

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 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. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused: Comm. Pellow.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Departmental Budget Hearings held on August 27, 2007 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 25, 2007 be approved.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Scott and Lorinda Jandron addressed the County Board regarding the Guatemala 5000, an Initiative concerning the current status of adoptions in Guatemala. Ms. Jandron thanked the Committee of the Whole for allowing them to speak and for their interest in helping to navigate through their adoption turmoil. Ms. Jandron explained that Guatemala has become a very popular Country for Americans seeking adoption, but unfortunately, Guatemala has become the target of those that do not believe that international adoption is a good thing.

Ms. Jandron distributed information explaining the Initiative and the current status regarding the Hague Laws on International Adoption effective January 1, 2008, and also explained that the impending crisis can be avoided if a grandfather clause is added to Bill 3217 (commonly referred to as the Ortega Bill). She explained that a grandfather clause would allow the 5,000 children to have their cases proceed in the current system, the system under which these cases began.

Mr. and Mrs. Jandron stated that the system is very complex and very fluid. A Call to Action (the Guatemala 5000) specifically names the dates of October 9, 10, and 11, 2007. Ms. Jandron stated that new developments have shown that they will not be acting until the beginning of November, 2007. The Jandrons are asking the County Board to get involved in the Guatemala 5000 and contact our Legislators requesting they get involved, and encourage them to work with our Department of State and the Guatemalan Legislators to bring these children home now.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter to our Legislators requesting they become involved in the Guatemala 5000 and take action to help the children at risk.

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It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 9) Lease Agreement with Happel Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Red Barn Plat Books and Cartographic Services.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 29, 2007 through October 4, 2007 in the amount of \$2,406,148.04 be approved.

The Committee was presented with an update for the Friend of the Court. Carolyn Hanson was present and explained that she and Judge Solka requested Jim Olson, Senior Vice President for Maximus, attend this meeting and discuss Friend of the Court services and potential funding issues. She noted that in 2005 the Federal Deficit Reduction Act reduced available funding for Friend of the Court offices. She stated that the Governor's budget that was proposed for 2008 provided sufficient monies to fill this shortfall of money. However, since that State budget is not yet passed and we don't know if all the Governor's proposals and recommendations will pass, there is the potential at the State level that there will be funding problems. Ms. Hanson also explained that the federal government is also proposing legislation that would repeal the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 and once again restore the funding lost. Ms. Hanson stated that funding for Friend of the Courts is a very complicated issue, but any reduction would effect Marquette County.

Mr. Olson showed a slide presentation and discussed the potential for a funding loss. He explained Friend of the Court and Prosecuting Attorney performance, and what the incentive dollars are that are at stake. He explained that in 2000 the funding formula changed for child support, a significant 66% of all expenditures. In addition, they gave an incentive and those incentive dollars were based on performance. The performance dollars up until October 1, 2007 could be used to make up the difference between the 66% reimbursement and the 34% which is the County share. Mr. Olson highlighted specific performance comparisons and how they are measured in order to earn those incentive dollars: paternity establishment, support order establishment, collections on current support, collections on arrears, and cost effectiveness.

Judge Thomas Solka, 25th Circuit, re-emphasized that if the federal repealer does not pass and the State proposed budget by the Governor does not pass, the net effect that will occur in the Marquette County Friend of the Court Office would be equal to a 2-2½ reduction in positions. He stated he is well aware that MAC is working vigorously to get the budget passed. The earlier statistics given by Mr. Olson regarding 2006 for the Friend of the Court office shows that the Marquette County Friend of the Court in addition to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office is working at an excellent performance level by any of the benchmarks measured. Judge Solka also stated that services will have to be eliminated if these fixes don't pass. He recognizes the reality of the budget situation the Board will be faced with, depending what happens on the State level. He stated there are no easy fixes, no easy answers. Judge Solka realizes the Board will have a very difficult decision ahead. Judge Solka also stated that he has a very high degree of respect for this County Board to make good sound decisions. Judge Solka also commended Steve Powers, County Administrator, for communicating to County Staff what is happening at the State and Federal level, and quick to alert us to matters pending.

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 send a letter to our Federal and State Legislators reminding them of the importance of the repealer and passing the Governor's Budget as it relates to the Friend of the Court.

The Committee considered a Resolution Authorizing Intergovernmental Transfers (IGT) to Support the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC) Indigent Care Program. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Marquette County Health Department, was present and explained that on April 2, 2002, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution authorizing a series of intergovernmental transfers (IGT) necessary to support indigent care programs operated by the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC). These programs help uninsured Marquette County residents gain access to needed health care. Funds submitted by the County in this process are eligible for federal matching dollars which are used to support indigent care delivery.

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Dr. Johnson further explained that in 2006 the federal government approved a Medicaid State Plan Amendment for Michigan which clarified the relationships between the entities participating in the IGT funded Indigent Care Program. As a result of this Amendment, a revised resolution authorizing participation in the IGT process for 2006/2007 was adopted by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners on June 12, 2007.

Dr. Johnson stated that at their September 26, 2007 meeting, the Marquette County Board of Health took action to recommend that the Board of Commissioners adopt the same Authorizing Resolution (with an updated IGT dollar amount) for FY 2007/2008.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Resolution Authorizing Intergovernmental Transfers (IGT) to Support the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC) Indigent Care Program.

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The Committee considered a Resolution to Advocate for Prioritization of Public Health Services when the State's Share of the Cost is Less than 50% for the Services. Dr. Randall M. Johnson, M.D., Marquette County Health Department, was present and explained the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) developed a Resolution which they have asked each local health department to bring to their respective Board of Health and County Board of Commissioners for possible adoption. The Resolution attempts to address a long standing (and worsening) problem resulting from a lack of adequate State funding to support the delivery of required public health services at the local level.

Dr. Johnson further explained that at their September 26, 2007 meeting, the Marquette County Board of Health took action to both adopt this Resolution themselves, and to recommend that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners adopt it also.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board adopt the Resolution to Advocate for Prioritization of Public Health Services when the State's Share of the Cost is Less than 50% for the Services.

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The Committee considered a Lease Agreement with Happel Enterprises, LLC. Building 731 is currently under Lease with USA Hunting Supplies, Inc. USA Hunting Supplies, Inc., is behind in its rental payments and notified County Staff that they are vacating the premises. The vacating of the premises is nearly complete.

Happel Enterprises, LLC, dba Red Barn Plat Books and Cartographic Services operates in a facility in Rumley, Michigan. They currently have ten employees and will be expanding over the next two to three years. Their employees are scattered throughout Marquette County. The company has been seeking a site which allows for expansion and is centrally located. Red Barn would lease Building 731 in accordance with the following terms:

- Size: 4,088 sf
- Rate: \$1,000.00 per month which equates to approximately \$2.936 psf
- Escalation: 5% annually
- Term: 3 years
- Lease Commencement Date: November 1, 2007

It is recommended that the County Board proceed with the Lease to Happel Enterprises, LLC and allow Red Barn Plat Book and Cartographic Services early access to paint, clean, and set up their offices. It was also noted this Lease is subject to the Telkite Marketing Agreement.

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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 Lease Agreement with Happel Enterprises, LLC for Building 731.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Phyllis Loonsfoot, representing Harbor House Domestic Violence Shelter, was present and stated with October being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, she would like to thank and share some information. She explained that she was a volunteer in the mid 1980's at the Domestic Violence Shelter. They had a dream of having a larger Domestic Violence Shelter and talked about it for 20 years. She happily announced that that dream has finally become a reality. They recently moved six families, seven offices, food pantry, and the children's room into the new shelter. A long awaited opportunity to provide survivors and their children with a safe retreat from the abuse and violence they have endured. She stated that they were overwhelmed by the community support and volunteerism. She recognized some very special County Employees, Marquette County Prosecutor's Office - Cathy Church, Matt Wiese, and his wife Carrie, Cindy Boyer, Diane Zegner, Community Corrections Crew - Paul Smith, Art Lauren, and others, Sheriff's Department - Jay Loonsfoot, Elmer Reinhardt. Help from various police departments, the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan's group of teenagers, Kiwanis presently building the handicap ramp, Barb Helberg, local churches, attorneys, services groups, and contractors who went above and beyond the call of duty.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Struck commended and congratulated Phyllis Loonsfoot and the numerous volunteers and staff for their dedication to the Harbor House Domestic Violence Shelter.

Comm. Struck gave a successful report on the cleanup venture and Sawyer.

Comm. Heikkila thanked Staff for the letter regarding the PILT monies.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that the Diorite School will be boarded up by Friday. Cost will be approximately \$150.00 and a lien will be put against the real estate.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam, Marquette County Clerk