

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, March 9, 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. Bergdahl, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, and Comm. Struck.

Chairperson Corkin noticed that a quorum was not present but allowed discussion on the agenda items. No action will be taken.

Approval of the Minutes of the February 22, 2005 Committee of the Whole Meeting will be presented at the March 22, 2005 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Kelly Matthews, member of the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and Concerned Citizens Group of Big Bay addressed the Committee regarding a USGS Hydrological Study for the Yellow Dog Plains. She is asking the County Board to support the request of Powell Township and the 3,000+ signatures of citizens for this study. She explained that the citizens in the area are concerned about the ground water which has not been studied outside of the site specific mining area.

Karen Anderson, Sawyer Operations Authority, representing Forsyth and West Branch Townships, explained that the Township's concern regarding the Sawyer Water/Wastewater System is to ensure that the appropriate water/wastewater rates are in place for their residents. They would appreciate consideration of their request to meet and discuss the water/wastewater system and options of possibly working together to achieve a system that can best work for their residents.

Lanni Duquette, member of the Sawyer Six Project Committee, was present to address any questions regarding the Sawyer Six Project request.

Chairperson Corkin informed Kelly Matthews that the County Board has supported Senator Prusi's request for a USGS Hydrological Study of the Yellow Dog Plains at the last meeting.

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

Claims and Accounts for the period February 25, 2005 through March 3, 2005 and bi-weekly payroll for the period ending February 26, 2005 will be referred to the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting for consideration.

The Committee discussed a proposed fee for HIV Counseling and Testing from Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Marquette County Health Department. Dr. Johnson explained that as of January 1, 2005, the Michigan Department of Community Health 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"

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health departments (defined by MDCH to include those jurisdictions with the highest incidents and prevalence of HIV/AIDS). 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. Dr. Johnson explained that after evaluating the available options, the Marquette County Board of Health recommends the Health Department continue to provide HIV counseling and testing but to use local hospital laboratory services in place of the MDCH Lab. In addition, to partially support the continued delivery of this service adopt a new HIV counseling and testing fee of \$35.00 (estimated to cover approximately 50% of the cost). Dr. Johnson further explained that under Sec. 2444 of the State Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978), all fees charged by local health departments must be adopted by the local governing entity.

The proposed fee for HIV counseling and testing will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2004 County Board Meeting.

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The Committee discussed a Resolution opposing the closing of the Iron River State Police Post. Chairperson Corkin stated the Iron County Board of Commissioners is requesting a Letter of Support opposing the closure of this post. He explained that this Post covers a wide expanded area and a tremendous area to cover for another Post.

The resolution opposing the closing of the Iron River State Police Post will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting.

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The Committee discussed the Sawyer Water/Wastewater System. Chairperson Corkin explained that the County has received a letter from 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.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, stated that the letter from the Law Firm refers to possible violations of statute. He explained that Staff felt it important for Commissioners to know that there were no violations of statute which shows in an opinion from Cheryl Hill, Civil Counsel. Forsyth and West Branch Townships, and Sawyer Operations Authority request a meeting to discuss the issue. Staff sees no reason why such a discussion shouldn't take place as long as Commissioners realize Staff has proceeded appropriately, correctly, and lawfully.

Chairperson Corkin stated for the record that the County Board has done things according to law. He explained that the Board never intended to be a long-term operator of the water/wastewater system. The County Board took it on for the benefit of the businesses and people at Sawyer. He also explained that the Plant was built for a population of 8,000 to 10,000. As population increases, efficiency will also increase. He commended Scott Erbis, Sawyer Operations Manager, and employees on a great job in getting the rates as low as they can.

Karen Anderson, Sawyer Operations Authority, explained that Forsyth, West Branch, and the Sawyer Operations Authority simply would like to set up a meeting composed of the appropriate decision makers from the County and the Townships to seriously discuss the establishment of an Operating Authority for the Water/Wastewater Systems. She explained that there is no animosity between the Townships, the Sawyer

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Operations Authority and the County. They simply want to work with the County Board for the best interest of their residents.

The Sawyer Water/Wastewater System will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting.

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The Committee discussed a request from the Sawyer Six Project Committee. A group of local downstate alumni of the 87<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron have campaigned to have a F-106A Delta Dart Jet returned to the Upper Peninsula and KI Sawyer. The Sawyer Six Project Committee explained that these magnificent jets raced through the skies of the Upper Peninsula from 1971 to 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 87<sup>th</sup> FIS Alumni, Forsyth Township, the State of Michigan, the General Services Administration, the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center in Tucson, Arizona they are ready to “bring the Red Bull home!” The Sawyer Six Project Committee is asking for support for the placing of this aircraft at the site of the airpark, plus the support by allowing the aircraft to be restored back to its splendor through the donation of facilities, utilities, and available at the former Air Force Base.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that if the County Board approves this request, Staff recommendation is that a lease be established.

The request from the Sawyer Six Project will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting.

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The Committee discussed a request from Great Lakes Meter Proving, Inc. to purchase a paint booth/sandblasting unit located in Building 626 in the amount of \$8,000. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the County has been unsuccessful to date in selling this paint booth/sandblasting unit. Mr. Powers further explained that in accordance with KI Sawyer Personal Property Disposal Policy, the remaining items are to be sold on a first-come/first-serve basis prior to being declared as scrap. Mr. Powers recommends the Board proceed with the acceptance of this offer and approve the transaction by preparing a formal Bill of Sale.

The Personal Property Request will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting.

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The Committee discussed a recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, for 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. Funding for this hangar door has already been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, with Marquette County’s accepting of the AIP Grant No. 3-26-0153-1504, and 3-year FY 2004, 2005, and 2006 Military Airports Program Application, with a 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.

Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, explained that the door on hangar 665 is a manually operated door. It is the original door constructed with the hangar during the very late 1950’s or very early 1960’s. He

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explained that American Eagle Maintenance Personnel are currently stuffing rags and bubble rap in the cracks and other openings to keep the cold wind out during the long U.P. winters.

The Military Airport Program Bid Award recommendation will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting.

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The Committee discussed a Leachate Agreement from Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager. Mr. Erbisch explained that 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 other revenue sources. Because of the one million gallon industrial lagoon at Sawyer, the plant is well suited to take and treat sewage, which the plant is now receiving, and leachate. Leachate is a water bye product. Mr. Erbisch further explained that this is a 3-year Leachate Disposal Agreement with Great American Disposal. GAD estimates that they will need to dispose of approximately 3-5 million gallons of leachate per year. This will add \$51,000 - \$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 per every 1,000 gallons treated. The sanitary sewer rate for residential customers is \$6.55 per 1,000 gallons. Staff is recommending the Board authorize signature of the Agreement. The GAD President has accepted and signed the Agreement.

The Leachate Agreement will be placed on the agenda for the March 15, 2005 County Board Meeting.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Lanni Duquette, Sawyer Six Project Committee Member, announced that they are looking forward to working with the County and completing this project. He stated we will all be proud of the Project when it is completed.

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

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

Chairperson Corkin announced he attended the National Association of Counties Meeting in Washington D.C. and met with Senators and Congressmen considering the Federal Budget and its impact on local units of government. He explained it is not a bright picture at the present time as to the possible ramification of the Federal Budget on States and local governments. We need to work throughout the U.S. on important issues to local communities. He explained that Michigan was well represented. There are good people working in Washington, and they understand local issues.

Comm. Wallace announced he is going to Baltimore work with a group from the Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors developing documents to support the development and implementation of Community Oral Health Programs such as we have in Marquette County with the Children’s Dental Clinic. He explained that with the decline or the threats to Medicaid and Dental Services to children and to adults there will be very little support in government for some of these projects.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that Marquette County's FY 2005 Military Airport Program Project Application discretionary funding has been approved. There will be approximately \$1 million to improve hangars.

Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, explained that this will continue to provide additional rehabilitative improvements to seven very large hangars at Sawyer.

Chairperson Corkin questioned Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, regarding custom officials in relationship to the Finn Fest Event. Mr. Kaspari explained that a special request will be made to the Customs Commissioner on our behalf to make this event happen.

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