

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 22, 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. Struck (arriving late), and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Pellow and Comm. Wallace.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on May 8, 2007 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 as follows: Delete Item 9) Ishpeming Service Center Change Order #2, add Item 10) Letter of Intent – UPCAP Funding.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote the Claims and Accounts for the period May 12, 2007 through May 18, 2007 in the amount of \$227,123.87 be approved.

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The Committee considered a communication from Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Management Coordinator, regarding the Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement. Ms. Schwalbach explained that the purpose of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) is to provide Federal Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funds to Marquette County for the development and maintenance of an emergency management program capable of protecting life, property, and vital infrastructure in times of disaster or emergency.

For 2006/2007, the total EMPG award for Marquette County is \$24,421.00. This amount is 34.145917% of the Emergency Management Coordinator’s salary and fringe benefits. This is an increase of \$1,544.00 from FY 2005/2006. The grant year is October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 2006/2007 Emergency Management Performance Grant Agreement.

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The Committee considered a communication from David P. Lemire, Captain, Marquette County Sheriff’s Department, regarding the bid award for two new all terrain vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department. Mr. Lemire explained that on Tuesday, May 14, 2007 bids were opened from four potential vendors for two (2) new all terrain vehicles. Nine total requests for proposals were sent out for the vehicles. All requests were for general all terrain vehicle specifications.

The low bid vendor met the specifications. It is Capt. Lemire’s recommendation that the low bidder, Adventure Center, be awarded the bid for ORV’s.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the funds for the two all terrain vehicles are budgeted in the Rescue Safety Fund.

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 award the bid for the two (2) new all terrain vehicles to the low bidder, Adventure Center, in the amount of \$15,177.54.

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The Committee considered a communication from Scott Erbsch, Sawyer Operations Manager, and Cheryl Cox, Marketing Assistant, regarding a Storm Water Erosion Control Project. Mr. Erbsch was present and explained that in the summer of 2002, Marquette County awarded an erosion control project to Smith Paving, Inc. This project was intended to correct erosion issues at six locations – one said location being the Red Fox Inn outfall.

The design for this particular location received much attention as Staff negotiated (at great lengths) for a better design. In the end, the Air Force Real Property Agency dismissed Staff recommendation and proceeded with a design that Staff felt may not hold.

In 2006, Staff was approached by John Eagle, Jr. (Owner/Manager of Tailwind’s Grill and Bar) to investigate an erosion issue at the outfall located near their property boundary.

The erosion (located on County-owned land) is carving out turf and pushing sand into the utility roadway at the bottom of the basin. In addition to the obvious damage, the hillsides integrity could be compromised, causing damage to Mr. Eagle’s property located at the top of the hill. Last year, Staff actually found a 4-foot portion of the utility roadway washed away. This roadway not only serves as access to the Air Force remediation site, but it is also part of the snowmobile trail network.

Staff then enlisted the assistance of URS Engineering. Upon inspection, URS promptly provided a design and quote for an improved outfall with estimated costs of \$30,000 - \$40,000.

In an attempt to find funding assistance for the erosion problem, Staff contacted the Air Force Real Property Agency, since their original repair failed, and because it impacts their remediation site. Staff requested the use of remaining Caretaker funding to fix this failed project. The request was denied.

Staff also contacted Hampton Waring of the Marquette County Conservation District to determine the applicability of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program and available funding options, if any. According to Mr. Waring, the County does not currently meet the required standards or conditions for program funding at this particular site.

URS Engineering recommends installing a catch basin and manhole structure just above the location of the erosion. Water captured in the catch basin will be piped underground, under the utility access road and discharged into a rip-rap area below the access road to the Air Force Remediation site. This method of repair was used for a similar problem at Sawyer, virtually eliminating the erosion problem.

The current drainage is comprised of ditching, fabric, and rip-rap. Water is able to undermine this structure and will continue to do so even if repaired.

Summary and Staff recommendation: Staff believes that the bank erosion is a serious problem that requires prompt action. The design provided by URS appears to be the most cost-effective and appropriate solution.

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

Staff recommends entering into an agreement with URS Engineering for engineering designs, bidding, and field inspections for a cost not to exceed \$5,000, as well as approval to proceed with bids for the erosion repair with an estimated cost of \$25,000 - \$30,000 for project construction. As these are not budgeted items, a budget adjustment will be required.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that there is a possibility that there will be some remaining lease revenues in the Caretaker Fund following the final audit.

Mr. Erbisch will continue looking for potential sources of funding.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the improvement/repair of the outfall/stormwater sewer area behind Red Fox Inn’s parking lot.

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The Committee considered a communication from Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, regarding a Letter of Intent – UPCAP Funding. Ms. Vercoe explained that this week a notice was received from UPCAP requesting letters of intent to apply for funding. UPCAP requires that all letters of intent be authorized by the organization’s governing board and submitted by May 31. Application forms will only be sent to providers who submit letters of intent.

Ms. Vercoe further explained that in the past the County has applied for funding for Respite, Home Care Assistance, and the Homemaker funding that is passed through to the senior centers. Jackie Boxer and Ms. Vercoe met with the Senior Center Directors and advised them that we would be seeking Board approval to submit the Letter of Intent.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board submit the Letter of Intent for UPCAP Funding as explained by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Struck apologized for being late. He just returned from Lansing where he was chair of the Michigan Association of Counties Transportation Committee meeting. Four Upper Peninsula Representatives were in attendance and they discussed some of the issues impacting Marquette County, as well as the U.P. in general. He explained that no one is optimistic at this point, nothing is happening in Lansing, and they are as frustrated as we are.

Comm. Heikkila urged Scott Erbisch to contact our Federal Representatives regarding funding for the soil erosion project.

Comm. Corkin suggested sending a letter to Congressman Levin. He believes the funding issue can be solved. Mr. Erbisch will draft a letter for signature by the Board Chair.

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Chairperson Corkin announced there will be a Special Meeting of the County Board of Commissioners following this Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss pending litigation.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk