

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 22, 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. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Arsenault and Comm. Heikkila.

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 April 8, 2008 be approved.

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

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. James Gallant, Skandia, addressed the Committee regarding the Pathways Abuse and Neglect policy. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 12, 2008 through April 18, 2008 in the amount of \$ 116,108.71 be approved.

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The Committee considered B3 Computers Closeout Public Hearing. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that this is the final closeout of the Community Development Block Grant that Marquette County received from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Staff has been working with the MEDC on the closeout of this project. The Public Hearing is one part of that process. The MEDC will be submitting the Final Progress Report and an additional Narrative Chronology. The County received \$360,000 in CDBG Block Grant Funding, of that amount \$350,000 was provided to B3, \$10,000 was retained by Marquette County for administration. The grant loan was subsequently amended for an additional \$30,000, which was used to pursue legal action against B3 and William Carr when it became apparent that B3 was not going to meet the grant requirements. A letter was distributed from the MEDC stating that Marquette County will not have to repay the \$350,000.

This Public Hearing and Closeout is a process required by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development of the MEDC. This is required whether a project was successful, or in the case of B3 not successful. Staff is continuing to pursue legal action to recover the funds.

Marquette County has had a long positive relationship with the MEDC. The MEDC administers the CDBG Funds, which are federal funds that have been used throughout the County. Mr. Powers highlighted three successful CDBG projects at Sawyer.

After receiving this background information, Chairperson Corkin opened the public hearing on the CDBG Closeout. Chairperson Corkin invited public comment. There was no public comment. The public hearing was then closed.

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It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Pellow and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the final Michigan CDBG Program Progress Report.

Chairperson Corkin thanked legal staff for taking all the necessary steps regarding the situation with B3 Computers.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for Public Comment. James Gallant, Skandia, once again addressed the Committee of the Whole regarding the Pathways Abuse and Neglect Policy. He feels politics influences County Board decisions. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin responded to Mr. Gallant. The Pathways Board members are very capable individuals.

Comm. Wallace emphasized Comm. Corkin's statements regarding Pathways Board Members. He also stated that if the Board wants the Abuse and Neglect Policy, he will provide it.

Comm. Pellow announced the Marquette County Township's Association Banquet to be held on Friday, May 9, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Marquette, Michigan.

Comm. Struck also commented on Mr. Gallant's comments stating that the County Board has never been influenced politically, at the time of an election or any other time, on any decision made by the County Board.

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