

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

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 February 16, 2005 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 18, 2005 through February 24, 2005 in the amount of \$505,620.17 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following change: Delete Item 13) Closed Session to Discuss Confidential Attorney/Client Correspondence regarding Telkite (MCL152.68(h)).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

- a. Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation Newest Joint Effort – Aviation Maintenance Academy.
- b. Michigan Public Service Commission Notice of Hearing regarding Possible Rate Increases.
- c. Crawford County Board of Commissioners Communication regarding Senate Bill 1105.
- d. Communication from Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, regarding Funding for FOC Offices and MiCSES.
- e. Communication from State Senator Mike Prusi and State Representative Rich Brown regarding Powell Township's Request for a USGS Baseline Hydrologic Survey of the Yellow Dog Plains Region.

Comm. Wallace commended Carolyn Hanson, Friend of the Court, for her letter regarding funding for FOC Offices and MiCSES.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board send letters of support regarding Informational Items 9a, 9c, 9d, and 9e.

ACTION ITEMS

10a) The County Board considered a Resolution regarding ratification of the 96th District Court Magistrate appointment.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board adopt the following resolution appointing Charity K. Mason as Magistrate of the 96th District Court.

*MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
RATIFICATION OF MAGISTRATE APPOINTMENT*

WHEREAS, Charity K. Mason will be appointed by the 96th District Court as a Magistrate of the Court effective upon approval of said appointment by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, MCL 600.8501 provides that a magistrate appointment "shall be subject to approval by the County Board of Commissioners"; and

WHEREAS, the Judges of the 96th District Court have requested approval of the aforesaid appointment;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The appointment of Charity K. Mason as Magistrate of the 96th District Court is hereby approved effective this date.

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

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve Action Items 10b, 10d, and 10e as follows:

10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the extension of Equalization Director Employment Agreement with Dwight Sunday.

10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the following resolution supporting the Forest Service Revisions to the regulations that govern Land and Resource Planning of National Forests:

*MARQUETTE COUNTY RESOLUTION
REGARDING FOREST SERVICE REVISIONS*

WHEREAS, on December 22, 2004 the Forest Service unveiled long-awaited revisions to the regulations that govern land and resource planning on the 191 million acres of national forests. These new regulations fundamentally change how national forest plans are revised. These rules will revamp the forest management system to give regional forest managers more discretion to decide whether or not to approve logging, mining, or other projects, and

WHEREAS, timber growing in our country's national forests is valuable not only because of its recreational appeal and commercial uses, but also because these renewable resources are a cornerstone of the local economy. Sound management of the forests, especially harvesting timber to an extent that maximizes the health of the forests, is vital to using the land in the most productive and far-sighted manner, and

WHEREAS, in spite of plans that call for far higher levels of timber harvest, the national forests located in Michigan have all yielded significantly lower harvests than the targeted quantities in recent years. In Fiscal Year 2003, 26.7 million board feet (MMBF) were harvested from the Hiawatha National Forest out of an allowable sale quantity of 70 MMBF; 36.7 MMBF were harvested from the Huron Manistee National Forest out of the allowable quantity of 82.2 MMBF; and 55.9 MMBF was the harvested volume out of a target of 79 MMBF from the Ottawa National Forest, and

WHEREAS, Michigan forests are growing and maturing due to sustainable forest management practices. The value of the timber is also growing and from 1991-1997 the value of the federal timber sold in Michigan has increased by 112%. Michigan counties should be seeing increased revenue from timber sale receipts. Michigan currently has the largest timber surplus in the nation, grows 2.5 times more wood than being harvested each year gained 1.1 million acres of timberland since 1980 these statistics are due in large part to a commitment to good forest management, and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service returns 25% of gross revenues to the counties in which the lands are located. These funds are used to support local schools and roads and the timber sale program is responsible for generating 90 to 95% of all receipts collected by all agencies making these payments. This rules change will enhance the 25% funds and expedite the timber sales programs, and

