

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 23, 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. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on May 9, 2006 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the addition of Item 9) Bid Award/Runway Safety Area.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 13, 2006 through May 19, 2006, in the amount of \$105,577.45 be approved.

The Committee of the Whole considered the Road Commission Report. Robert Picotte, Chairperson, Marquette County Road Commission, explained in a memo that it has been approximately two years since the appointed County Task Force for the independent review of the Marquette County Road Commission presented its findings and recommendations to the Board. The Road Commission has made great strides in addressing most of the recommendations in the Task Force Report.

Jim Iwanicki, Engineer/Manager, was present and summarized some of the accomplishments of the Road Commission over the past two years. An original Detailed Summary Task Force was also presented. He explained that the Task Force Report is one of many tools available to the Road Commission for its use in analyzing its operations. Mr. Iwanicki stated a lot has been done but there is still work to do.

Commissioners and Staff engaged in a discussion and had questions regarding the Task Force Reports that were presented.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Road Commission Report be accepted and placed on file.

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The Committee considered a resignation from Michael P. Kuopus, member of the Marquette County Road Commission. Mr. Kuopus expressed deep regret that he submits his Letter of Resignation. He stated circumstances require that he resign as a Member of the Marquette County Road Commission effective May 31, 2006. He thanked the County Board for allowing him to serve Marquette County as a Member of the Road Commission Board, and wishes the County continued success in all its endeavors.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board accept the Letter of Resignation with regret from Michael P. Kuopus as a Member of the Marquette County Road Commission effective May 31, 2006 and further, that a Letter of Appreciation be sent to Mr. Kuopus for his excellent service on the Road Commission Board.

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The Committee considered a Letter of Intent to apply for UPCAP funding. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained that a Letter of Intent to apply for UPCAP funding for respite programs currently provided by the Commission on Aging needs to be submitted by May 25, 2006. The funding year runs from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007. The Letter of Intent should be submitted by Marquette County and/or the Marquette County Commission on Aging to provide the flexibility that may be needed with the change in millage language that has been proposed. The Commission on Aging Board approved sending the Letter of Intent at their meeting on May 23, 2006.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board and/or the Commission on Aging submit a Letter of Intent to apply for UPCAP funding for respite programs as presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

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The Committee considered the Ishpeming District Court. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the County Board's Ad Hoc Work Group discussed the options for Ishpeming District Court. He explained that Marquette County has received proposals to house the Court. A promising proposal is from the Ishpeming Federal Credit Union. He stated that the County should remain open to consider other locations in Ishpeming.

Mr. Powers also explained the Work Group discussed the difficulty in consolidating District Court operations in Marquette compared to the small savings. Recent comparisons of options has assumed the District Court would expand into the County Prosecutor's Law Library/Conference Room and some of the space that is used for seating on the second floor. The Work Group discussed that the District Court is already short of attorney/client meeting rooms and waiting rooms. A lack of parking was also noted.

The Work Group also discussed the long-term space plans for the County and owning versus leasing a building. If the timeline anticipated for the Court remaining in a location is short, a lease may be economical. If the Court will be in the location for a longer period of time, leasing a property is generally less economical than owning a building.

The Work Group discussed a 20-year time frame. Comparing the estimated operating cost for the Ishpeming Federal Credit Union Building, or a building of comparable age and construction, with the Pioneer Square Lease, or comparable leased space, the annual difference is \$67,000. This savings could be applied to the purchase cost of a building.

Commissioners engaged in discussion regarding the scope of services and had questions regarding recent comparisons of options. Judge Dennis Girard, District Court, was present to answer questions. Judge

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Girard stated that security has been a big issue for the District Court. He stated that the Credit Union Building would solve the conflict. He stated that being across from the Police Department is very comforting.

Comm. Cihak and Comm. Heikkila expressed concern about a full service Court in Ishpeming being cost effective and the lack of law enforcement in Ishpeming.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and carried by voice vote 7 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin) to 2 Nays (Comm. Cihak and Comm. Heikkila) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board purchase a building to house the Ishpeming District Court with the present range of services.

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The Committee considered a Notice of Bid Award – Runway Safety Area. Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that bids were opened for work associated with improvements to the runway safety area at Sawyer. He explained that Staff requested approximately \$545,000 for completion of the project. The engineer’s estimate was \$460,185.00. This project was advertised in the Marquette Mining Journal, Marquette Builder’s Exchange, and Michigan Contractor and Builder. Four bids were received as follows: J. Ranck Electric Company of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan with a bid of \$285,248; Airport Lighting, LLC, of Luther, Michigan with a bid of \$364,191; Premeau Construction of Marquette, Michigan with a bid of \$377,632.78; and Associated Constructors of Negaunee, Michigan with a bid of \$393,659.80.

Mr. Kaspari further explained that the project includes the following work elements: Phase II repair of the electric conduit for the runway lighting system. (Phase I included the temporary and emergency repairs to the runway conduit late last fall); Replace the Runway 19 runway end lighting strobes damaged during snow removal operations in February; Removal of loose aggregate and install an FAA grade of asphalt in the area of the Runway 1 overrun; Installation of two new lighted airfield guidance signs, and the relocation of three existing signs; Application of herbicide and the removal of weeds located in the paved runway shoulders; and, Removal of concrete light bases from when the USAF operated the runway at 300 feet wide. (Reason for removal is such that the concrete light bases have over time begun to crack up and heave, exposing the concrete above grade level). This was a recommendation of Sawyer’s FAA Certification and Safety Inspector during the 2003 annual inspection.

Funding for this Airport Improvement Project has already been programmed by the FAA, with the yet to be received FAA Grant, with funding assistance at: 95% (FAA), 2.5% (MDOT), and 2.5% (Marquette County). Marquette County’s sponsor match will be derived from the use of Passenger Facility Charges.

During the course of this project, completed in two phases, it will be necessary to reduce the overall length of Runway 1/19 by 50%. As such, Airport Administrative and Maintenance Staff will be heavily involved in the day-to-day project oversight, along with ensuring that the Airfield is at all times safe to continue aircraft operations. Staff anticipates that completion of the project to be approximately 32 days (weather permitting).

Per existing Contract, Marquette County’s Engineering Consulting Firm, URS Greiner of Grand Rapids, Michigan and MDOT’s Project Manager, both concur on the recommended Notice of Award.

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It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the bid for Airport Runway Area to J. Ranck Electric Company of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in the amount of \$285,248.00 and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign all copies of the Notice of Award.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.  
Pete Mackin, Marquette, commented on the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.  
There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Wallace, Comm. Struck, and Comm. Corkin reported on the U.P. County Commissioners Conference which was held this past weekend and the various topics which were discussed, specifically two percent gaming funds.

Comm. Pellow questioned the Humane Society Contract Status.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried on a roll call vote 9 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into Closed Session to discuss settlement – *Twork vs. County of Marquette* (15.268).

Chairperson Corkin declared a three minute recess to clear Commission Chambers.

.....CLOSED SESSION.....

The County Board came back into Open Session.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Attorney Recommendation regarding Settlement - *Twork vs. County of Marquette* (15.268).

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.  
Mike Lovelace, Marquette County Sheriff, thanked the County Board, MMRMA, Attorney Koch, and Civil Counsel Cheryl Hill for the work done on *Twork vs. County of Marquette*.

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

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie M. Branam  
County Clerk