

***Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval***

---

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, December 2, 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. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Bergdahl.

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

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and carried by a voice vote, 3 Ayes (Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow) to 5 Nays (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Comm. Corkin) that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Meeting held on November 18, 2008 be approved with the following correction: Pages 2 - 4; 10a) Remove the memo by Civil Counsel from the November 18, 2008 minutes. Motion failed.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Meeting held on November 18, 2008, be approved with the following correction: Page 4; 10a) Send letters to MAC and Legislators for clarification on "maintained portion of the roads".

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

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Gallant, Skandia, addressed the County Board regarding agenda item 10c) Jail Mental Health Services.

Comm Cihak referenced our Rules of Order (IV-13 Public Comment; page 37). "At the close of Public Comment County Board members may address issues raised by citizens during the Public Comment Session". Comm. Cihak commented that the Board has been proactive regarding this individual on some matters brought before the Board, such as changing the order of the agenda. Comm. Cihak also stated that Pathways has kept the Board informed, keeping the lines of communication always open. 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 Claims and Accounts for the period November 14, 2008 through November 26, 2008 in the amount of \$886,420.47 and Bi-Weekly payroll for the period ending November 15, 2008 in the amount of \$617,175.46 be approved.

**PRIVILEGED COMMENT**

None.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

None.

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

ACTION ITEMS

10a) The County Board considered the appointment to the Solid Waste Management Authority Board. There is one vacancy for an unexpired term 3-year term ending 7-1-2010. There were three applicants: Robb Cookman, Marquette; Leonard S. "Sam" Elder, Marquette; and John F. Marshall, Marquette.

On a roll call ballot Leonard S. "Sam" Elder was appointed to the Solid Waste Management Authority Board for an unexpired 3-year term ending 7-1-2010. Roll call vote as follows:

Applicant

Commissioner Vote

Robb Cookman

-----

Leonard "Sam" Elder

Comm. Arsenault; Comm. Heikkila; Comm. Joseph; Comm. Pellow;  
Comm. Struck; Chairperson Corkin

John F. Marshall

Comm. Cihak; Comm. Wallace

\*\*\*\*\*

10b) The County Board considered an Administrator's Employment Agreement. The following memo to the Ad Hoc Personnel Committee from Steve Powers, County Administrator, was read by Chairperson Corkin as follows:

Memo:

*Thank you for the recent evaluation. Evaluations were received from all but two commissioners. The feedback will help me continue to improve my performance as County Administrator.*

*As stated in my Employment Agreement with the County of Marquette, the performance evaluation is completed annually in advance of the adoption of the county operating budget. The agreement also provides for the Employer to consider increases to salary and other benefits to the extent the Board of Commissioners determines is desirable based on the annual performance evaluation and salary review.*

*I am requesting a two percent salary increase effective December 15, 2008, and a \$700.00 increase effective June 1, 2009, for mileage and meal expenses in Marquette County, service organizations, and other miscellaneous professional expenses. Both changes are within budget.*

*My last salary increase was March 1, 2007. The County Administrator's salary remains at the average for Marquette County's labor-market counties. Also, the market counties are reporting a two percent increase is likely for their employees in 2009. I believe a two percent, market-based increase is a positive step as we consider 2009 compensation for other Marquette employee groups. The increase would bring my salary to \$88,248.*

*Other than for out-of-county trips, I receive an annual payment for my professional expenses. The amount has been \$1,800 since 1999. The requested increase to \$2,500 is based on increases in gasoline and meal expenses over the past nine years.*

*The Employment Agreement refers to the Board of Commissioners determining whether an increase to base salary or other benefits is desirable. I request consideration of the recommended changes at the December 2, 2009, Board of Commissioners meeting. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please let Sue, John, or me know. Thank you for your support over the past year.*

*Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval*

Comm. Heikkila stated Mr. Powers is respected and has done a good job.

Comm. Cihak commented on the County Administrator salary being average for Marquette County's labor-market counties. He compared the Administrator's salary to that of some Elected Official's salaries.

Comm. Arsenault commended Mr. Powers for taking a leadership role knowing how tough it is to balance our budget; he is willing to accept average pay, while doing an above average job.

Chairperson Corkin stated he has worked with Steve Powers, County Administrator, many years, and his professionalism, community service, family qualities are all excellent. Chairperson Corkin is proud to have Steve Powers as Marquette County's Administrator.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the Employment Agreement between Marquette County and Steve Powers, County Administrator, for a two percent salary increase effective December 15, 2008, and a \$700 increase effective June 1, 2009, for mileage and meal expenses in Marquette County, service organizations, and other miscellaneous professional expenses.

\*\*\*\*\*

10c) The County Board considered Jail Mental Health Services. Comm. Wallace spoke about the services Pathways is currently offering to the Jail for Mental Health Inmates. The following memo is from Steve Powers, County Administrator:

Memo:

*On November 20, Commissioner Wallace, Sheriff Lovelace, and Jail Captain Gustafson met with Pathways' representatives. The meeting was requested by Pathways to discuss Pathways' financial difficulties, how service dollars are used in Marquette County, and service changes that Pathways will be making. As shared by Pathways during the 2009 budget process, the agency's non-Medicaid mental health operations (state General Fund dollars) are in deficit. Jail services are one change that Pathways will be making.*

*Effective January 1, 2009, Pathways intends to stop providing mental health services to jail inmates, other than required pre-admission mental health screenings. For 2008, Pathways projects \$61,205 will be spent on inmates in the jail. Of that total, \$5,300 will be pre-admission screenings. Pathways believes it is not required to provide crisis or treatment services and believes the jail should be responsible for funding those services.*

*Marquette County is responsible for the health care of jail inmates. Health care includes mental health services. Having mental health services and professionals available to the jail is essential to managing at-risk inmates and minimizing unnecessary or excessive treatments, services, or transports to Marquette General Hospital.*

*In response to Pathways' intention to cease providing uncompensated mental health services, Sheriff Lovelace, Comm. Wallace, Jail Captain Gustafson, and Steve Powers, County Administrator, recommend the following:*

- 1. Request proposals from Pathways and Health Professionals, Ltd., (HPL) for mental health services for 2009. HPL is the current provider of physical health services to Marquette County jail inmates.*
- 2. Effective December 1, 2008, compensate Pathways for services actually provided, using Pathways' April 1, 2008, rates. Continue compensation until an agreement with Pathways or HPL is in place.*

*Pathways can choose whether to respond to the Request for Proposals. Regardless of the choice,*

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

Marquette County will be assisting Pathways' financial situation while continuing to meet statutory responsibilities for jail inmates. If Pathways chooses to respond, and is selected, Marquette County will be paying for services. If Pathways chooses against responding, the agency would no longer be providing unfunded services. Pathways also provides uncompensated services to the Youth Home.

The budget impact for December can be funded by under expenditures in jail health services. For 2009, the jail budget will have to be amended.

Consideration of the recommendation is requested for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion. John Basse, Chief Financial Officer, Donna Kitrick, Chief Operating Officer, Pathway's were present to answer any questions.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board request proposals from Pathways and Health Professionals, Ltd., (HPL) for mental health services for 2009. HPL is the current provider of physical health services to Marquette County jail inmates. Effective December 1, 2008, compensate Pathways for services actually provided, using Pathways' April 1, 2008, rates. Continue compensation until an agreement with Pathways or HPL is in place. Further, place an advertisement in the Mining Journal requesting proposals for mental health services for 2009 for Marquette County jail inmates.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Gallant, Skandia, 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. Pellow attended the Champion Township EMS 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary held on November 30, 2008. Champion Township EMS is the oldest EMS group in the State of Michigan. Congratulations from the Board on their many years of service and to the volunteers.

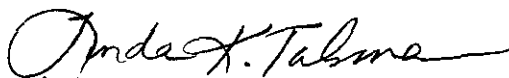
Comm. Cihak commented on the L'Anse County Road Commission Board.

Comm. Cihak attended the Criminal Justice Planning Committee meeting held in Escanaba, December 2, 2008. Eric Anderson, Senior Planner, presented a satellite mapping system for law enforcement. Mr. Anderson did a fantastic job! Judge Anderegg, Marquette County Probate Judge, was appointed Chairperson to the Criminal Justice Planning Committee, and Comm. Cihak was appointed Vice-Chair to the Criminal Justice Planning Committee.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, thanked the County Board for their continued support.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Linda K. Talsma  
Deputy County Clerk