WHEREAS, if no federal timber were sold, Michigan would stand to lose \$540,347 in 25% and PILT Payments as compared to FY 1997 payments. Over the last 5 years, Forest Service 25% payments totaled \$8.8 million. According to the Forest Services own TSPIRS document there was more than \$91 million in direct, indirect and induced employment created by the Federal Timber Sale Program in FY 1997. Michigan's economy and the rural communities where forest service ownership is prevalent would have a hard time coping with economic loses of this magnitude.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Forest Service rules are designated to make forest planning more timely and cost effective by streamlining a process that can take years, enhancing public participation and saving the federal government hundreds of millions of dollars. The rules should also give forest managers more flexibility to respond to scientific advancements and the ability to respond more quickly to threats from invasive species, disease or wildfire. The new rules also give economic activity equal priority with preserving the ecological health of the forest when making management decisions and they have the potential to increase the caps on how much timber can be taken from a forest.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Marquette County Board of Commissioners resolves to request our Congressional delegation ensure that the Forest Service act upon their commitments, financially through 25% and full PILT Payments and, by implementing the new forest plans, utilizing the new rules, and which will be developed by, among others, the citizens of Michigan.

Adopted this 1st day of March, 2005
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

10e) Committee of the Whole Recommendation appointing the Building Codes Task Force as follows:

- Plumbing/Mechanical - John Beauchamp
- Electrical – Jay Clancey
- Residential Contractor – Lynn Swadley
- Commercial Contractor – Wayne Premeau
- Undesignated – Paul Uimari

10c) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve a Resolution and Cost Share Agreement with the FAA. Due to continued decreasing numbers of aircraft operations at Sawyer's Air Traffic Control Tower since opening in the fall of 2002 and a recalculation of the FAA Staff of Sawyer's benefit costs (B/C Ratio), the FAA determined that 100% federal funding for the continued operation of Sawyer Tower will be discontinued as of February 28, 2005.

Airport Staff submitted a letter of request to be included in the Cost Share Program to continue to receive ATC services. Under the Cost Share Agreement, the annual cost to operate Sawyer’s Tower is estimated at approximately \$341,664 with the FAA funding 90% (approximately \$307,497.60) and the County providing the remaining 10% sponsor match (\$34,166.40). Failure to approve the Cost Share Agreement will result in a draw down of federal funding beginning March 1, 2005, resulting in eventual closure of the tower this year. Approximately \$34,000 has been budgeted in the FY 2005 Airport Budget for the 10% Airport sponsored match.

Comm. Struck questioned if there are plans in place to restore the number of funds and the 100% federal funding.

Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the next recalculation of Sawyer’s Benefit Cost Ratio will occur in the spring of 2007. At that time, if the County is able to increase the air traffic numbers and get to or exceed the 1.0 threshold then the FAA will automatically revert Marquette County back to 100% funding. He further explained if the County is unable to increase the County’s air traffic numbers the B/C ratio will remain at .90. It will not fall below which would possibly increase our sponsor match. Mr. Kaspari explained what is being done to increase air traffic numbers and made suggestions to make Sawyer more available to the flying public.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the Cost Share Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the continued operation of the Air Traffic Control Tower at Sawyer International Airport 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 FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PARTICIPATING IN A COST-SHARE AGREEMENT OF THE FEDERAL CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM AT SAWYER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

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 participating in the Cost-Share agreement of the Federal Contract Air Traffic Control Program 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.

CERTIFICATION

I, Connie M. Branam, Clerk of the County of Marquette, Michigan, hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners at their meeting held on the 1st day of March, 2005.

*Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk*

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Struck announced he has had a discussion with MDOT regarding the Champion/Humboldt safety issues and other issues on Marquette County highways. He thanked MDOT for their support of our concerns.

Chairperson Corkin congratulated Comm. Wallace being appointed voting member of the MACC Human Services Committee for 2005.

Comm. Bergdahl announced he was appointed to the EDC and Taxation Board for 2005. He announced that interviews will begin next week for the position of EDC Director. There were over 30 applicants and hopefully a Director will be in place by the end of next week.

Comm. Wallace in reading *The Price of Government*, suggested that to help improve services, some counties have used a Performance Contract. He gave an example: the Building Codes implementing a 72-hour response time, if that is not met, all or a portion of the permitting fees could be returned to the contractor.

Comm. Pellow requested a response from Staff regarding a Code of Ethics.

There being no further business to become before the County Board the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk