

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, September 25, 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. Joseph, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 11, 2007 be approved with the following correction: **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ACCOUCEMENTS:** Replace Comm. Heikkila's comments with: Comm. Heikkila briefly discussed State of Michigan Bills regarding Central Dispatch funding.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Bob Vick, Heritage Museum, was present to answer questions regarding Item 7) The License Agreement between the County and the Heritage Air Museum.

Renee Leo, Conservation District, was present to discuss funding, grant dollars, as well as present and future support for the Conservation District. She announced upcoming activities and extended an invitation to the County Board.

Becky Otto, District Conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, was present and explained that she is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that works closely with Conservation Districts. Without the Conservation District the County may not have a NRCS Field Office in Marquette County. The Conservation District and the NRCS cover a multitude of projects.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 8) Letter of Support for CUPPAD; and Item 9) Letter of Support for WAAS.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period September 15, 2007 through September 21, 2007 in the amount of \$1,240,853.59 be approved.

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The Committee considered a License Agreement with the K.I. Sawyer Heritage Air Museum, Inc. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that in September of 2005, Marquette County approved a License Agreement allowing the K.I. Sawyer Heritage Air Museum, Inc., use of Hangar 662 for the restoration of a former military aircraft.

The Air Museum group has required a new project and is requesting an Agreement allowing the use of Hangar 662 for the period October 3, 2007 through October 2, 2008, under the same terms of the previous Agreement.

There is no impact on the County budget. The Air Museum group will pay \$1.00 for the use of Hangar 662, will pay all utilities and provide liability and property insurance.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenaault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the License Agreement between the County of Marquette and the K.I. Sawyer Heritage Air Museum, Inc.

The Committee considered Sawyer Water and Sanitary Sewer Ordinance recommended additions. Steve Powers, County Administrator, summarized changes to the Water and Sanitary Sewer Ordinances for the Sawyer Water and Wastewater System. He explained that the changes being considered would clean up the ordinance that was adopted when the County took over the system at Sawyer, and also changes that were reviewed and recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality. He stated that in reviewing the water system ordinance, Staff identified section 2000.19 Cross-Connections did not have language that stated that there would be a charge for the cross-connection inspection. The suggested language is as follows:

Water Ordinance

Section 2000.19 Cross-Connections.

- (D) Any property with backflow preventer equipment used to prevent cross-connections will be inspected and tested in compliance to the Water Cross-Connection Rules of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality by the Water Utility, or their representative. The cost of this inspection will be the responsibility of the water customer.

Sanitary Sewer Ordinance

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring that the Sawyer Industrial Pretreatment Program be updated and be incorporated in the Sawyer Wastewater Ordinance. Information was provided identifying the areas of change in the Wastewater Ordinance.

Mr. Powers explained that a complete copy of the Industrial Pretreatment Program and current ordinances are available for review in the County Administrator’s Office. The language will be effective immediately upon final approval by the County Board of Commissioners. No additional publishing is required. Mr. Powers recommends approval.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Sawyer Water and Sanitary Sewer Ordinance changes as recommended.

The Committee considered a letter of support for CUPPAD. Chairperson Corkin explained that the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission (CUPPAD) recently was told that their technical assistance funding from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) would cease to exist at the end of the 2007 calendar year. CUPPAD believes that MEDC’s plans, in lieu of their support of CUPPAD, are detrimental to the Central Upper Peninsula. CUPPAD is seeking assistance in their efforts to retain that funding.

CUPPAD has received this funding for the past ten years. This funding has enabled the Regional Commission to assist local units of government to identify economic development projects and apply for MEDC funding in the central six county region.

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Based on the information received, CUPPAD understands that in place of the funding for technical assistance, MEDC would be sending representatives from Lansing to locate and analyze potential projects in their region. It is their belief that this is not cost effective and will be detrimental to local economic development due to increased costs for project administration and the probability of a reduction in efficiency due to the distance between Lansing and the Upper Peninsula when compared to the availability of the local support provided by CUPPAD.

In order to continue providing assistance for local economic development projects it is imperative that the technical funding to CUPPAD be saved. CUPPAD would like to enlist the help of the County Board through a letter of support and contact with local Congressmen, expressing the need in our local communities for continued CUPPAD support in economic development.

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 send a letter of support to retain CUPPAD funding.

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The Committee considered a letter of support for the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) for Sawyer International Airport. Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that as a means of reducing weather-related safety issues, delays, or cancellations, Staff has submitted a request to the Federal Aviation Administration (via Sawyer’s Five-Year Airport Capital Improvement Plan) for an additional Instrument Landing System (ILS) with an approach to Runway 19. The estimated cost to install an ILS is 1.5 to 2 million dollars. Mr. Kaspari explained that the FAA is discouraging the installation of an ILS, however, a Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) would be a cost-effective alternative.

Mr. Kaspari further explained that last week at the Airport Manager’s Conference, it was announced that Sawyer International Airport is on the list of 22 airports throughout the State of Michigan to receive the WAAS system. The System would be 100% FAA funded. He explained that although being selected is wonderful news, the process from start to finish (including the publishing of the approach) is approximately 18 to 24 months. Mr. Kaspari is asking for consideration and support of a Congressional request to place Sawyer International Airport’s WAAS system as a high priority.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board send a letter of support for a Congressional request to place Sawyer International Airport’s WAAS System as a high priority.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that he provided a welcome from the County Board at the 34th Annual Ski Induction Breakfast held on Saturday, September 22, 2007.

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Chairperson Corkin also announced that on behalf of the County Board he sat in on the interviews for the position of CEO for Marquette General Hospital. He stated that there were very impressive candidates interviewed for this position.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced the Aging Services Office has moved to the first floor of the Courthouse Annex. He also announced good news regarding Sawyer: The County was notified by the FAA that Sawyer has been reauthorized to continue in the Military Airports Program. He explained that Sawyer is one of four airports to continue in the program because of our commitment to ensuring that the Airport operates a civil and joint military civilian use facility.

The Committee discussed the State Budget. Steve, Powers, County Administrator, explained that as it looks there may be shutdown of State services on Monday, October 1, 2007. He explained that Department Directors and Elected Officials were asked their thoughts as to whether or not we should continue to provide services that are funded or partially funded by the State.

Mr. Powers recommends not shutting down Friend of the Court, Family Support, and Community Corrections until we have some indication how long a shut down is expected it to last. He explained that if it is a question of days it would be in the best interest of our citizens to continue to provide those services. If the shut down extends for months then it would be a more difficult decision for those that oversee these state funded operations.

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 direct Steve Powers, County Administrator, to keep those County offices open on a short term basis if a shut down of State government does occur. Commissioner Pellow requested projections of costs per day the County would be spending without State funding.

Chairperson Corkin announced he was pleased to see the County Board take this action. He stated that the County doesn't want to be as irresponsible in carrying out government as the State has been during this budget year.

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