

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, at 6:30 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Bergdahl and Comm. Joseph.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on August 9, 2005 be approved with the following correction: On Page 5 Comm. Struck noted an error: Table 1 Net Assets. Total Primary Government 2004 Column should read Total Assets \$95,119,303 and Total Liabilities \$15,559,133.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bill Hager, Marquette County Fair Board, thanked the County Board and requested they take official action to settle the issue regarding the Agricultural vs. Commercial Building.

Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, supported the Marquette County Fair Board and stated it is the County Board's responsibility to do what is right.

Wanda Bergdahl, Skandia, addressed the Committee regarding a rumor she heard.

Linda Bruce, 4-H Leader, addressed the County Board. She supports the Fair Board and stated that the Marquette County Fair is growing and it is helping Marquette County.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 10) Runway Sweeper Purchase; Item 11) Memo from Civil Counsel regarding the Fair Board; Item 12) Request from Comm. Pellow regarding the Title IV E Entitlement Funds. Also Item 11 was moved up on the Agenda as Item 5A.

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The Committee considered a memo from Cheryl L. Hill, Civil Counsel, regarding the Marquette County Fair Board. Ms. Hill was present and explained that the memo provides a complete outline of the situation. She is requesting that the County Board not take any action because of the pending lawsuit. She requests that the County Board allow discussions to resolve civil litigations to go forward; direct Counsel to defend the civil litigation; and have Civil Counsel report progress to the County Board in a two month period of time.

A lengthy discussion followed. Commissioner consensus was to negotiate to resolve this issue and not waste time and money on litigation.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize Staff to proceed with negotiations with the Marquette County Fair Board to resolve this issue.

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It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period August 12, 2005 through August 18, 2005, in the amount of \$1,538,734.56 and Bi-weekly Payroll for the period ending August 13, 2005, in the amount of \$590,484.68 be approved.

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The Committee considered approval of the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement presented by Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Management Coordinator. As part of the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program, Marquette County was allocated \$304,814 to be used for activities associated with planning, equipment acquisition, training, and exercises. These funds must be used to enhance the capability to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from incidents of terrorism involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive weapons and cyber attacks. Of that amount, \$222,258 is to be used for homeland security and \$82,556 for law enforcement terrorism prevention.

The funding must improve our area's capacity to meet the needs identified through the State Homeland Security Assessment and Strategy (SHSAS) Initiative that was completed in 2003. This funding is not to equip individual local governments/services, but to prepare our overall community.

The Local Planning Team made up of representatives from various agencies is placing its emphasis on but not limited to: 1) Shelters – Identifying and properly equipping including backup power; 2) Schools – Ensuring adequate measures are being taken to provide for safe schools; 3) GIS – Compiling and digitizing important information pertaining to hazmat, resources to respond to events, critical infrastructures, and making information readily available in user-friendly GIS system; and 4) Planning – Future grants will be based on regional cooperation. Detailed planning on needs of Marquette County will be critical in securing funding.

Ms. Schwalbach is requesting the County Board approve the Grant Agreement, which would be in effect until January 31, 2007, with no local match required.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the FY 2005 Homeland Security Grant Program Agreement.

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The Committee considered FAA AIP Entitlement Funds. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that approved projects for the 2005 AIP Funds are snow removal equipment (sweeper), runway and taxiway painting, and repair of general aviation terminal door. The bid opening for the sweeper was August 19, 2005. The painting will be a Spring 2006 Project. The General Aviation Terminal Repair is planned for this year. MDOT administers the contract on behalf of the Airport. MDOT's charge is \$2,536.

Mr. Powers further explained the 2005 Entitlement Funds have been approved by the FAA and Board of Commissioners for the ARFF Building. The remaining Entitlement funds are \$335,536. The Airport's share is \$8,389.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Resolution with the

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Michigan Department of Transportation for administration of FAA AIP 2005 Projects at Sawyer International Airport and Business Center.

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The Committee considered an MDOT Contract Amendment – Airport Rescue and Fire Facility (ARFF). Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the ARFF Facility includes office space for Sawyer International Airport and Business Center. The office space exceeds what the Federal Aviation Administration will approve for an ARFF Building. The office space is needed to relocate Staff from the existing Business Center Building. The Business Center Building has been sold to Telkite.

Airport Personnel are currently housed in three buildings. Consolidating Staff in three buildings will improve efficiency. The vacated office space in the terminal can be leased, generating revenue for the Airport. The Federal Transportation Security Administration has shown an interest in the terminal space.

The Building was funded by the FAA to improve the Airport’s crash fire response time. The current crash fire response facility’s location has been problematic to the Airport meeting the FAA required response time.

The FAA has determined that federal funding for the facility has changed. The building’s administrative and office space exceeds the FAA’s space requirements for personnel assigned to crash and fire rescue services. The office space will be 3% (2.8%) of the total building’s square footage. The building will be completed this fall.

Marquette County’s share (local share) for the project is increasing by \$126,939. Funding for the local share is from the Passenger Facility Charge approved for the project. The approved Passenger Facility Charge is sufficient to complete the project. The total local share is \$419,891. The total project cost is \$5,804,625.

Commissioners and Staff engaged in a brief discussion regarding the change in the federal funding determination by the FAA. Chairperson Corkin explained that the plan was clear but the funding was not.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Resolution authorizing the Board Chair to sign the MDOT Contract Amendment – Airport Rescue and Fire Facility (ARFF).

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The Committee of considered a Letter of Understanding between Marquette County and the Marquette County Road Commission. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Marquette County and the Marquette County Road Commission have a history of working together to the benefit of both organizations and the public. Road Commissions are separate and almost independent from counties. Cooperative efforts need to make sense for both organizations.

Jim Iwanicki, Engineer/Manager, Marquette County Road Commission, was present and explained that as a result of discussion over the last five or six months dealing with land issues, the Road Commission has requested that a document be prepared to outline a cooperative approach.

Chairperson Corkin emphasized that the history of the County Board has always been to work with the Road Commission and any other entity in any way they can.

Comm. Wallace explained the basic purpose of a Letter of Understanding is to provide a learning document to better understand the relationship between the County and other entities, how they operate both in the past and an eye to the future.

Mr. Powers explained that the Letter of Understanding is not a binding contract. It is a guide for Staff and boards, especially as persons involved with past cooperative efforts are no longer employed or serving. Overall and long term, there should be a positive budget impact as the organizations work together to better serve the public.

Comm. Pellow stated she feels this is a very positive approach. Something all entities should enter into to better work together.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Letter of Understanding between the County of Marquette and the Marquette County Road Commission.

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The Committee considered the jurisdictional transfer of County Road 480. Jim Iwanicki, Engineer/Manager, Marquette County Road Commission, was present and explained that the Road Commission requests support on developing a plan to turn the jurisdiction of County Road 480 over to the State. The Road Commission believes that County Road 480 is not acting as a local primary road. They also believe that County Road 480 has at least regional (Upper Peninsula) importance if not State and National importance. They also believe that County Road 480 provides a valuable east/west corridor as an alternate route to bypass the congestion of the U.S. 41/M-28 corridor in the City of Marquette. Further, the Road Commission believes that County Road 480 could bring economic development along the corridor.

Mr. Iwanicki explained that County Road 480 traffic volumes exceed many other state roads even in Marquette County. He also believes County Road 480 traffic volume exceeds many state roads throughout the State. He stated that the citizens of Marquette County and the State of Michigan would both benefit from this transfer. The road would be maintained at a higher level, other County primary roads that badly need fixing could be addressed sooner, and economic development would occur.

The Marquette County Road Commission is talking to the County, the Cities, and the Townships about this transfer. The Road Commission feels this is a public process and these are the best places to discuss local impacts.

Mr. Iwanicki has already began discussion with MDOT requesting the ground rules to consider taking County Road 480 as a State Route. He has also discussed the transfer with Ishpeming and Negaunee Staff, and has written a letter to all public entities along the County Road 480 corridor. He is requesting input and concerns if any regarding this issue.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support a plan for the jurisdictional transfer of County Road 480 to the State.

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The Committee considered a Runway Sweeper Purchase. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that bids were received for the Runway Sweeper. The apparent low bid did not meet specifications. Industrial Marketing and Consulting, Gwinn, met the specifications. MDOT concurs with the recommendation to award the bid to Industrial Marketing and Consulting. The estimated amount in the AIP for the Sweeper is \$220,000.

The equipment is included in Sawyer Airport’s FY 2005 Airport Improvement Program. The Federal Aviation Administration funds 95%, the Michigan Department of Transportation 2.5%, and Marquette County 2.5%. Marquette County’s share will be funded from Passenger Facility Charges.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Runway Sweeper Purchase Bid to Industrial Marketing and Consulting, Gwinn, Michigan, in the amount of \$196,800.

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Comm. Pellow questioned whether a Letter of Support was sent regarding the memo from Benjamin E. Bodkin, Legislative Coordinator, Michigan Association of Counties, to the Honorable Dave Camp, United States Congressman, regarding the threat to Federal Title IV E funding for Michigan Foster Care. Chairperson Corkin informed Comm. Pellow that a Letter of Support has been sent.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Bill Hager, Marquette County Fair Board, responded to comments made by Civil Counsel regarding the Codes Department.

Cheryl Hill, Civil Counsel, clarified comments for Mr. Hager regarding the Fair Board issue.

Earl Yelle, Sands Township Supervisor, apologized to Comm. Wallace for misunderstanding his comments.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners engaged in a brief discussion regarding comments made during public comment.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, reminded Commissioners of Departmental Budget Work Sessions on Monday and Tuesday, August 29th and 30th at 1:00 P.M. in Room 231 of Commission Chambers.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk