

The attached minutes are subject to correction and approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 West 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 Comm. Corkin. Absent: None.

A Salute to the Flag was given followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Organizational meeting held on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 be approved.

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Chairperson Corkin read the following Resolution honoring Janice R. Mason on Her Retirement:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING JANICE R. MASON
ON HER RETIREMENT**

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality. Quality services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Janice R. Mason was hired on February 1, 1993 as a Vital Records Clerk in the County Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 1994 Jan was promoted to the position of Administrative Aide to the County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2006 Jan was again promoted to the position of Chief Deputy County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Jan has performed her duties with professionalism, courtesy, and commitment; and

WHEREAS, Jan has also provided a sense of humor and a Touch of Class to the Office of the County Clerk; and

WHEREAS, Jan will retire on January 31, 2008 with fifteen years of service;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully expresses its appreciation to Janice R. Mason for her excellent service to Marquette County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all County Citizens, the Marquette County Board wishes Jan and her husband Bill a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

*Proclaimed this 15th day of January, 2008
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Chairperson Corkin stated he appreciates all the little things Jan has done throughout the years. He stated Ms. Mason is a very special person.

Ms. Mason thanked the County Board and stated that she feels fortunate to have worked for Marquette County for the past 15 years.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved as presented.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

James Gallant, Skandia, addressed the County Board regarding Pathways.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period January 1, 2008 through January 11, 2008 the amount of \$607,151.78 be approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

10a) The County Board considered the Argonics IRP Loan and Lease Request. Steve Powers, County Administrator, stated there are some changes that should be considered by the Board that are slightly different than the parameters of the Agreement. The first is a recommendation to have the rent commence October 1st or upon occupancy. There were also some concerns raised by Argonics regarding if Mr. Flood is unable to secure financing. Civil Counsel has prepared language that addresses Argonics' concern while providing protection to the County.

Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel, explained some minor changes from what had been discussed at the Committee of the Whole. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Heikkila and carried by voice vote 8 Ayes to 1 Abstention (Comm. Arsenault) that the County Board approve the Argonics Loan and Lease Request as follows:

1) Waive the maximum loan limit required of the IRP Loan Policy. Current IRP policy maximum loan amounts as written are \$200,000.00. In the past, loans have been made in higher amounts by waiving the listed maximum; 2) Approve the IRP loan request in the amount of \$250,000.00 IRP loan at Prime Rate (7.25%) plus .25% for Wells Fargo Handling and Administration Fee with a 10-year amortization totaling 7.50% interest. The monthly payment to be \$2,968.00; and 3) Require a secured personal guarantee from Mr. and Mrs. Bob Flood. 4) To enter into a Lease Agreement with Argonics, Inc. for Building 727 and the adjacent land and authorize the Board Chair to execute the Lease and all related documents; the rent will commence October 1st or upon occupancy whichever is sooner. In the event that the construction bids exceed the engineer's construction cost estimates by 25% or more the County would negotiate with Argonics and if the parties cannot resolve that matter then Argonics would have the right to terminate the project and terminate the lease. In the vent that the conastruction bids exceed the engineer's construction cost estimates by less than 25% Argonics will cover that additional cost if it can obtain the additional financing under reasonable commercial terms. If Argonics cannot find additional financing under reasonable commercial terms for the difference then Marquette County and Argonics will negotiate a solution and if no solution can be reached, Argonics would have the right to terminate the project and terminate the lease. That would be before the County expends its \$900,000.00 commitment. The pre-bid work that Argonics wants to start as soon as possible could cost up to \$100,000.00 and would result in actual improvements to the building. If the improvements are completed before the bids and the project has to be terminated then the County would reimburse Argonics 50% of the cost of those improvements to a maximum of \$50,000.00.

10b) The County Board considered a six-month extension to the Car Rental Agreements.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize the County Chairman to sign a six-month extension to the Car Rental Agreements. This extension will allow for the data collection and the time needed to meet with the car rental agencies. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement will remain the same.

10c) The County Board considered internet service as part of the compensation for the Board of County Road Commissioners.

Comm. Arsenault feels internet service saves on postage and paper. Comm. Struck explained that this service is already in place, it is not a new benefit.

Commissioner consensus is that there is a budget crisis, most people already have internet service, the internet cannot be managed and because all of the Road Commissioners do not have internet service efficiency comes into question. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Arsenault that the County Board approve internet service as part of the compensation for the Board of County Road Commissioners. A voice vote was recorded 5 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm.. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Pellow) to 4 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, and Comm. Corkin). Motion Failed.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

James Gallant, Skandia, once again addressed the County Board regarding Pathways.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Wallace responded to Mr. Gallant's request to County Prosecutor Gary Walker that the Prosecutor's Office examine the operations of Pathway with regard to the Michigan Child Protection Law. The Prosecutor has determined that Mr. Gallant's request is without merit. There will be no investigation nor suit brought against Pathways.

Comm. Pellow thanked Vikki Kulju of Telkite and Staff for all their hard work on the Argonics project.

Comm. Joseph requested Staff investigate the possibility of packets and information be sent by e-mail. He believes it would save a tremendous amount of paperwork for the County and also save time for the Sheriff's Department delivering packets.

Comm. Arsenault requested an update on Pastynet and Broadband.

Chairperson Corkin stated the update is scheduled for February 13th.

Comm. Bergdahl announced an EDC meeting January 16th, 8:00 a.m., at the Chamber.

Comm. Heikkila stated there was an Aging Services Meeting last week and the Committee is looking at a County-wide survey to address the needs of the aging population.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice R. Mason
Deputy County Clerk