

*Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval*

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The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, February 22, 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. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent: None.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on February 8, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Dennis Boe, Marquette, addressed the Committee regarding pollution and economic concerns regarding sulfite mining in the Big Bay Area.

Elizabeth Boe, Marquette, expressed her opposition to 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. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 11) Letter from Christopher Thierry Re: Water/Sewer Payments at K. I. Sawyer.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 11, 2005 through February 17, 2005 in the amount of \$214,794.31 and bi-weekly payroll for the period ending February 12, 2005 in the amount of \$570,022.21 be approved.

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The Committee considered an extension to Dwight Sunday's Employment Agreement with the County. Mr. Sunday has served as Marquette County's Equalization Director since 2001. Mr. Sunday's work performance has been very satisfactory. Retaining a qualified, competent, level-four certified appraiser is important to the County's ability to maintain equalized tax values.

Changes from the current agreement are the extension of the contract to May 31, 2006 and a reduction in annual hours from 1,248 to 1,040 in 2005. Mr. Sunday's salary will be reduced accordingly. While the reduction request was initiated by Mr. Sunday, County Administrator Steve Powers and Mr. Sunday both feel that management and appraisal responsibility of tax administration and equalization can be met with fewer hours.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the extension of Mr. Sunday's contract to May 31, 2006, and reduce his annual hours from 1,248 to 1,040 annually, with a corresponding reduction in pay.

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The Committee considered a Contract Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration. The Federal Aviation Administration's Federal Contract Tower Program contracts air traffic control services to 226 airports around the United States and two U. S. territories. Four contract towers are located in Michigan, including the tower at Sawyer.

The advantages of the Federal Contract Tower program are enhanced safety, improved ATC services to airport users, and a cost savings to the FAA in comparison to towers staffed by FAA controllers.

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 by the FAA staff of Sawyer's Benefit Cost (B/C Ratio), the FAA determined that 100 percent 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 percent (approximately \$307,497.60) and the County providing the remaining 10 percent 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 \$40,000 has been budgeted in the FY-2005 Airport Budget for the 10 percent airport sponsor match.

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 Cost-Share Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the continued operation of the Air Traffic Control Tower at Sawyer International Airport.

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The Committee considered a Resolution from Ontonagon County regarding Forest Service Revisions to the Regulations that Govern Land and Resource Planning of National Forests.

These new regulations fundamentally change how National Forest Plans are revised. There is a possibility to get more harvests, closer to the number of targeted harvests for each area, which is very important to the Upper Peninsula. The forests need to be managed to get the maximum production and returns for the area.

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 adopt a Resolution Supporting Forest Service Revisions to the Regulations that Govern Land and Resource Planning of National Forests.

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The Committee heard an update regarding the Building Codes Task Force from Greg Sicotte, Building Official. Mr. Sicotte advised that the first quarterly report regarding the Task Force will be provided in March. He stated that new cell phones, equipped with cameras, have been purchased, although there are currently some problems with the software for the phones. He stated that he has been in contact with surrounding counties regarding inspectors from these areas doing some inspections for Marquette County. Ads for part-time inspectors are also planned. Mr. Sicotte stated that currently the Building Codes Department is averaging two days for inspections, falling with the 72-hour window. Comm. Pellow asked that information regarding the budget impact of part-time inspectors be provided in the quarterly report. Potential Energy Code issues, which would require additional work by inspectors, has also been discussed by Mr. Sicotte and the Home Builders Association.

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The Committee considered Building Codes Task Force Appointments. The Building Codes Task Force was created by the Board on February 1, 2005 and began accepting applications from interested individuals and contractors. The purpose of the Task Force is to help the County Building Official and Board improve building codes through discussion and exploration of new, innovative, and cost effective ways of providing service. The Task Force should be comprised of professional contractors or others involved in building trades. The Task Force will be a forum for discussing issues and problems but will not replace the responsibilities of the building official, County Board, or Building Code Board of Appeals.

The Task Force's membership will be comprised of an electrical contractor, plumbing/mechanical contractor, residential contractor, commercial contractor, and an undesignated member, along with two County Commissioners.

On A roll call ballot the following individuals were recommended by the Committee of the Whole in their respective categories for appointment by the County Board to the Building Codes Task Force:

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

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The Committee discussed a letter received from Christopher Thierry, K. I. Sawyer, regarding his water being shut off due to an NSF check. The check in question was approximately \$11.61. Mr. Thierry incurred additional fees and charges from the bank and the Water/Sewer Department due to NSF fees, disconnecting and reconnecting, amounting to approximately \$95. Comm. Heikkila felt the fees may be excessive for the NSF amount in question. He suggested changing the policy regarding NSF checks.

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Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, explained that Mr. Thierry was given time to rectify the situation, made promises to do so, and did not follow through prior to disconnection. The current policy was followed.

The Committee requested staff review the current NSF policies.

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

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Wallace gave an update regarding the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC). MCAC is providing much needed medical services to those uninsured. He explained that there is participation with donated services and supplies from area medical, dental, and pharmaceutical providers.

County Administrator Steve Powers announced that Telkite negotiations are under way. He will have a recommendation for consideration at the next Board meeting.

Comm. Pellow announced she attended the meeting in Big Bay on Saturday, February 19, 2005 regarding sulfite mining. She is concerned and would like an economic impact study and hydrology study done. She feels the rules regarding sulfite mining permits, which should be ready for review by the legislature in early summer, should also be looked at.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie A. Skytta  
Marquette County Deputy Clerk