

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 23, 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. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Bergdahl, and Comm. Joseph.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 9, 2007 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 10) 2007 Public Improvement Fund Amendment.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote the Claims and Accounts for the period January 13, 2007 through January 19, 2007 in the amount of \$490,160.69 and biweekly payroll for the period ending January 13, 2007 in the amount of \$589,240.77 be approved.

The Committee considered a memo from Kim Bourgeois, Park Manager/Harbor Master, regarding the proposed Big Bay Harbor of Refuge Fees for 2007. Ms. Bourgeois explained that in accordance with our State Waterways Commission Agreement, it is time for the County Board to consider the 2007 fee structure for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge.

The State Waterways Commission sets transient and seasonal mooring rates at the harbor. The County normally accepts the state transient rates but, in the past, Marquette County has made a request to the State Waterways Commission for permission for a reduction in the fees for seasonal mooring at the Big Bay Harbor in order to attract seasonal boaters to the marina. It is staff's opinion that the distance to Big Bay and available amenities reduce demand for slips at the facility. Therefore, staff recommends the County Board adopt the state transient rates and request to the state that our seasonal rates are set at a rate 3.3% above our 2006 seasonal rate to coincide with the states 3.3% increase. All other fees will remain the same as 2006.

Al Feldhauser, Planner, was present to answer questions.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge Fees for 2007 as presented.

The Committee considered a memo from the Marquette County Planning Commission regarding a Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application for a Target Neighborhood in the City of Negaunee. The County is proposing to apply for approximately four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000.00) from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to assist qualified homeowners with home rehabilitation costs in a target neighborhood in the City of Negaunee. The County would administer the proposed grant in addition to the County Allocation Grant recently submitted. Terms and conditions of the grant would be similar in that it would be a no-interest deferred loan, attached to the homeowner's mortgage. However, with this grant, when the house is sold or transferred, the payoff goes back to MSHDA.

The Single Family Homeowner Rehabilitation activity is the only activity being applied for at this time. If the grant is awarded, it will provide up to \$25,000.00 in rehabilitation with an additional \$10,000.00 in Lead Paint Hazard Reduction to approximately twelve (12) homeowners in the Target Neighborhood. Participating homeowners will be required to provide some portion of the rehabilitation costs up front. The amount of the contribution will be based on the household income.

On January 10, 2007, the Marquette County Planning Commission held a public hearing to gather comments on the proposed application to secure funding for the homeowner rehabilitation projects in a target neighborhood in the City of Negaunee. No public comments were provided to the Commission. The Marquette County Planning Commission voted 6-0 in support of the application. The Marquette County Planning Commission recommends the Marquette County Board provide a resolution in support of the application.

Dottie LaJoye, Planner, was present to answer questions. She explained how the application process will take place if the grant is received, discussed briefly lead paint issues, and what some of the criteria will be to apply.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board provide a resolution in support in the Housing Rehabilitation Grant Application for a Target Neighborhood in the City of Negaunee.

The Committee considered a Vehicle Purchase for the Building Codes Department. Greg Sicotte, Building Official/Project Manager, explained that on January 16, 2007 sealed bids were opened for the purchase of two 4x4 pickup trucks. All bid specifications were within minimum requirements. Bids were received from Frei Chevrolet-\$22,598.00 with trade-in, \$33,598.00 without trade-in; Riverside Auto-\$25,684.00 with trade-in, \$37,084.00 without trade-in; Fox Motors of Negaunee-\$23,930.00 with trade-in, \$33,930.00 without trade-in; Public Service Garage of Marquette-\$24,807.00 with trade-in, \$33,807.00 without trade-in. An Alternate Bid was received for a Crew Cab; \$30,531.00 with trade-in; \$39,531.00 without trade-in.

The new trucks could replace two trucks currently used by the Codes Department. The two vehicles if traded are 2002 Chevrolet S-10 4x4 with a trade-in allowance of \$6,000.00 and a 2003 Chevrolet S-10 2x2 with a trade-in allowance of \$5,000.00.

\$36,300.00 was budgeted in the 2007 Capital Budget for two Building Code Vehicles.

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

Steve Powers, County Administrator explained that the County will be purchasing the vehicles without a trade-in. The two trucks currently used by the Codes Department will be used by Equalization and the Housing and Community Development Department.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote to accept Frei Chevrolet's bid of \$33,598.00 for two Chevrolet Colorado 4x4 trucks for the Building Codes Department.

The Committee considered 2006 Yearend Budget Amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained that preliminary yearend budget reports have been prepared for all departments; final reports for 2006 will not be closed until March.

Mrs. Vercoe explained the General Fund budget amendment as follows:

#32-General Fund – the General Fund budget is decreased by \$15,088.00. The most significant adjustments are a \$100,000.00 reduction in Homeland Security expenses for 2006, funding will be carried forward to the 2007 budget. There was a \$30,000.00 reduction in juvenile funded programs and jury fees were reduced by \$20,000.00. The decreased were offset by increases in court legal fees up to \$86,000.00 and County legal fees up to \$35,000.00. The actual health insurance premium increase for 2006 was less than the 10% budgeted for the year. This amendment adds that amount of healthcare savings to the contingency line item to be reserved at the yearend closeout to cover future premium increases the County would be liable for under labor contracts.

Ms. Vercoe, stated that revenue changes include the \$130,000.00 reduction in grant funds for 2006. This amount is offset by an increase in 2% Gaming Revenue of \$29,427.00, an increase in Clerk Services of \$30,000.00, Public Safety Revenues are increased by \$20,000.00, and Jail revenues are increased by \$30,000.00.

Ms. Vercoe, also explained the following budget amendments: #33-Airport Fund; #34-Airport Stabilization Fund; #35 and #36-Sewer Fund and Water Fund; #37-Intermediary Relending Fund; #38 -PA 511 Community Corrections; #39-Central Dispatch Fund; #40-Rescue Safety Fund; #41-Law Library Fund; #42-M.C.T.V. Fund; and #43-Community Development Fund.

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 approve the Yearend 2006 Budget Amendments #32- #43 as presented by Mrs. Vercoe.

The Committee considered a 2007 Public Improvement Fund Amendment. A memo was received from Fred J. Benze, E.H. Director, Marquette County Health Department, explaining the Marquette County Health Department is requesting authorization to purchase a new four wheel drive pickup to replace a 2000 Crown Victoria Police Inceptor with 112,600 miles. The Crown Victoria was obtained from the Marquette County Sheriff's Department in January of 2004 and is now in need of replacement. The Health Department is requesting use of the Marquette County Enterprise Fund as they have in the past and will reimburse that fund on a monthly basis.

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The Health Department understands the Building Codes Department has requested and received bids for two vehicles similar to what the Health Department would request bids for, and are requesting authorization to increase the number of vehicles purchased from the approved bidder by one.

Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained the request of \$16,000.00 is an advance from the Public Improvement Fund for purchase of the vehicle. Funds will be repaid over four years. Staff recommends amending the 2007 PIF Budget to allow the advance.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that County Board action is only to allow the advance to the Health Department. The Health Department will purchase the vehicles.

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 amend the 2007 Public Improvement Fund budget to allow the advance to the Marquette County Health Department for the vehicle purchase.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that a meeting between the six counties from the Central U.P. was held last week in Escanaba regarding the Regional Jail issue. He explained that information is being collected to find solutions to Jail overcrowding. He also stated that it makes sense for various Counties to look for long term solutions. Administrator Powers is looking at renovations to the present jail, possibly moving staff to another location. Comm. Corkin explained that whatever is done regarding the Jail overcrowding issue it has to be affordable for the County. Another meeting will be held in March.

Comm. Pellow requested copies of the drawings from the Architect regarding the Service Center Building in Ishpeming.

Comm. Corkin stated the Governor's U.P. Inaugural held at Northern Michigan University on Saturday night was a success. He met with elected officials from the State and Federal level reminding them of their obligations. 75% of Marquette County services are mandated. The State is only paying 48%.

Comm. Arsenault requested an update regarding the process of increasing the Marquette County Road Commission. He emphasized that it is important to the Road Commission Board and the Road Commission.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that UPCAP is holding a luncheon for public officials on January 31, 2007 to provide an update on the Silver Lake Dam. Commissioners interested please contact Mary for reservations.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk