnership's Proposal for the Rural Community Development Initiative – Noquemanon Trail Network Plan.

10c) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to present Mike Gokey, Director of the Economic Development Corporation a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Gokey was present to accept his Certificate of Appreciation.

10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the Revised Purchasing Policy.

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10e) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to create a Building Codes Task Force consisting of two County Commissioners, and Electrical Contractor, a Plumbing Mechanical Contractor, a Residential Builder, a Commercial Builder, and an undesignated member. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the Task Force's charge is to help Marquette County with continuous improvement through ongoing discussion and exploration of new, innovative, and cost effective ways of providing service. The tasks will include meeting as needed, sharing information, discussing ideas, and researching improvements. The Task Force should be the setting for discussion and problem solving between inspectors and contractors. The Task Force is intended to be an informal, problem solving and problem avoidance group. The Task Force will be effective if the contractors and inspectors can resolve issues at the lowest possible decision making level.

Because the intent of the Task Force is for contractors and inspectors to have professional, peer to peer dialogue and communication, including issues and problems of a technical nature, Mr. Powers believes it is very important for at least the Building Official to be a member of the Task Force.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Struck, to add the Building Official as a member of the Task Force.

Comm. Wallace, Comm. Cihak, and Comm. Bergdahl, felt a County employee on an oversight committee should not have a vote. Their consensus was to appoint the Building Official as an Ex-Officio Member only.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the motion be amended to add the Building Official as an Ex-Officio Member.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Heikkila) that the County Board approve the Committee of the Whole Recommendation to create a Building Codes Task Force.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a communication from Gary R. Yoder, Treasurer, regarding nickel mining. Mr. Yoder is concerned about the tax implications of the proposed mine in the Yellow Dog Plains. He is aware of the new legislation that protected the environment but is interested in the property tax implications of the operation.

Comm. Pellow stated that she is concerned regarding how much tax involvement Kenecot is going to give to the County as well as local governmental units. She agrees with Mr. Yoder.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that he has requested clarification of the statute from the State Tax Commission. He has received no response as of this date.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board send a letter to the State Geologist requesting interpretation and clarification as to what is going to be the value of the property once the mine begins.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Comm. Corkin) to 0 Nays that the County Board go into Closed Session to discuss confidential attorney/client correspondence regarding Telkite.

Chairperson Corkin declared a two minute recess to clear commission chambers at approximately 7:30 P.M..

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

The County Board came back into open session at 8:40 P.M.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board:

- 1) Defer action on the Telkite Proposal with respect to the \$1 million payment now in the trust account of Attorney Thomas Clark, with the understanding that if Telkite needs the funding or any part of it to meet financial obligations they are free to withdraw some or all of that money from that trust account to meet those obligations;
- 2) With respect to the negotiations on the EDC side, the Board will exercise its option and require the \$2 million Letter of Credit as the agreement originally contemplated; and

- 3) Authorize Staff to submit the proposals recommended by Staff to Telkite with respect to the ALP proposed lease terms.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Mike Quayle, 1700 Mildred Avenue, Marquette, questioned the motion and why it was stated by Civil Counsel. He requested further clarification on why Telkite can utilize the \$1 million payment in the trust account.

Chairperson Corkin responded by stating the County Board is enforcing the original agreement signed by the County Board and Telkite. He explained that the deal is not yet finalized, therefore, no payment is due the County as of today. When the agreement is finalized the \$1 million will be due plus a \$2 million Letter of Credit. He further explained that Telkite is asking for modifications to the original agreement.

Vikki Kulju, Telkite, Inc., stated she didn't feel Chairperson Corkin painted a true picture and felt it was a misclarification of facts.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced he represented the Board at the Hall of Fame Breakfast in Ishpeming. It was a nice celebration for the inductees to the Ski Hall of Fame.

Comm. Heikkila responded to Mr. Quayle's comments. He explained that the terms are not agreed upon. It is not the fault of one party or the other.

Comm. Pellow added that the County Board feels it is very important to work out the details of the agreement with Telkite. She stated that Staff has been instructed to proceed as soon as possible.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk