

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 28, 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. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Bergdahl.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 14, 2005 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Steve McMann, Delphi Representative, introduced himself to Commissioners and thanked the local businesses for their support of Delphi.

Jane Ryan, 2 E. Nicolet, Marquette, addressed Commissioners regarding regulations on no smoking in public buildings.

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

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved as presented.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 17, 2005 through June 23, 2005 in the amount of \$388,745.12, including Check No. 63877 in the amount of \$79.44 made payable to Bergdahls, and Bi-weekly Payroll for the period ending June 24, 2005 in the amount of \$563,751.38 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Informational Item 6) AIP Entitlement Funds be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee considered the Grant Application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Correction Funds. The requested amount is \$134,630 for the work crew, Tether and Cognitive Program, \$19,792 for the Drunk Driver Jail Reduction Program, and \$30,960 for Residential Treatment, representing a \$20,000 increase over FY 2005. The Grant does not require a match. Community Corrections Programs and Services receive no County funds. The programs are funded 100% by the State of Michigan, program participants, and worksites.

Art Lauren, Community Corrections Coordinator, was present to answer questions. The Community Corrections Advisory Board recommends approval of the Application. The Application is for the Grant period October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006. County Board of Commissioner approval on the Application is required by the State.

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The Agreement provides funding to meet State and local goals, objectives, and priorities to decrease prison admissions and increase utilization of community-based sanctions and services for non-violent offenders. Services funded are cognitive behavioral education, electronic (tether) monitoring, program administration, residential substance abuse services, and community service work crew. New for 2006 is a Drunk Driver Jail Reduction Program.

State statute requires that Community Corrections funds be used for the implementation and operation of programs designed to reduce admissions to prison of non-violent offenders, improve utilization of jail facilities, open jail beds through increased utilization of pretrial release options, reduce readmission to prison of parole violators, and reduce admission or readmission to prison. Funds appropriated for residential substance abuse treatment can only be used to treat felony offenders.

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 approve the Grant Application to the Michigan Department of Corrections for Community Correction Funds and authorize acceptance of the Grant when awarded.

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The Committee considered the October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement (EMPG). Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Management Coordinator, explained that Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement has had administrative and legal review. Submission of one of the signed originals needs to be into the State by July 15, 2005. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), provides federal funds through the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program for State and local Emergency Management Programs. As the designated grantee for EMPG funding in Michigan, the Emergency Management Division (EMD) enters into grant agreements with local Emergency Management Programs each year.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement (EMPG).

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The Committee considered the Road Commission Quarterly Report. Jim Iwanicki, Engineering Manager, Marquette County Road Commission, updated Commissioners on the operational recommendations and the progress the Road Commission is making. He explained that his summary does not include all of the Task Force Recommendations but does deal with the majority of them. He stated that the Road Commission, in May of 2004, realized that some of the issues would require big changes. Mr. Iwanicki also commented briefly on health insurance and improvements on workmen’s compensation issues.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Marquette County Road Commission Task Force Summary Update be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee of the Whole considered the Building Codes Task Force Report. Greg Sicotte, Building Official, responded to the Ad Hoc Committee Report and was present to answer questions.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Task Force Members should be thanked for volunteering their time and expertise. Staff acknowledges that improvements are needed. The Task Force and Ad Hoc Committee helped prioritize where improvements were needed – reduce re-inspections and improve communication and customer service. Both the Task Force and the Ad Hoc Committee acknowledge the communication needs to be two-way. Professional contractors, engineers, and architects have a responsibility to follow the Code, treat the Code with respect, and communicate with the inspectors. Likewise, the inspectors have an obligation to communicate and treat all customers with respect and courtesy.

The Task Force recommends encouraging the Building Official to create a new atmosphere of cooperation and flexibility, rather than keeping the status quo on Department rigidity and inflexibility. The Task Force has provided feedback and suggestions to improve the use of discretion and flexibility. Mr. Powers believes Greg Sicotte will have further suggestions and recommendations and will have the Inspectors use good judgment and discretion when working with contractors and other customers.

Mr. Powers further explained that State law mandates that Construction Code enforcement cannot generate general fund dollars. In 2004, Building Codes generated \$75,400 more in permit revenue than actual Building Code expenses. These funds should be used to support Building Codes in 2005. Allocating the funds to Building Codes will give the Board, County Administrator, and Building Officials, resources to work with to meet performance measures. The funds would be used only if needed.

Maintaining the 72-hour target for inspections in 2005, if current permit numbers continue, cannot be achieved through only efficiency and reducing the number of re-inspections. Efficiency improvements will help some; some, however, will take time to implement. Funds for overtime and seasonal help are needed now to continue to meet the 72-hour target and to reduce the turn around time on plan reviews in 2005.

Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding Task Force recommendations for implementation and the \$75,400 requested for the Building Codes Department.

Comm. Pellow stated she could not vote to approve the Budget Amendment at this time until it is known what and how the funds will be allocated.

Comm. Heikkila believes the Department cannot be expected to do more work and not fund it. The funds need to be spent in the most effective way possible.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes to 1 Nay (Comm. Pellow) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the increase of \$75,400 to the Building Codes Department, but direct Staff to develop a projected budget before approval by the County Board.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Wallace expressed appreciation to Senator Stabenow, Senator Levin, and Congressman Stupak regarding the AIP Entitlement Funds.

Comm. Arsenault briefly discussed Sawyer SLP payments.

Comm. Struck announced a meeting that was held regarding Sawyer Operations Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that negotiations are continuing with Delphi.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk