

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 24, 2007, at 6:00 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, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Wallace.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 10, 2007 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following changes: Item 7) Letter of Support for the Medical Care Access Coalition for the uninsured be moved first on the agenda; and Item 9) Big Bay Harbor Study and Change Order be moved second.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote the Claims and Accounts for the period April 14, 2007 through April 20, 2007 in the amount of \$3,263,099.27 be approved.

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The Committee considered a Letter of Support for Medical Care Access Coalition for uninsured. Karlyn Rapport, Vice-President, Medical Care Access Coalition Board of Directors, was present along with her colleagues Aaron Sommers, Program Coordinator for ABW (Adult Benefit Waiver Program), and Melissa White, Executive Director of the MCAC Program, to address Commissioners regarding SCHIP and ABW programs. Mrs. Rapport thanked Commissioners for the invitation. She explained that 26 million people in the United States are not insured. Among that number are 9 million children who do not have health care coverage. Ten years ago Congress approved legislation which is referred to as SCHIP (State Children’s Health Insurance Program). This program covers 6 million children, but there are another 9 million children which are not presently covered by this program. It was intended by Congress to help working parents who don’t qualify for Medicaid, and don’t have the money to buy health insurance, to be able to have their children covered. The SCHIP Program is up for reauthorization. Ms. Rapport explained that if they fund it at the present level it won’t be enough because health care coverage has increased, and it will abandon the 9 million children. Mrs. Rapport also spoke regarding the MICHild Program.

Aaron Sommers and Melissa White also addressed Commissioners regarding the SCHIP, the ABW Program, and the MICHild Program. They explained that SCHIP reauthorization and continued support of ABW is critical to insure that 5,500 Upper Peninsula friends and neighbors continue to receive access to healthcare via our ABW and volunteer health care programs.

They further explained that SCHIP reauthorization and continued support of ABW is critical to insure that 1000 Marquette County friends and neighbors continue to receive healthcare coverage via our ABW and volunteer health care programs.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Mrs. Rapport, Ms. White and Mr. Sommers for their leadership and hard work regarding the MCAC Programs.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the Medical Care Access Coalition to reauthorize SCHIP and continue supporting ABW to guarantee continued access to healthcare for over 5,500 Upper Peninsula residents annually.

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The Committee considered the Big Bay Harbor Engineering Study. Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning was present and explained that facilities at the County owned and operated Big Bay Harbor of Refuge have served the boating community for 43 seasons. Investment at the facility over this period has consisted of regular maintenance and some smaller capital improvements. In recent years, there have been indicators that a comprehensive review of the adequacy of the facility was warranted. Accordingly, in 2005 staff made application to the County's 2006 Capital Improvements Program to perform an engineering study to determine short and long term capital needs at the facility. This type of study is also necessary to leverage State and Federal grant funds which have been essential in the original construction, upkeep, and improvements to the facility.

The County Board accepted a grant from the Michigan DNR in March of 2006 who agreed to fund up to half of the estimated engineering study project cost of \$14,680. Two bids were received July 5, 2006 with the award being made to North Country Engineering in the amount of \$10,720. The other bid from U.P. Engineers and Architects was \$28,100.

Work began in July and continued through two drafts of the study with the final draft being completed February 16, 2007. Per Administrator updates to the Commission, the agreement with the DNR required that the DNR had approval authority over the study which was expected by March 31. The DNR indicates their review may require an additional 30 days.

The draft study includes a number of conclusions and recommendations. While the study includes near and long term needs most importantly as the boating season approaches, the issue of navigability of the Harbor access channel is most pressing.

Mr. Kippola introduced Kurt Simandl, North Country Engineering, to give a presentation of the Harbor Report so as to initiate the study recommended campaign to try to secure State or Federal assistance to clear the channel. He also stated that following the presentation two actions are requested of the Board: 1) Authorize staff to begin an initiative with State and Federal agencies and our Legislators to reestablish the Corps of Engineers program of dredging recreational harbors of refuge. Other harbors suffering similar fates might be allied as well; and 2) Consider Change Order #1 by the Engineer (separate recommendation).

Mr. Simandl presented the County Board with an overview of the Big Bay Harbor Refuge. He explained the Preliminary Engineering Report, Problems & Findings at the Harbor, Various Views of the Big Bay Harbor from the 1960's compared to present, Survey Findings, Typical Wave Characteristics,

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Hydrographic Topography, the U.S. Army Corps Shoaling Report, Basin & Channel Soundings, the Big Bay Harbor Dredging Plan, and the Engineering Recommendation. He also explained the Preliminary Cost Estimates, and Conclusions for short term, medium term and long term recommendations. Along with Mr. Simandl were various residents of the Harbor Community expressing various concerns. It was also suggested that the dredging be done by someone from the community, if possible, to save money rather than hiring it out. Commissioner Joseph requested an explanation regarding the County's obligations to operate the harbor. Mr. Kippola will provide copies of the standing agreements to Civil Counsel. Commissioner consensus was to look at all options.

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 authorize staff to begin an initiative with State and Federal Agencies and our Legislators to reestablish the Corps of Engineers Program of dredging recreational harbors of refuge. Other harbors suffering similar fates might be allied as well.

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The Committee considered the NCE Change Order #1 of the Harbor Engineering Study. Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning, explained that this is a three part change order. His recommendation is as follows: 1) DNR requested additional development of cost estimates for the alternatives proposed by the Engineer. He recommends payment of the \$945.00 requested by the engineer. 2) Mid project, Mr. Kippola requested the engineer evaluate the 40 year old septic system at the Harbor as there are occasional problems with it. In addition, the Park Manager had sought an assessment of certain aspects of the Harbor Master Building. Mr. Kippola recommends we pay the extra \$455.00 for the work entailed in developing the recommendation. 3) As can be seen from the engineers report, the alternatives for short term and long term maintenance and development at the Harbor are not cheap. The report further suggests this work is well beyond the ability for the County to fund (and possibly be responsible for), so it will be necessary to begin a campaign to raise outside funds to assist in this regard. A good example is the Army Corps of Engineers cessation of dredging recreational harbors of refuge, and the immediate need for dredging just to be able to operate for larger watercraft. Accordingly, an effective digital presentation is needed to help potential entities to understand the nature of the problems and their remedies. Mr. Kippola believes the engineers request for \$1,970.63 is in excess of what has been completed to date. He recommends a compromise payment of \$550.00.

In summary, Mr. Kippola's recommendation is to pay the following: \$980.00 – Outstanding balance of project; and \$1,950.00 - As outlined above.

This puts the project at \$12,670.00, well within the original \$14,680.00 which was the original amount budgeted for the project. The DNR is funding up to \$7,340.00 of this project.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve Change Order #1 of the Harbor Engineering Study as recommended by Jim Kippola, Manager of Planning.

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The Committee considered the 2006 Annual Progress Report for Marquette County. Steve Powers, County Administrator, highlighted accomplishments and events that occurred last year, as well as forecasting

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the challenges ahead. He explained that there were some very positive accomplishments for Marquette County considering the challenges on the State level. He feels Commissioners should be proud, proud of our County and what was accomplished, including what was accomplished with other local governments in our area, and other counties in our region. He stated that in many ways Marquette County is ahead of the initiatives that are now being promoted in Lansing regarding cooperation and working together. He explained that if Commissioners have any feedback, it can be provided to Mary Yelle, Administrative Aide. Mary is responsible for the annual report. Marquette County continues to improve our ability to share information in a way that is understandable by the general public.

Comm. Pellow commended Mary for a job well done.

Comm. Joseph explained that another strategic planning session needs to be held so the County can plan for the future in an organized manner. He feels the strategic planning session keeps us on track regarding accomplishment and things yet to be done.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the 2006 Annual Progress Report for Marquette County be placed on file.

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The Committee considered a MAC Resolution regarding the State Budget Crisis. Chairperson Corkin read a resolution explaining that on April 17, 2007 the MAC Board passed the Resolution encouraging the Legislature to find adequate funds to support critical County programs. The Resolution comes in light of recent cuts and proposals to further cut the state budget to the detriment of Michigan’s 83 counties. Specifically, the Resolution requests the Legislature to fully replace the Single Business Tax, which is consistent with the MAC platform, and stresses that the Legislature needs to look to alternatives to cutting their way out of this budget crisis.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Resolution regarding the State Budget Crisis.

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The Committee considered 1st Quarter Budget Amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained that 1st Quarter Budget Amendments #1-#8 were prepared based on requests and information from the departments and review of the March budget reports. Budget Amendments are as follows:

#1- General Fund – General Fund revenue is increased by \$45,228. Amended revenues exceed expenditures by \$2,800, that amount has been added to contingency. The most significant change on the revenue side is recognition of the \$30,000 CDBG grant amendment from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to fund legal fees for the effort to recover loan funds from B-3 Computer.

Expenditures are increased by \$42,428 and included an additional \$13,000 to cover the Ishpeming District Court security costs until the operations are relocated to the new service center. The original 2007 budget had various operating cost estimates for the new service center budgeted under District Court and Facilities. This amendment creates a new department within the general fund to account for the operating costs related to the new service center. Also covered by this amendment is the AdHoc Committee’s proposal to bring the Register of Deeds Salary to the same level as the Treasurer’s Salary over a three year period.

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#2- Airport Fund – Airport revenues and expenses are increased by \$100,000 to cover air service marketing expenditures included in the grant extension. Insurance is reduced by \$15,500 and covers increases in other line items. The \$8,000 increase to overtime is related to snowplowing. There is no change to the amount to be transferred from the Airport Stabilization Fund.

#3– Aging Services– This amendment adjusts for changes to the Respite and RSVP grant dollars. There is no change to the millage dollars allocated to these programs. The Aging Services Advisory Committee recommended allocating \$25,000 from surplus funds from 2006. If approved, total millage funding provided to the centers for 2007 will be 11.8% higher than allocated in 2006.

#4 – Public Improvement Fund – This amendment provides for the carry forward of funds from the 2006 budget for projects not yet completed. It also includes a transfer of the Building Authority Fund approved by the board for the Ishpeming Service Center renovation. Also recommended is using \$3,000 from the rent paid by Project WEAVE to fund roof repairs at the Youth Home.

#5 – Probate Child Care Fund – This amendment increases the budget by \$22,283 to reflect changes in the actual grant agreement. No additional transfer from the General Fund is needed.

#6 - Remonumentation - This amendment increases the 2007 budget by \$59,428 because of additional funding available.

#7 – M.C.T.V. Fund – This amendment adjusts for various grant revenues and expenses. There is no General Fund support to this program.

#8 – Victim Restitution Fund– This amendment provides for security upgrades to the Probation/Parole Office. The Probation Oversight Reserve will be used to cover the \$3,000 estimated costs.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 1st Quarter Budget Amendments as presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

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The Committee considered 2007 Provider Contracts for Senior Services. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained that Staff is recommending approval of the 2007 contracts for aging services providers. Approval of the contracts was held up because of discussions with the centers regarding changes in cost and service report forms. Those discussions were delayed and the centers have been reporting services for this year using the existing report forms. At this point, since we are into the second quarter, county staff is recommending adopting the same contract language that has been used in the past for the duration of this year. Any changes could be considered for the 2008 contract year.

Ms. Vercoe further explained that the 2007 allocations as originally budgeted included a 5% increase over the 2006 allocation. The only other change in the 2007 contract from previous contracts is that providers have been given the option of requesting an advance of funds or operating on a reimbursement basis. 70% of the allocation is to be used for services at the standard rate of reimbursement and 30% can be used for general purpose programming. The standard unit rates are the same as used in 2006.

Also, consideration of a special appropriation to the Senior Centers as recommended by the Aging Services Advisory Board. If approved, an amendment to the contract would be signed for the special allocation.

	<u>2007 CONTRACT</u>	<u>2007 SPECIAL ALLOCATION</u>
Marquette	\$ 142,120	\$10,294
Forsyth	69,362	3,627
Ishpeming	123,891	7,616
Negaunee	51,019	3,463
AMCAB	53,017	0
Marquette Adult Day Services	2,814	0

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 2007 Provider Contracts for Senior Services.

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The Committee considered a recommendation for an Air Conditioner Bid Award at the Health Department Service Center. Larry Gould, Facilities Manager, was present to explain the bid award and answer questions. In a memo from Terry Govern, Operations Officer, Marquette County Health Department, the project has been approved as a Capital Improvement for 2007 with up to \$20,000 to be paid for from the Service Center Fund. The bid request was advertised in the Mining Journal and the County website, and several local contractors were mailed the bid packets. The bid opening took place on April 17, 2007 with six bids received.

The lowest bid received was an "Optional Bid" from John E. Green Company that does not meet the required specifications and therefore recommends that the bid award go to Johnson Controls in the amount of \$18,000, which includes the additional 5 year warranty. The Johnson Control bid is the lowest bid that meets required specifications.

If approved, the three original contracts are ready for signature as the Administrative review process has been complete.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Air Conditioner bid for the Health Department Service Center to Johnson Controls in the amount of \$18,000.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Pellow thanked Steve Powers, County Administrator, for his letter of response to the Mining Journal article regarding the Aging Services Millage and County Services, written as a result of the City

Commission Budget Workshop Session. Comm. Pellow felt the Article was disheartening. The Committee works hard to get things done. She feels the public needs an explanation, and should see the letter.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that a copy of the letter was sent to the City Manager and also copied to Christopher Diem, Mining Journal Report. A City Commission Budget Work Session to discuss Aging Services is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 5:15 p.m.

Comm. Struck announced EMS training was held in Marquette County the past two weeks. Ten EMT students from Gwinn and twenty from Republic completed the training. They will be added to our much needed force. He also announced that Kim Bourgeois, Harbor Master and Perkins Park Manager, participated in the classes. She commuted twice a week from Big Bay. Comm. Struck commended Ms. Bourgeois.

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