

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, October 21, 2008, 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. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Bergdahl and Comm. Cihak.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held on October 7, 2008 be approved.

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Chairperson Corkin read the following Resolutions:

3a) Resolution Honoring Susan A. Girard-Jackson on her Retirement:

*MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION
HONORING SERVICE OF SUSAN A. GIRARD-JACKSON
ON HER RETIREMENT*

WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality; and

WHEREAS, quality services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and

WHEREAS, Susan A. Girard-Jackson was hired on January 26, 1981 as a Secretary in the Marquette County Sheriff's Office and then as Administrative Aide. She has been the Community Safety Coordinator for the last 16 years; and

WHEREAS, As Community Safety Coordinator, Susan has been instrumental in developing and maintaining programs in the field of traffic safety, child passenger safety and underage drinking prevention. She has done exceptional work in securing grant funding from year to year to maintain these programs; and

WHEREAS, Susan has worked over the years to expand the Upper Peninsula Child Passenger Safety Program to train technicians on inspecting car seats and hosting inspection events. Recently she received the Richard H. Austin Long-Term Traffic Safety Award for significant contributions to the field of traffic safety. During her career she has also helped develop the Upper Peninsula Youth Conference which gathers high school students from across the U.P. to discuss leadership in their schools and ideas for prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, Marquette County also thanks Susan for her contributions over the past ten years as a Marquette County United Way board member and workplace coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Susan A. Girard-Jackson retired on October 17, 2008 with over 27 1/2 years of service.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully expresses its appreciation to Susan A. Girard-Jackson for her service to Marquette County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all Marquette County Citizens, the Marquette County Board wishes Susan and her husband Linwood (Bud) a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

*Proclaimed this 21st day of October, 2008
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Comm. Struck commended Ms. Jackson for her outstanding work with U.P. EMS.

Ms. Jackson thanked the County Board and stated that it has been a wonderful 27 ½ years. She is proud to have worked for Marquette County. She also thanked the County Board for their support of all the programs she has submitted over the years.

3b) A resolution Proclaiming October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER AS
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month evolved from the first Day of Unity observed in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect battered women's advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became a special week when a range of activities were conducted at the local, state, and national levels; and

WHEREAS, these activities were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence; and

WHEREAS, in October 1987, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed. That same year the first national toll-free hotline was begun. In 1989 the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month Commemorative Legislation was passed by the U.S. Congress. Such legislation has passed every year since with NCADV providing key leadership in this effort; and

WHEREAS, in October 1994 NCADV, in conjunction with Ms. Magazine, created the "Remember My Name" project, a national registry to increase public awareness of domestic violence deaths. Since then, NCADV has been collecting information on women who have been killed by an intimate partner and produces a poster each October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, listing the names of those documented in that year; and

WHEREAS, the Day of Unity is celebrated the first Monday in October. NCADV hopes that events in communities and regions across the fifty states will culminate in a powerful statement celebrating the strength of battered women and their children; and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Women's Center has been observing Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the month of October since approximately 1986. Their annual focus throughout the month of October is to enhance awareness, provide community members with educational materials, celebrate safety for survivors and their children and honor the individuals that lost their lives due to domestic violence.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners proclaim October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

*Adopted this 21st day of October, 2008
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

3c) A resolution Proclaiming November 2008-“Hire Vets First Month”:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PROCLAIMING NOVEMBER “HIRE VETS FIRST MONTH”**

WHEREAS, despite personal sacrifice, the men and women of America’s Armed Forces answer the call to defend our nation, its freedoms and ideals; and

WHEREAS, across the generations, Michigianians from every corner of the Great Lakes State are among these warrior guardians of democracy, and have served with honor, courage and integrity; and

WHEREAS, in the ongoing War on Terror, many Michigianians carry on the proud tradition of our state daily by putting their lives at risk, and all too often suffer wounds or injury in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has passed a “Jobs for Veterans Act” to provide improved training, placement and employment services for veterans to ensure these highly educated, skilled, dedicated and motivated men and women have access to the job opportunities they deserve; and

WHEREAS, an essential element of this effort is the Hire Vets Campaign for One-Stop Career Centers across the nation to develop awareness among employers about the value and value-added features of veterans while at the same time linking employers to veterans;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County
Proclaim November 2008 – “Hire Vets First Month”*

This month of November, 2008, is hereby declared “Hire Vets First Month” in Marquette County, and all citizens of Marquette County are encouraged to recognize and participate in the events in our community as well as provide employment opportunities to those veterans who have served in America’s Armed Forces around the world.

*Adopted this 21st day of October, 2008
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairman
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following Late Addition: 11a) Sawyer Community Center.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

Renee Leow, Marquette County Conservation District, addressed the County Board regarding Conservation District activities. She also announced that the Marquette County Conservation District has been ranked 8th out of 78 in the state. Ms. Leow distributed the Marquette County Conservation District 2008

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Annual Report, and invited Commissioners to join the 53rd Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2008 at UP Front and Company.

Jim Gallant, addressed the County Board regarding Pathways and Domestic Violence.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period October 10, 2008 through October 16, 2008 in the amount of \$115,872.43 be approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There were no Informational Items for approval.

ACTION ITEMS

10a) The County Board considered a memo from Amy Clickner, Chief Executive Officer, Lake Superior Community Partnership, regarding a request to approve a Renaissance Zone Extension for the Renewafuel Project. Ms. Clickner explained that the timeline is such that materials need to be in the State's hands by October 27, 2008.

The Lake Superior Partnership, Telkite, and the County of Marquette have been working to secure Renewafuel as the newest business to locate at Sawyer. The community has a longstanding relationship with the company's major owner, Cleveland Cliffs.

The business model for this project is perfect for Marquette County, eventually employing 25 people with investment projected at approximately \$14,000,000. It allows for further diversification of the local economy and a foot into the alternative energy arena.

The Lake Superior Community Partnership is asking for the approval of a Renaissance Zone Extension for the Renewafuel project pending approval by the Forsyth Township Board at their meeting on October 23, 2008.

A sample resolution and draft of the State's development agreement was presented. The resolution from the County Board, if approved, is to be mailed on October 24, 2008. A signature by Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson, is also required on the application form. The State will follow up with a development agreement once the information has been received.

Representatives from Cliff's Renewafuel, the Lake Superior Community Partnership, and Scott Erbsich, Sawyer Operations Manager, were present to answer questions.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that in addition to Forsyth Township's approval, the actual consideration and approval of the Renaissance Zone Extension application request will be made by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Strategic Fund Board. That Board has the approval authority. The resolution is required from the local units of government.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the Resolution for a Renaissance Zone Extension Request for the Renewafuel Project, contingent upon the Forsyth Township Board also supporting the Renaissance Zone Extension.

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10b) The County Board considered the FY 2009 Community Corrections Grant. Art Lauren, Community Corrections Coordinator, explained that the Community Corrections Grant for FY 2009 has been approved in Lansing with no additional funds, as was requested. They were told at the meeting in Lansing last month that there were no additional funds available at this time. If additional funds become available, Community Corrections can apply during the FY 2009.

As in past agreements, this agreement provides funding to meet state and local goals, objectives, and priorities to decrease prison admissions and increase utilization of community-based sanctions and services for non-violent offenders.

As you will note from the work crew program, the Lansing Grant Manager responded to the requests for additional funds by taking money from the administrator’s budget (salary) and placing it in the work crew line item. Mr. Lauren was less than pleased. He did have an opportunity to speak with Representative Lindberg, but he echoed there is little additional money available.

On a positive note, the programs have been generating income to provide some of the needed equipment for startup at the new detention facility. The Community Corrections Coordinator was able to secure a variety of used office equipment and furniture from the Munising Memorial Hospital when the old hospital was demolished last month. This saved the program a significant amount of money and will be used at the new detention facility.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approved the Community Corrections Grant for FY 2009.

10c) The County Board considered the appointment of Dr. Randolph Smith as a Deputy Medical Examiner. Dr. Smith recently resigned as Medical Examiner after having held that position for the past few decades, and he is willing to continue to be involved as a Deputy Medical Examiner.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board appoint Dr. Randolph Smith as a Marquette County Deputy Medical Examiner.

10d) The County Board considered the appointment to the Department of Human Services Board. There is one vacancy for a 3-year term ending 10-31-11. There were three applicants: Janet Sonaglia, Marquette (incumbent); David L. Hensley, Champion; and Bradley N. Cory, Marquette.

On a roll call ballot Bradley N. Cory was appointed to the Department of Human Services Board for a 3-year term ending 10-31-11. Roll call vote as follows:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Commissioner Vote</u>
Bradley N. Cory	Comm. Arsenault; Comm. Joseph; Comm. Struck; Comm. Wallace; Chairperson Corkin
David L. Hensley	Comm. Pellow
Janet Sonaglia	Comm. Heikkila

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered the Sawyer Community Center. Comm. Struck explained that Marquette County has an opportunity to help a very important facility at Sawyer at no cost to the County. He explained that as everyone knows, the West Branch Community and Fitness Center closed a month-and-a-half ago. West Branch Township had operated it, but didn’t have the funding to keep it open, so the facility closed.

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The K.I. Sawyer Community Association (KISCA), a local group at Sawyer, decided to try and make the facility work. The facility benefits young people, and senior citizens in Marquette County.

Comm. Struck introduced Brenda Raymond, Bill Hill, and Tom Hakes from KISKA. They are requesting that the County Board suspend the principal payment on the West Branch IRP loan for six months.

Discussion followed.

West Branch Township supports this request, and has it written into their contract that if the loan is suspended it will be passed onto KISKA to keep the facility open.

Comm. Arsenault explained that the IRP loan is guaranteed by the full faith and credit of West Branch Township. Marquette County is in no jeopardy of not being paid. For the County to defer the principal payment for six months benefits the program. It also benefits the County, because the interest payments to the loan fund can be used again for other businesses.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board suspend the principal payment on the West Branch Township IRP loan and approve an interest only payment for six months.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Gallant, Skandia, addressed the County Board regarding Pathways.

Bill Hill, Facility Director, at the Sawyer Community Center, thanked the County Board for the support of the facility.

Tom Hakes, President of KISKA, also thanked the County Board for their support.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin thanked KISKA, on behalf of the County Board, for saving the Sawyer Community Center.

Comm. Pellow requested KISKA keep the County Board informed as to what is happening at the Sawyer Community Center.

Chairperson Corkin announced a quarterly meeting of the CUPPAD Regional Commission to be held at the Holiday Inn in Marquette on Friday, October 24, 2008. The meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be a lunch served at 12:00 p.m. prior to the meeting. Any interested Commissioners please notify Mary or CUPPAD.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk