

The attached minutes are subject to correction and approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, 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. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin. Absent: None.

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 March 8, 2006 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 11, 2006 through March 17, 2006 in the amount of \$84,775.57, and bi-weekly payroll for the period ending March 17, 2006 in the amount of \$286,341.47 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following Late Additions: 11a) Request from Marquette Township Fire and Rescue, and 11b) SpaceCS IRP Update and Recommendation.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following Informational Items be accepted and placed on file:

- a. Marquette City Commission's Appointment to the Commission on Aging.
- b. Michigan Public Service Commission Notice of Opportunity to Comment.
- c. Michigan Public Service Commission Notice of Hearing.
- d. Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency Liquor Tax Funds.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10a, 10b, 10c, and 10d be approved as follows:

10a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the Marquette County GIS Strategic Plan and direct the GIS Core Group to Implement.

Comm. Pellow thanked the Planning Commission for granting her request and sending the GIS Strategic Plan via e-mail.

10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the Addendum to the Enhanced Access Policy and Proposed Fee Schedule.

10c) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to authorize the Board Chair to sign a twelve month Concession Agreement with Robert and Cindy Wiggins of Eagle One Transport Limousine, LLC.

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10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the Agreement and following Resolution with MDOT for Firefighting Training for Personnel Assigned to the Airport Fire Station:

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT AGREEMENT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING FEDERAL AND STATE AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAWYER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNDER SPONSOR CONTRACT NO. 2006-0211.

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 Agreement for the training of personnel 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.

Adopted this 21st day of March, 2006
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

ACTION ITEMS CONTINUED

10e) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the changes to the Personnel Policy Sec. 111.8 Hospitalization Medical Coverage.

Comm. Pellow stated she will vote no on this issue. She has a problem with Commissioners receiving Health Insurance and feels the County should not change employee health insurance or retiree health insurance once retired.

Comm. Arsenault stated that he feels good that the County Board pays attention to the retirees. He explained that the County Board has always been very fair to the employees, however, he feels the County has more responsibility to our constituency. He explained there are working poor in this County who have no health insurance and are paying taxes to provide services. Comm. Arsenault also stated that health insurance has been provided to Commissioners at the same level as other non-represented members for over the 19 years that he has been on the County Board.

Comm. Wallace underscored the statements made by Comm. Arsenault. He stated the County Board has tried very hard and has been successful in making sure that the retirees are treated fairly, equitably, and receive as great a benefit as the County can afford to provide. He stated it is an excellent policy.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and

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Comm. Corkin) to 2 Nays (Comm. Cihak and Comm. Pellow) that the County Board adopt the changes to Personnel Policy Sec. 111.8 Hospitalization Medical Coverage as presented.

10f) It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Heikkila and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the four principals set by the Governor's Task Force on Local Government Services and Fiscal Stability.

10g) The County Board considered the status of the sale of a building to the EDC. Harley Andrews, Chief Civil Counsel, explained that the County Board has previously approved the sale of Parcel B3-1 to the EDC for ultimate resale to another purchaser who is planning to establish a facility. The sale is contingent upon: 1) the Zoning Site Plan being approved, and 2) financing being in place before the sale. Apparently the financing with the EDC must be approved in Lansing and could take 30 to 45 days. The owner wants to start improvements and cleanup now while the weather is good.

Mr. Andrews recommends a direct agreement between the County and the Purchaser be drafted to allow early access to the building for the purpose of performing certain specified improvements. With the understanding if for some reason the sale does not go through, the County would not be obligated to reimburse the owner for any expenses incurred. The improvements would then be a benefit to the County.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Truck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin) to 2 Abstentions (Comm. Bergdahl and Comm. Heikkila) that the County Board authorize Staff to draft an Agreement between the County and the Purchaser for Parcel B3-1 and authorize the Board Chair to sign.

10h) The County Board considered appointments to Pathways (Community Mental Health Board). On a roll call ballot John E. Lindholm and Patricia D. Mayer were appointed to the Pathways Community Mental Health Board for 3-Year terms ending March 31, 2006.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a request from Marquette Township Fire and Rescue. Comm. Arsenault distributed a memo he received from Marquette Township Fire Marshall Ron Demarse. Comm. Arsenault explained that the Marquette County Firefighter Association and the EMS Medical Control Authority, which represents the EMS Agency in the County, have supported the purchase of an accountability system through a Homeland Security Grant. The Personnel Accountability System provides personnel accountability at incidents. The system consists of tags issued to each firefighter and EMS provider; the individual tags have a photo to allow rapid identification of the individual. Also provided on the tag is a printout of the individual's qualifications to assist in placing them with proper resources at the incident. All information contained on the tag is also in the form of a bar code for rapid scanning if the equipment to do so is present.

The Marquette County Firefighters and the EMS Medical Control Authority made the decision to support the purchase of this package and give it to every fire and EMS department. The total cost to provide the Personnel Accountability System for all Fire and EMS Agencies in the County was \$50,765.50.

Comm. Arsenault further explained that the Local Planning Committee under Homeland Security did not honor the request and instead funded 800mhz radios and generators for shelters. The Firefighters Association and the EMS Medical Control Authority requests the County Board send a letter to the Local Planning Committee requesting reconsideration.

Commissioners engaged in a discussion regarding the Homeland Security Grant. They questioned the amount of the grant and whether the Committee could receive the tracking system and the 800mhz radios. It

was suggested that Theresa Schwalbach, Emergency Management Program Coordinator, be contacted to answer questions.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board send a letter to the Local Planning Committee asking them to reconsider the purchase of the Personnel Accountability System through Homeland Security Grant Funding, and further if their decision is not reconsidered the reasons why.

11b) The County Board considered an update and recommendation regarding the IRP Loan for SpaceCS. Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, explained that on February 9, 2006, the IRP Loan Committee met to discuss the status of the SpaceCS Loan. A telephone conversation with Mr. Rahgu Tandra, President of SpaceCS, determined that SpaceCS will no longer be purchasing a building at Sawyer but will be leasing Building 512, the former AFBCA Office Building. (As of 3/6/06, no lease has been signed).

Mr. Tandra advised that he has been working with representative of Northern Michigan University to assist with the development of a work/training program with his business starting up sometime in April, 2006.

Mr. Erbisch further explained that the IRP Loan Committee was provided information from Wells Fargo Bank that indicates that because the loan has gone so far beyond the draw period they may need to refinance with new terms and new loan documents. SpaceCS did draw approximately \$78,000 during the six month draw period. (The loan is current as of 3/6/07). The IRP Loan Committee would review and consider a new loan request from SpaceCS once the business has started their Sawyer operations.

Comm. Heikkila agrees not to extend the draw period. He stated the business should have been in place before any money was approved.

Comm. Joseph suggested that the IRP Loan Committee not consider a new loan request until the \$78,000 has been paid back in full.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board not extend the draw period, have the loan documents reviewed for a possible loan default since SpaceCS was required to use the loan funds at Sawyer, and further that a new IRP Loan not be considered until the \$78,000 loan has been paid back in full.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that a meeting was held on March 21st with the Commission on Aging Groups. Rochelle Cotey, Third-Party Representative, presented a preliminary report.

Comm. Heikkila pointed out that the following three recommendations were presented by Rochelle Cotey:

1. The Structure of Marquette County Commission on Aging needs to be reviewed. The forming of a private, non-profit/County Authority might be something to consider.
2. Plan and prioritize services, including all aging providers within the County.
3. The County should be more active in all operations and should distribute the millage money in a fair and equitable manner.

A final draft of Ms. Cotey's preliminary report will be available in approximately 30 days.

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Chairperson Corkin announced **GO MINERS!**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk