

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 25, 2006, 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. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 11, 2006 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Jackie Boxer, Executive Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging, requested to speak under Item 6.

Christie Salo, Director Negaunee Senior Center, requested to speak under Item 6.

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

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following change: Item 7) Lake Superior Community Partnership Presentation be moved up on the Agenda to Item 5a.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Abstention (Comm. Joseph) that Claims and Accounts for the period April 9, 2006 through April 21, 2006 in the amount of \$201,510.61, including Check No. 072675 in the amount of \$124.58 made payable to Joseph's (Affidavit of Disclosure follows) be approved.

*AFFIDAVIT OF DISCLOSURE
PURSUANT TO MCL 15.323(2)(a)*

COUNTY OF MARQUETTE)
)SS
STATE OF MICHIGAN)

Nick Joseph, a Marquette County Commissioner, being duly sworn, hereby submits this Affidavit pursuant to the provisions of MCL 15.323(2)(a):

1. The Final Disbursement List submitted for approval at this April 25, 2006, meeting of the County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole includes Check No. 072675, dated April 21, 2006, payable to Joseph's in the amount of \$124.58 in payment for Veteran's Fund food order;
2. I hereby disclose that I have a personal financial interest in Joseph's Foodland, Inc., d/b/a Joseph's Super Valu, which is as follows:

Sole Shareholder

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- 3. I hereby certify that any direct benefit I personally will receive from this payment to Joseph's will be less than \$250.00, and will be less than 5% of the total payment of \$124.58.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2006

/S/

Nick Joseph

The Committee was presented an update of the Lake Superior Community Partnership by John Marshall, Economic Development Chair. Mr. Marshall reported that there have been some changes in the structure of the LSPC with Amy Clickner being named Executive Director. The purpose of this appointment was to help further economic development in Marquette County. The management team and the executive team were merged to provide a more efficient method of conducting business. The loan fund that was administered by the Economic Development Corporation approved 24 loans and supported 245 jobs throughout Marquette County.

The LSPC did not replace the Economic Development Director but created two positions, Economic Development Specialists, to again further develop and promote economic development in Marquette County. Lois Ellis and Greg Nominelli have accepted these positions.

Mr. Marshall also asked that the Board consider a 3% increase in the LSPC contract fee. There has not been an increase for the past six years.

Chairperson Corkin thanked the Lake Superior Community Partnership for their involvement with Marquette County.

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The Committee considered Senior Services. Rochelle Cotey, was present to explain her report and answer questions. She believes there is a mistrust among the Senior Centers and the Director of the Commission on Aging. It is Ms. Cotey's opinion that the County needs to form an immediate Task force to address the problem. She believes that both sides have the right mixtures of dedicated citizens that can resolve these issues. Ms. Cotey stated the most important change would be to prioritize services.

The review focused on the administration of senior services by the Marquette Commission on Aging; the Senior Centers in the cities of Ishpeming, Marquette, Negaunee and Forsyth Township, and AMCAB's home-delivered meals. Ms. Cotey's report includes recommendations to strengthen senior services in Marquette County.

Susan Vercoe, John Greenberg, and Administrator Powers have reviewed the report for the purpose of providing implementation considerations and recommendations as the Board of Commissioners reviews the report's findings.

The report includes meaningful information regarding senior services, but in Staff's opinion the report has five main findings or conclusions that pertain to Marquette County:

- 1. Public funds should be focused on senior services, not on agencies or facilities;
- 2. The Marquette County Commission on Aging is too big;

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- 3. The roles of the senior centers and Commission on Aging have changed. The agencies' roles are sources of conflict, resulting in behavior that is contrary to the core mission of helping seniors;
- 4. The County-wide millage must be renewed;
- 5. Administration of senior services can be reduced without reducing the services.

To accomplish the policy recommendations that are contained in the five findings, Staff believes administrative and management changes are needed. The review is limited to County operation and policy. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners has the authority to make any of the changes.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board form an Ad Hoc Workgroup comprised of Chairperson Corkin, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, the Township Association, and Representatives of the Cities to devise a plan and millage language to be brought back to the County Board on May 16, 2006.

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The Committee considered Proposed Perkins Park Fees and Rules for 2006. Kim Bourgeois, Park Manager/Harbormaster was present to answer questions. In August of 2004 twenty public/private campgrounds throughout the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin were surveyed and asked for current fee structures and any expected increases. The average rates of those twenty camp grounds at that time were as follows: Rustic sites-\$13.00, Electric sites-\$17.00, and Full Hook-up-22.00.

The following local parks were contacted for 2006 fees, Lake Gogebic Co. Park, and private parks, Horseshoe Lake, Michigamme Shores, and Gitchee Gummi. The average camping fees overall are: rustic \$17.50, electric \$18.50, and full \$23.50. Excluding private parks, the averages are: Rustic \$11.20 (includes sites with no access to flush toilets or showers), electric \$14.00, and full \$25.33. The highest municipal park is Marquette Tourist Park at rustic \$15.00, electric \$24.00, and full \$28.00. The lowest is Woodland Park, Grand Marais at rustic \$13.00 (with toilets and showers and full \$18.00.)

For camping season of 2005 the park had increased rates \$2.00 for campsites and additional \$2.00 for the new pull through sites, however even with good attendance and decreased labor hours, the park is still running at a deficit. The increased cost of utilities and the higher demand of those utilities from the bigger RV's warrant an increase of rates, but at the same time we need to stay competitive so people will travel County Road 550, 50 miles out of their way.

Current rates are: Rustic \$12.00, electric \$16, full \$20.00 and pull through \$22.00.

Staff proposes an increase of \$1.00 per campsite, \$1.00 for electric, \$1.00 for water/sewer, per day, for a breakdown of charges to include:

- Campsite - \$13.00
- Electric - \$ 5.00
- Water/Sewer - \$ 5.00

The following fee proposal for Perkins Park is recommended for the 2006 camping season:

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Type	Fee per night	Fee per 5 nights	Fee per month
No hook-up	13.00	55.00 (11.00/night)	300.00 (10/night)
Electric only	18.00	75.00 (15.00/night)	420.00 (14/night)
Full hook-up	23.00	100.00 (20/night)	570.00 (19/night)
50 Amp Pull-Thru	25.00	110.00 (22/night)	630.00 (21.00/night)
Rental Tent	20.00		

Staff proposes to change to the Park Rules and Regulations.

Rule Number 2 states, "Motorized vehicles are to be operated only on established park roads.

No unlicensed motorized vehicles may be operated in the park."

Several campers now bring ATV's with them including a few groups that come to the park just to ride. Staff proposes a change to Rule #2 to allow registered campers permission to ride to and from their campsites/park entrance with restrictions. ATV's include 3 and 4 wheelers and unlicensed motorcycles and dune buggies.

- a. ATV's permitted in park by registered campers only.
- b. ATV's must be registered at the park office and a vehicle pass must be adhered to the ATV when being operated in the park. (limit of 2 ATV's per site)
- c. ATV's may only be ridden to and from the campsite and the park entrance on established park roads.
- d. ATV's may only be operated in the park between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- e. All state laws must be followed including the age of the rider. No one under the age of 16 may operate a 3-wheeled ATV. No children under 12 may operate an ATV in the park. Children between the ages of 12-15 may only ride at ATV when under the direct supervision of an adult (in view) and possess a valid ORV/ATV safety certificate.
- f. Any violations to the above restrictions will result in the ATV pass being removed and riding privileges in the park lost.

No other changes are proposed for the Park Rules and Regulations.

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 adopt the Proposed Perkins Park Fees and Rules for 2006.

The Committee considered the Youth Home HVAC System Bid Award. The replacement system was re-bid with revised specifications. The specifications were changed to assure that all contractors were bidding the same size unit to eliminate any misunderstanding. Notices were direct mailed to local contractors and the builders exchange as well as an ad placed in the Mining Journal and the County web site.

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Four sealed bids were received and reviewed. The low bidder, Tresedder Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning, Inc., meets specifications and their bid of \$12,860 is below the budgeted amount of \$13,000. Staff recommends the bid be awarded to Tresedder Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning, Inc.

The bid package, including the draft contract was submitted for administrative review and suggested changes have been made.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Youth Home HVAC System Bid to Tresedder Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning, Inc. for the amount of \$12,860.

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The Committee considered Ishpeming Township Building Codes. Ishpeming Township was issued 46 permits in 2005. Marquette County is currently issuing permits and conducting inspections for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical inspections in Ishpeming Township.

Ishpeming Township is requesting Marquette County enforce the State Building Code in Ishpeming Township. On April 11, 2006, the Township Board approved rescinding the Township's authority to enforce the State Code and requested the County Board of Commissioners consider accepting the responsibility. The Township's Building Official is retiring in late June, and the Township has been unable to hire a replacement.

The State requires a local government to adopt an ordinance rescinding its authority and to submit a letter from the local government willing to accept responsibility for the Construction Code. If the required documents are submitted, the State Construction Code Commission will consider and formally act on the Township's request. The State Commission's next meeting is May 3, 2006.

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 a letter to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Office of Local Government and Consumer Services, stating Marquette County's acceptance of responsibility for enforcing the Michigan Building Code in Ishpeming Township.

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The Committee considered a Resolution from Tuscola County regarding Support of Restoration of State Revenue Sharing which requests that the State fulfill its obligation to the 83 Counties and commit to restoring State Revenue Sharing Payments beginning with Tuscola County in 2008. It would allow county governments to continue to provide for State mandated and other essential public health, safety and welfare services, without further elimination of valuable services.

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 send a Letter to our Legislators in Support of Tuscola County's Resolution regarding Support of Restoration of State Revenue Sharing Payments.

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The Committee considered a Resolution from Tuscola County which supports the Michigan Association of Counties in their arguments in an Amicus Curiae Brief filed in the 46th Circuit Trial Court v. Crawford County et. al. The issues in this case are critical to the ability of the 83 County Boards of Commissioners who have been elected and entrusted by the public to set service base priorities and control the financial operations of county Government.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a Letter to our Legislators in Support of Tuscola County's Resolution regarding their arguments in an Amicus Curiae Brief filed in the 46th Circuit Trial Court v. Crawford County et. al.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Jackie Boxer, Executive Director, Marquette County Commission on Aging, offered her assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee and County Staff to work on the budget, and also for the clarification of Direct Services and Administration.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson thanked everyone for their work on the Aging issues.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Janice R. Mason
Deputy County Clerk