

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 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: 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 March 1, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Vikki Kulju, Telkite, Inc., explained she was present to answer any questions prior to or after the Closed Session regarding Telkite.

Joe Pietro, Gwinn, Michigan, addressed the County Board regarding Telkite. He commended the County Board and Telkite for their efforts so far and encouraged them to proceed.

Bob Vick, Sawyer Six Project Committee, was present to answer any questions regarding the Sawyer Six Project Request.

Richard Hendrickson, addressed Commissioners regarding sulfite mining. He requested that if a committee is established he would like to be considered.

Karen Anderson, Sawyer Operations Authority, addressed Commissioners and explained she is present to answer questions regarding the Sawyer Water/Wastewater systems.

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 February 25, 2005 through March 3, 2005 in the amount of \$344,571.62, bi-weekly payroll for the period ending February 26, 2005 in the amount of \$580,786.54, and claims and accounts for the period March 4, 2005 through March 10, 2005 in the amount of \$397,290.60 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with deleting Item 10d) Personal Property Request, and removing part of 10h) the appointment of one unexpired 3-year term for the Commission on Aging in the Senior Category.

PRIVILEGED COMMENT

Chairperson Corkin read a communication from the Marquette City Fire Department regarding the Pigs-N-Heat Hockey game on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at 7:00 P.M.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

- a. News from Congressman Bart Stupak regarding U.S. Department of Transportation Grant for Sawyer International Airport.
- b. Communications to Rep. Adamini and Sen. Prusi regarding Governor's Proposed 2005 Executive Order and Proposed Budget for 2006 to Eliminate Local Public Health Operation Funding for Vision and Hearing Screening Programs.
- c. Invitation Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Founding of the National Ski Association of America.
- d. Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning Approval of Challenge Award Grant for Highway Safety Projects.
- e. Communication from MDOT regarding Concerns with U.S. 41 in Champion Township.
- f. Communication from the U.S. Census Bureau regarding Community Surveys.
- g. Communication from Pathways regarding Liquor Tax.
- h. CUPPAD Regional Commission Notice of Intent for EDA Planning Grant.

Comm. Wallace addressed Item 9b. He explained that the Governor's proposed 2005 Executive Order and proposed Budget for 2006 would eliminate local public health operation funding for the vision and hearing screening programs provided by Michigan's local health departments. He stated this effects our children and our schools.

Comm. Wallace requested additional information on Item 9f) Communication from the U.S. Census Bureau regarding Community Surveys.

Comm. Pellow requested that a copy of 9e) Communication from MDOT regarding Concerns with U.S. 41 in Champion Township be sent to the Champion and Humboldt Township Supervisors.

Comm. Struck addressed Informational Item 9e) Communication from MDOT regarding Concerns with U.S. 41 in Champion Township. He commended MDOT for their cooperation with the issue.

ACTION ITEMS

10a) The County Board considered a proposed fee for HIV counseling and testing from Dr. Randall M. Johnson, Marquette County Health Department. As of January 1, 2005 the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has chosen to redirect essentially all State/Federal funds available to support free HIV counseling and testing by Michigan's local health departments to the 16 "high impact" health departments. As a result of this change, the remaining 29 "low impact" local health departments (including the Marquette County Health Department) will receive minimal state/federal funding to support this essential preventative service.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board adopt the new HIV Counseling and Testing Fee of \$35.00 (estimated to cover approximately 50% of the cost).

10b) The County Board considered a resolution from the Iron County Board of Commissioners to oppose the closing of the Iron River Police Post. The Iron County Board of Commissioners is requesting Marquette County Board support opposing closing of this post.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board support the Resolution opposing the closing of the Iron River State Police Post.

10c) The County Board considered a request from the Sawyer Six Project Committee. Bob Vick, Sawyer Six Project Committee, explained that for the past year a group of local and down state alumni of the 97th Fighter Interceptor Squadron have campaigned to have an F-106A Delta Dart Jet returned to the Upper Peninsula and KI Sawyer. These magnificent jets raced through the skies of the Upper Peninsula from 1971 through 1986 protecting the northern tier of the United States from any unfriendly intruders trying to enter our County. Today, through the hard work and dedication of the 87th FIS Alumni, Forsyth Township, the State of Michigan, the General Services Aviation (GSA), the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio and the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center (AMARC) in Tucson, Arizona, are ready to “bring the red bull home!”

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Struck and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the request of the Sawyer Six Project Committee by supporting their endeavor to have the F-106A Delta Dart Jet returned to KI Sawyer’s Air Park.

10e) The County Board considered a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, to approve a bid award to Mega Door of Peachtree City, Georgia for the replacement door for Hangar 665 for American Eagle’s Regional Aircraft Maintenance Center (RAMCI) in the amount of \$430,040. Funding for this hangar door has already been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration with Marquette County’s acceptance of AIP Grant No: 3-26-0153-1504, and 3-year FY 2004, 2005, and 2006 Military Airports Program (MAP) Application, with the funding formula of 95% (FAA) and 5% (Marquette County. Marquette County’s sponsor match will be derived from the sale proceeds of the former Marquette County Airport in Negaunee.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the bid award to Mega Door of Peachtree City, Georgia for the replacement door for Hangar 665 for American Eagle’s Regional Aircraft Maintenance Center.

10f) The County Board considered a Leachate Agreement submitted by Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager. When County Staff made a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners to retain the Water and Wastewater Systems for at least the next two years staff advised that they were attempting to locate another revenue source. Because of the 1 million gallon industrial lagoon at Sawyer, the plant is well suited to take and treat septage, which the plan is now receiving, and leachate. Leachate is a water by product from landfills. The proposed Leachate Disposal Agreement is a 3-year agreement with Great American Disposal (GAD). GAD estimates they will need to dispose of approximately 3 to 5 million gallons of leachate per year. This will add \$51,000 to \$85,000 in revenue for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Agreement charges 1.7 cents per gallon for the first 100,000 gallons of leachate per day. The rate per gallon increases to 2 cents per gallon above 101,000 gallons and to 2.5 cents above 201,000 gallons per day. The rate of 1.7 cents per gallon equates to \$17,000 per every 1,000 gallons treated. This sanitary sewer rate for residential customers is 6.55 per 1,000 gallons.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize the Chair to sign the Leachate Agreement with Great American Disposal.

10g) The County Board considered the Sawyer Water/Wastewater System. The County has received a letter from the Bauckham, Sparks, Rolfe, Lohrstorfer & Thall, P.C. Law Firm retained by Forsyth Township, West Branch Township, and the Sawyer Operations Authority, to investigate the new rate charges for water/wastewater services provided by the County. The Law Firm letter refers to possible violations by statute. In a letter from Cheryl Hill, Civil Counsel, there were no violations of statute. The County Board has done things according to law.

Comm. Struck explained that the reason the Attorney letter came to the Board is because the Sawyer Operations Authority and West Branch and Forsyth Townships were being approached by local residents at

Sawyer regarding the water rates and the water issues. He explained that the Townships approached the MTA (Michigan Townships Association) to see if there were issues they could deal with in terms of the treatment plant. The MTA referred the Townships to the Attorney who has some expertise in this issue. He explained that the bottom line was just to have meetings but the attorney addressed other issues. He also explained that the Sawyer Operations Authority wants to have a good relationship with the County. They request a meeting to see what their options are. They have no intent to be contentious.

Karen Anderson, Sawyer Operations Authority, was present and also explained that the letter was not only a request for the system to move to the Township or the Authority but to work with the County. The County may be an equal partner. They want to look at all options.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board proceed with discussion with all parties involved to discuss water/wastewater issues.

10h) It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that David Bleau, Ely Township, be appointed to the Commission on Aging for an unexpired 3-year term ending 12/31/05 in the Township Association Category.

On a roll call ballot the following appointments were made:

MARQTRAN - Linda Winslow, unexpired 3-year term ending 12/31/06, Township Association Category

PATHWAYS – Bill Davie, Jacqueline Dault, 3-year terms expiring 3/31/08

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Mike Gokey be appointed to the EDC for an unexpired 6-year term ending 12/31/10 in the Hospitality and Retail Category.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Joe Pietro, Gwinn, Michigan, addressed the County Board regarding the proposed American Eagle Training Facility. He stated this Training Facility is good for Marquette County and good for KI Sawyer. It is a step in the right direction.

Vikki Kulju, Telkite, Inc, addressed the County Board on behalf of Telkite. She thanked Staff for their efforts, hard work and their professionalism during these negotiations. She also asked the County Board to support Staff’s recommendation and approve the Agreement that is being considered in Closed Session tonight.

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

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Pellow, 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 five minute recess to clear Commission Chambers.

.....**CLOSED SESSION**.....

The County Board came back into open session.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Pellow, and Comm. Wallace) to 1 Nay (Comm. Corkin) to direct Staff to continue working on the Marketing Agreement Proposal with Telkite and to bring back the clarification requested by the County Board for the March 22, 2005 Committee of the Whole meeting.

There being no further business to become before the County Board the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk