

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 9, 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, 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 December 12, 2006 be approved.

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

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 8) Grant Agreement for Fingerprinting and Mugshot System, and Item 9) Request from EDC to Assist Bell Hospital.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period December 16, 2006 through December 31, 2006, in the amount of \$222,876.49, and bi-weekly payroll for the period ending December 30, 2006 in the amount of \$601,053.46 be approved.

The Committee reviewed a Power Point Presentation of the Comprehensive Plan prepared by Eric Anderson, Senior Planner. Mr. Anderson was present and explained that his Power Point would review the Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan entitled "Intergovernmental Cooperation." He stated that this chapter has not been updated since 1982. There are already efforts in place, such as the Central Dispatch 9-1-1 Service and the Marquette County Solid Waste Plan, which have taken a great deal of intergovernmental cooperation. Mr. Anderson did not include all cooperative efforts in the Power Point Presentation.

He further explained that the final report to the Governor of the Task Force on Local Government Services and Feasibility Study was due in May of 2006. The report showed how government can be more efficient with the resources the County has. Mr. Anderson presented Marquette County's resource space, revenues, expenditures, and services.

Commissioners questioned certain aspects of Mr. Anderson's report.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the Board of Commissioners thanked Mr. Anderson for a job well done.

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The Committee considered a Regnos Loan Extension. Scott Erbsch, Sawyer Operations Manager, was present and explained that on December 14, 2001, Regnos, LLC, now Alta Surgery, closed on a 5-year \$200,000 IRP loan. A lump sum final payment was due December 14, 2006. Throughout the past five years Regnos, LLC, has kept the loan current.

Mr. Erbsch further explained that in mid December, representatives from Regnos, LLC, contacted County Staff about the potential of loan renewal. Staff advised that since Regnos, LLC, does not have a presence at Sawyer, they would not be eligible for a renewal through the IRP Loan Program. Regnos, LLC, has

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requested an extension for final payment while they seek alternative methods for making the final loan payment.

Mr. Erbisich stated that Staff feels that this request is acceptable and that a 60-day extension is an appropriate amount of time to close the loan. To complete the 60-day extension, Wells Fargo Bank will need to perform a Post Booking Modification (PBM). Since this is a loan modification, Board approval for the change is needed. During the 60-day extension, Regnos, LLC, will be required to continue to make payments on the loan.

Mr. Erbish recommends the extension be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board grant Regnos, LLC, a 60-day extension for final payment and authorize Wells Fargo Bank to do a Post Booking Modification (PBM) to the loan.

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The Committee considered a Grant Agreement for Fingerprinting and Mugshot System. A recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that this project will upgrade a four-year-old system by adding mugshot capabilities and interface. The current system does not have mugshot capabilities. The project will bring the Marquette County Sheriff’s Department into compliance with State fingerprinting and mugshot standards and requirements. Mugshots and fingerprints must be sent digitally.

The project also includes an improved scanner that will reduce the time needed for fingerprinting. The system is a fingerprint scanner, camera, software, and a driver license scanner. The cost includes conversion of existing data and photos.

The \$15,975 is funded by \$8,000 from the Michigan Department of Community Health, \$4,000 from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority, and \$3,975 from the 2007 County Budget.

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 authorize approval of the Contract with Michigan Department of Community Health/Office of Drug Control Policy and purchase of Live Scan Fingerprinting System.

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The Committee considered a request from the EDC to assist Bell Hospital. A recommendation from Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that Bell Hospital has requested the EDC’s assistance with the bond issue to fund Bell’s new hospital. Michigan Law requires the Board of Commissioners to certify the project area.

A project plan provided by Bell Hospital was distributed. The plan provides summarized information regarding the project. No action on the project plan is needed at this time. The Board of Commissioners will have to hold a public hearing on the project plan when requested by the EDC.

MCL 125.1612(1) provides that a County Board of Commissioners shall by resolution (a) establish the project area boundaries (but “certification of project area”) and (b) determine the necessity of establishing a project citizens district council. MCL 125.1612(2) provides that a project citizens district council may be

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established promptly after the designation of the project area is certified by a County Board, and describes the required makeup of such a council.

The council’s functions and activities are specified in statute. Statute specifically provides that the creation of a project citizen’s district council is not required, and also describes the circumstances under which such a council, if created, can subsequently be dissolved. If created, a project citizen’s district council acts as an advisory body to, in this case, the Economic Development Corporation of the County of Marquette, the Board of Commissioners, and the “local public agency,” which is defined “...the official body of a municipality authorized to plan and implement the development and redevelopment of the municipality.”

The EDC believes creation of a council is unnecessary. The project involves construction on vacant, underdeveloped property that has been donated to Bell Hospital. There should be no neighborhood impacts. There will be no relocation of residences.

The Board of Commissioners has the option to create such a council as a part of this project. If the Board determines that the creation of such a council is unnecessary, Staff recommends adopting such a motion so that there will be a record of its consideration and decision.

There is no direct expense to County budget. The County will have no responsibility for the bonds that will be issued to fund Bell Hospital’s new facility. The EDC has the primary role in reviewing requests from Bell Hospital’s Financial Advisory and Bond Council.

Comm. Joseph announced he is on the Bell Hospital Board, and therefore will be abstaining from the motion.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Abstention (Comm. Joseph) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt a resolution certifying the Bell Hospital Project Area as requested by the Economic Development Corporation, and that a project citizen’s council shall not be necessary for the project.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced he has assigned Commissioners to various Committees for 2007. He explained that if Commissioners have any conflicts on any Committee to please notify him.

Chairperson Corkin also announced that Administrator Powers will be out of the office all week for University visitations with his daughter.

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