

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 9, 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 April 25, 2006 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. John LaCourt, Gwinn, Michigan, and Scott Schultz, Gwinn, Michigan, requested to speak to item 10) Airport Advisory Committee.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved as follows: Delete Item 7) Bid Award – Records Storage Systems; and add Item 16b) Closed Session to Discuss Litigation – Twork vs. Marquette County - (MCL 15.268).

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 30, 2006 through May 6, 2006, in the amount of \$463,279.31 be approved.

The Committee considered a Bid Award for Fuel Tank Replacement. Larry Gould, Facilities Manager, explained that two underground fuel (heating oil) tanks are beyond their projected useful life and scheduled for replacement. The tanks (10,000 and 110 gallon) will be properly abandoned and replaced with one above ground 1,000 gallon tank. The Jail and Annex building heating boilers fuel source is dual fired (natural gas or fuel oil) and since the natural gas is now the primary fuel source, a large backup fuel oil supply is not needed.

Mr. Gould further explained that bids were directly mailed to contractors in the tank business, an ad was placed in the Mining Journal, and on the County Web site. Four sealed bids were received and the low bidder (Great Lakes Petroleum Service, Inc.) met specifications and their bid of \$13,100 is below the \$26,000 budget for the project. Mr. Gould recommends the bid be awarded to Great Lakes for the project.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the bid to Great Lakes Petroleum Service, Inc. for Fuel Tank Replacement in the amount of \$13,100.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee considered 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Amendments #1-#12. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and explained that all departments were requested to review their revenues and expenditures.

*Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval*

---

The following recommendations were prepared based on requests and information from the departments and review of the March budget reports.

#1 – General Fund - The General Fund revenue is increased by \$983,150. Included in this amount are federal grants totaling \$973,183 for Homeland Security, Domestic Violence, and flood damage.

Expenditure increases totaled \$977,960 or \$5,190 less than the revenue increase. This amount has been added to the contingency account. Included in the expenditure adjustments is \$2800 to cover the increase in LSCP dues. The planning budget is increased by \$17,500 to cover contracted services and part time wages that will be fully funded by a state planning grant. The part time and overtime lines in the building codes budget are increased by a total of \$15,000 to help meet the 72 hour target. In 2005, building code revenues exceeded expenses by \$26,336.

#2 - Airport Fund - Airport revenues and expenses are increased by \$98, 212. The majority of this is recognition of the Air Service Marketing and Equipment Grants that will be utilized during the current year. There is no change to the amount to be transferred from the Airport Stabilization Fund.

#3 – Water & Sewer Fund - The Water & Sewer budget is increased by \$20,000. Increased expenditures are covered by revenue adjustments. This fund will be split into separate funds for the water and sewer operations July 1 of this year as part of the mid year amendment. The current rate has been review and will be restructured to cover the costs of the separate operations. Scott Erbisich will be notifying all utility customers of the change in rate structure that will be effective July 1. The water & sewer fund ended 2005 with a fund balance of \$151,109.

# 4 – Public Improvement Fund - This amendment provides for the carry forward of funds from the 2005 budget for projects not yet completed. It also includes a transfer of the Health Departments ending 2005 fund balance of \$2,772 toward repayment for the health department vehicle purchased last year.

# 5 –Friend of the Court Fund - This amendment provides for changes to the indirect cost allocation and Access/Visitation grant.

# 6 – Probate Child Care Fund - This amendment reflects a \$16,990 increase in the allocation of indirect charges. No additional transfer from the General Fund is needed. The Probate Child Care Fund ended 2005 with a fund balance of \$193,637, an increase of \$87,738 from the previous year.

# 7 – Remonumentation- This amendment reduces the 2006 budget by \$114,688 because of a reduction in the amount of funding available for the year.

# 8 - M.C.T.V. Fund - This amendment adjusts for various grant revenues and expenses. There is no general fund support to this program.

# 9 – Forest / Recreation Fund - This amendment provides for the purchase of county forest land recently approved by the board and also for a state grant for engineering services.

# 10 – Search and Rescue Fund - This amendment increases the budget by \$5500 to provide for additional training costs and vehicle repair.

# 11 - Insurance Fund - This amendment provides for payment of the Pioneer Square settlement

# 12 – Health Department Fund- This amendment incorporates the Health Department’s budget amendment #1 approved by the Health Department Board. No change to the General Fund appropriation.

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 approve 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Budget Amendments #1-#12 as presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee considered a Resolution from Osceola County for Support for HB 5814 - PILT Payments and Purchases. Thousands of acres are owned by the State of Michigan through the DNR for the benefit of citizens for recreation and hunting. The DNR was able to freeze the level of their PILT payments to the 2003 level. HB 5814 will help local units of government have a larger voice in state purchases as well as in receiving timely PILT payments. The Bill would also allow local units of government the ability to veto DNR purchases in their jurisdiction via passage of a resolution, and re-institute penalties and interest provisions if the DNR fails to make timely payments. The Bill would require the DNR to pay both summer and winter collections as all other taxpayers do.

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 HB 5814 – PILT Payments and Purchases.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee considered an Airport Advisory Committee and Draft Bylaws. Comm. Struck has been meeting with airport tenants and contractors regarding the need for additional input and perspectives on airport and aviation interests. Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Scott Erbsch, Sawyer Operations Manager, have also met with the group to listen to their ideas. The group prepared the draft bylaws presented.

Mr. Powers further explained that before creating an advisory committee, the Board should consider whether additional input is needed regarding airport and aviation issues. If additional input is

desired, how to gather the participation should be considered. One way is through an advisory committee. Marquette County is involved with 21 boards or commissions, some with considerable authority and others with no authority. Another method would be to create a users group. Tenants at the airport, or those with a contractual relationship, could meet with airport management on issues, opportunities, and problems. The group's findings could be shared with commissioners. Another method would be for the Board to direct the County Administrator to have the airport staff seek out the input and participation of those organizations, businesses, and contractors at Sawyer International Airport.

John LaCourt, Gwinn, and Scott Schultz, Gwinn, were present and spoke in favor of an Airport Advisory Committee. They feel that an Advisory Committee would give added expertise at no cost to the County.

Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, stated that he would be in favor of an Advisory Committee if it is structured properly. Scott Erbisich, Sawyer Operations Manager, suggested a less formal approach. Discussion followed. Commissioners requested more input from the Airport Manager and the Sawyer Operations Manager, and a review of the draft bylaws by Civil Counsel before final approval.

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 create an Airport Advisory Committee.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Committee considered Special Voted Millage Language for the Commission on Aging, Search and Rescue, and Central Dispatch. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that May 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit ballot language to be presented at the August Primary to the County Clerk.

Chairperson Corkin, Comm. Pellow, and Comm. Heikkila met with representatives from the cities, townships, and various senior service providers to discuss millage language. The language was unanimously approved by the group. Chairperson Corkin explained the attorney advised that the language be changed replacing the Marquette County Commission on Aging with Services to Senior Citizens. Commissioners discussed direct and indirect administrative costs.

The Central Dispatch Policy Board approved recommending a renewal of the Central Dispatch Millage for the August ballot. The policy board recommends .4970 for six years, the same rate and term approved by the voters in August 2000. (A home with a taxable value of \$50,000 would pay \$24.85). The recommendation to continue with the millage is made because the funding mechanisms under the 9-1-1 laws are changing in yet undetermined ways.

Staff's recommendation, including Sheriff Lovelace, is to request .1125 for Search and Rescue Programs, the same rate adopted by voters in August 2000. Mr. Powers recommends adding the Heavy Rescue Unit 131 to the millage. An additional .0400 mill is needed for the rescue unit, for a total of .1525. The recommended term is six years. (A home with a taxable value of \$50,000 would pay \$7.65).

*Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval*

---

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 approve the following ballot language for Services to the Aging:

*COUNTY PROPOSAL A  
FOR RENEWING MILLAGE FOR SERVICES  
TO THE AGING*

*For the purpose of replacing the Marquette County Commission on Aging millage with Services to Senior Citizens millage, shall the ad valorem taxes collected on all property within the County of Marquette, Michigan, be continued in the amount of 0.4474 of a mill (44.74 cents per \$1,000.00 of taxable value of real and personal property) for a period of six years, from 2006-2011, both years inclusive? (This millage will raise approximately \$711,154 in the first year).*

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 approve the following ballot language for the Marquette County Sheriff's Search and Rescue and Rescue Unit Programs:

*COUNTY PROPOSAL  
FOR MILLAGE OR THE  
MARQUETTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S SEARCH AND RESCUE  
AND RESCUE UNIT PROGRAMS*

*For the purpose of renewing millage for the Marquette County Sheriff's Search and Rescue programs, shall the ad valorem taxes collected on all property within the County of Marquette, Michigan, be approved in the amount of 0.1125 of a mill (11.25 cents per \$1,000.00 of state taxable value on real and taxable personal property), for a period of six years, from 2006-2011, both years inclusive, and for the purpose of additional millage to operate the Technical Rescue Unit 131, shall 0.0400 of a mill (.04 cents per \$1,000.00 of state taxable value on real and taxable personal property) be added for a total millage of 0.1525 (15.25 cents per \$1,000.00 of state taxable value on real and taxable personal property) for a period of six years, from 2006-2011, both years inclusive? (This millage will raise approximately \$242,403 in the first year).*

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the following ballot language for Central Dispatch/Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System:

*COUNTY PROPOSAL  
TO RENEW FINANCING OF  
CENTRAL DISPATCH/ENHANCED 9-1-1*

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

*For the purpose of renewing the financing for continued operation of the Marquette County Central Dispatch System, including the Enhanced 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone System, shall the limitation on the amount of taxes that may be levied against all property in the County of Marquette, Michigan, remain at an amount .4970 of a mill (49.7 cents on each \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation) for a period of six (6) years, 2006 to 2011, both years inclusive? (This millage will raise approximately \$760,906 in the first year).*

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. John LaCourt thanked the Committee for the action taken on the Airport Advisory Committee.

Captain David Lemire, Marquette County Sheriff’s Dept., thanked the Committee for including the Technical Rescue Unit 131 in the millage language.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Wallace, 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 Chairperson Corkin ) to 0 Nays that the Committee of the Whole go into Closed Session to: 1) Consider the Purchase or Lease of Real Property up to the Time an Option to Purchase or Lease that Real Property is Obtained (MCL 15.268); and 2) Discuss Litigation – Twork vs. Marquette County (MCL 15.268).

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

-----  
-  
CLOSED SESSION  
-----  
-

The Committee of the Whole came back into Open Session.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Staff Recommendation regarding the Purchase or Lease of Real Property up to the Time an Option to Purchase or Lease that Real Property is Obtained.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairperson Corkin again opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

---

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---

Chairperson Corkin reported he represented the Board at the Open House Ribbon-cutting Ceremony of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum (Phase 1 of the Expansion Project) on Sunday, May 7, 2006.

Comm. Bergdahl reported that he attended a meeting at NMU regarding possible prospects for the Airport.

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  
County Clerk