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The Marquette County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 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, and Comm. Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Wallace.

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

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Regular meeting held on April 1, 2008 be approved.

PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

Chairperson Corkin read the following: 3a) Cover the Uninsured Week 2008; 3b) Resolution Honoring Janet Anne Harry on her Retirement; and 3c) National Telecommunicator’s Week.

3a)

PROCLAMATION
COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK 2008
LET’S GET AMERICA COVERED

WHEREAS, 47 million Americans—including 9 million children—do not have health coverage;

WHEREAS, 26,802 uninsured adults and 6,790 uninsured children reside in the Upper Peninsula;

WHEREAS, more than eight out of 10 people who are uninsured are in working families;

WHEREAS, not having health insurance means minor illnesses can become major ones because care is delayed;

WHEREAS, lack of coverage can allow one serious ailment or accident to wipe out a family’s bank account;

WHEREAS, every year more Americans join the ranks of the uninsured—faced with reality that uninsured people live sicker and die younger than those who are covered;

THEREFORE, we call upon our nation’s leaders to find bi-partisan solutions for America and hereby declare April 27-May 3, 2008 Cover the Uninsured Week in Marquette County.

We ask residents of Marquette County to participate in the cover the uninsured awareness walk on Saturday May 3, at 9:00 AM at the Marquette Commons on Third and Main Streets. Listen to our legislators discuss how Michigan and our federal government plan to address this growing problem. Walk as a demonstration of your support for our uninsured neighbors and gain information regarding local resources for the uninsured such as our Medical Care Access Coalition.

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

3b) MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION

HONORING KATHLEEN SUSAN HERRALA
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, Kathleen S. Herrala was hired on May 2, 1990 as a Program Assistant and promoted to Manager on July 1, 1991 of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program. The RSVP Program has been sponsored by Marquette County since 1990 and housed in the former Commission on Aging Department currently known as the Aging Services department ; and

WHEREAS, The RSVP Program has enriched the lives of seniors age 55 and older by supporting their involvement in meaningful volunteer opportunities in the non-profit community. Volunteers are matched according to their skills, interest and time available with volunteer opportunities in non-profit, public services, and schools in Marquette County; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Herrala’s leadership has resulted in the development of in-home support and special programs to meet identified needs in the community and special interests of the senior volunteers. Programs include: Medical Transportation, Special Friends Volunteer Respite; Heart To Heart Peer Visitor; Phone Friends Telephone Reassurance; RSVP Crafters; TRIAD; Veterans History Project; Reading Buddies; Peer Prevention Players; Santa Quilts; Just Clowning Around; and Project Life Tracker. Several awards have been presented to the various programs through Marquette County’s Volunteer Coordinators, National and Governor’s Service; and

WHEREAS, Kathleen S. Herrala will retire on January 31, 2008 with 17 plus years of service to Marquette County;

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

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

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

3c) NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATOR’S WEEK

In 1991 Congress designated the second week of April as National Telecommunicator’s Week. This year, the week of April 13-19 has been dedicated to the men and women who serve as 9-1-1 Dispatchers.

Marquette County Central Dispatch began operations on August 1, 1977. The 12 county professionals who answer calls for service 24/7/365 each year handle over 17,000 9-1-1 calls, over 45,000 other calls, and dispatch over 32,000 incidents to 46 police, fire, and EMS agencies.

In addition to handling calls for service, they run tens of thousands of records checks for law enforcement (warrants, driver status, vehicle registrations, etc.). They dispatch wreckers; make emergency notifications; provide emergency medical dispatch instructions; coordinate responses with the Search and Rescue, Road Commission, Coast Guard, DNR, etc.

A dispatcher’s shift can at one moment be as quiet as a church, and the next moment be filled with terror (screams, choking baby, house on fire, etc.). Dispatchers have at least two constant companions—their partners and stress.

Next time you see a police cruiser, fire truck, or ambulance racing to the scene of an emergency, please remember them in your prayers and don’t forget the “First first-responder”—the 9-1-1 dispatcher, who is an integral part of that emergency response team.

*Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

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Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board commended all 9-1-1 Dispatchers for the excellent work they perform.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the agenda be approved with the following Late Addition: Item 11a) Letter of Support Encouraging Reuse of Humboldt Mine Site by Kennecott.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Randy Gentz, Marquette County Conservation District, updated the County Board regarding the Forestry Program.

Sarah Janda, Marquette County Conservation District Program Manager, updated the County Board regarding DEQ Grant Administration and the Water Shed Project.

Karlynn Rapport, Member of the Marquette County Access Coalition Board, addressed problems with the uninsured and thanked the County Board for their support of Cover the Uninsured Week.

Melissa White, Executive Director, MCAC, gave a brief update regarding MCAC activities for 2007.

Chairperson Corkin on behalf of the County Board thanked Karlynn, Melissa, and the MCAC for all their work for the Uninsured in Marquette County.

Chairperson Corkin also explained with State monies as they are, we have to depend on local economic development for support of programs such as conservation.

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

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 5, 2008 through April 11, 2008 in the amount of \$257,626.26, and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending April 5, 2008 in the amount of \$623,238.87 be approved.

PRIVILEGED COMMENT

John “Yogi” Carlson, Marquette County Mine Inspector, presented the Mine Inspector 2007 Annual Report. Mr. Carlson explained that it has been a privilege working with the kids on school safety programs for

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Marquette County. He spoke about the dangers of caving grounds to various schools throughout Marquette County. He discussed what has been done in 2007, and commended Staff for their cooperation.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the 2007 Mine Inspector Annual Report be accepted and placed on file.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following Informational Item be accepted and placed on file:

- 9a) Deer Lake Area of Concern Public Advisory Council Meeting Notice.

ACTION ITEMS

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote Board that Action Items 10a), 10b), 10c), 10d) and 10e) be approved as follows:

10a) A Committee of the Whole recommendation to Support the Application for a Rental Rehabilitation Program in the City of Ishpeming and authorize the Board Chair to be the signatory of the following Resolution of Support:

*RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT
OF
CITY OF ISHPEMING RENTAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM*

WHEREAS, Marquette County adopted the 2004 Marquette County Housing Plan and desires to continue to implement the plan by providing safe, decent, affordable housing opportunities for its low to moderately low income residents; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Commissioners of Marquette County has reviewed and understands the content of the application for funding; and

WHEREAS, said Board of County Commissioners of Marquette County authorizes the chief elected official to sign any required grant funding documents for the City of Ishpeming Rental Rehabilitation Program; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners authorize submission of an application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for the City of Ishpeming Rental Rehabilitation Program.

*Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

10b) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Award the Youth Home Roofing Project to the lowest responsive bidder Closner Construction & Sales, Inc., in the amount of \$41,230.00 and authorize the Board Chair to sign the contract documents.

10c) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Marine Safety Equipment Grant for a Boat, Two Motors and Trailer for the Marquette County Sheriff's Department.

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10d) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Agreements for Services by Mead & Hunt for the Parking Lot Project at a total of \$99,991.00, and authorize the Board Chair and County Clerk to sign all copies of the Agreements.

10e) A Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Agreements for Design Services by Mead & Hunt for Hangar Improvements for a not-to-exceed total of \$241,300.00, pending approval of MDOT's project engineer, and further that the Board Chair and the County Clerk be authorized to sign all copies of the Agreements.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a Letter of Support for Kennecott's plans to use the Humboldt Mill for refining rock from the Eagle Project. Chairperson Corkin explained the milling process would further refine the size of rock and remove minerals from the rock. Concentrating the rock in Marquette County would reuse an abandoned industrial site, create jobs, reduce the total mass of rock sent to processors in Canada, and reduce net greenhouse gas emissions by 65%.

Reuse of the abandoned industrial site is an outstanding opportunity for environmental cleanup, with the cost borne by Kennecott. The site cleanup and rehabilitation effort would cost \$80 million. Such a significant investment is beyond the reach of local and regional development organizations and local governments.

About 100 construction jobs and 50 full-time jobs in operation would be created by the project. The center would be a major employer in the western portion of Marquette County. The milling site could eventually become a regional processing center for use by additional companies. Kennecott's use of the site would be about 20% of the 10,000 tons per day capacity of the mill.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board support Kennecott's plans to use the abandoned Humboldt Mill, encourage them to proceed with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality permit application, and further that a copy of the Letter of Support be sent to all Townships and Cities in Marquette County, and all U.P. Counties, encouraging their support.

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

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Cihak announced that he and Comm. Wallace attended the Pathways Board Meeting. He stated that officers were elected and will remain the same as last year. He also announced that Comm. Wallace requested that updates on prone immobilization be forwarded to the County Board.

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