

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, February 13, 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. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Joseph, and Comm. Wallace.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on January 22, 2008 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the agenda be approved the following addition: Item 15) UPSET Subcontract.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period February 2, 2008 through February 8, 2008 in the amount of \$332,105.34 be approved.

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The Committee considered Remonumentation-Extension of the S.T.S Contract. Larry Bussone, County Representative, was present and explained that the Marquette County Remonumentation Program began in 1993 as part of a statewide initiative to re-establish and re-monument original government corners. The actual field work is performed by a local survey firm, under a three year contract from the County. S.T.S. Consultants (formerly Sundberg & Carlson) is the firm most recently utilized in performing the field work. Their three year contract expired on 12-31-2007. Funding for the state wide program has fluctuated over the last few years making development of annual work programs challenging as the program is conceived prior to the release of funding. Also, all "corners" are not created equal as some locations are easily accessible while others are remote. The combination of factors resulted in the estimated 2007 work program not being completed. However, research is completed (examination of corners in the Register of Deeds) on the corners and the field placement remains.

A group of County personnel which is Al Feldhauser, Resource Management, Larry Bussone, County Representative, and Patricia Manley, Register of Deeds, typically administer the selection process for a survey firm and make a recommendation to the County Board. They explained that in light of the current situation where the 2007 work program is substantially but not entirely complete, it would be in the programs best interest and the recommendation of staff to renew the current contract with S.T.S. Consultants for a period of one year concluding 12-31-2008.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board renew the current contract with S.T.S. Consultants for the Remonumentation Program for a period of one year concluding 12-31-2008.

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The Committee considered a PastyNet Broadband Update. Brent Nault, Information Systems, was present and introduced Andrew Bek, Consultant for PastyNet, and Charlie Hopper, President of PastyNet to address the PastyNet Wireless Project. PastyNet is a Local Internet Service Provider (ISP), with the citizens, businesses and governments of the townships of Ewing, Wells, West Branch, Republic and Michigamme in Marquette County. The Digital Divide Investment Program is a state and federal grant project that makes affordable high speed Internet Service (Broadband) available to the affected townships. They explained that the project should be completed by the end of 2008. PastyNet is collecting subscriber information and identifying where access to wired broadband currently exists. They presented a schedule of events including connection to the subscribers, certifying network, and the end of the grant work period.

Mr. Bek and Mr. Hopper further explained that access to affordable broadband service makes available the educational, political, economic and informational resources of the Internet to rural areas with a high proportion of low to moderate income households. This project seeks to narrow the “Digital Divide” for rural parts of Marquette County. PastyNet establishes access points at the extreme reaches of wired broadband service and relays it wirelessly to outlying areas.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Nault, Mr. Bek and Mr. Hopper for the update.

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The Committee considered the Marquette County Treasurer’s 2007 Annual Report. Anne Giroux, County Treasurer, reviewed her report with Commissioners. The report stated that since taking office in July 2007, she and her staff have improved the operation of the Treasurer’s Department by streamlining processes. The Treasurer’s website has been updated and she has made available online lookup of delinquent taxes. Ms. Giroux explained real property taxes returned delinquent, parcels forfeited, parcels foreclosed, the foreclosure rate, statewide average foreclosure rate and the foreclosure process. She also explained the Preliminary 2007 Budget Results and briefly addressed the 2007 Auction for properties which were foreclosed upon.

Ms. Giroux’s report further explained that as required by MCL 129.96, the County Treasurer is required to submit a report to the County Board of Commissioners concerning the investment of surplus funds on a quarterly basis. During 2007, 7 agencies and/or CD’s matured and were reinvested in similar instruments. As a result of a falling rate environment, 7 agencies and/or CD’s were called prior to their maturity dates in the 4th quarter; those monies were also reinvested in similar instruments. She continues to: Monitor the Counties cash flow needs to ensure the necessary liquidity is maintained; Invests surplus funds according to the Counties investment policy, achieving the highest rate of return possible; and Ensuring diversification for optimal protection of funds.

The Committee commended Ms. Giroux for a job well done since assuming office.

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The Committee considered a Resolution to accept Electronic Transactions and ACH and Electronic Transaction Policy submitted by Anne Giroux, Marquette County Treasurer. Ms. Giroux explained the Resolution to accept Electronic Transaction. The Resolution is required by Public Act 738 of 2002 (MCL 124.301et.seq). The Resolution also refers to an ACH and Electronic Transactions Policy.

Ms. Giroux explained that currently, the County accepts incoming ACH/electronic items. The majority of these items are from state and federal agencies and are routine in nature. The County also processes limited

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outgoing ACH/electronic transactions. These transactions are mainly associated with payroll and benefits-related expenditures.

The policy provides for a system of internal controls, along with a method for approval of invoices prior to payment, for ACH/electronic transactions. The policy covers the electronic transactions that are currently being processed and will provide appropriate controls for any future electronic/ACH transactions that may occur.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board adopt the Resolution to Authorize Electronic Transactions and the ACH and Electronic Transactions Policy.

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The Committee considered Approval of an Agreement with Midwest Air Traffic Control Service Inc. Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the Agreement is for the operation of Sawyer's Federal Contract-Air Traffic Control Tower (FC-ATCT) from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. He explained that on February 22, 2005, Marquette County entered into a Cost-Share Agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration for the continued operation of the Sawyer's Tower under the Cost-Share Program.

A recalculation of Sawyer's Benefit Cost (B/C) Ratio during the fall of 2005, the FAA agreed to pay 96% for the cost to operate the tower, and Marquette County the remaining 4%. Due to a delay in a revised B/C recalculation during the fall of 2007, the FAA is allowing members of the Contract Tower Cost-Share Program to continue with a 96%/4% cost-share agreement, with an estimated monthly and/or annual cost of approximately \$1,283.00/\$15,396.00 respectively.

During a recent meeting of the United States Contract Tower Policy Board, of which Sawyer is a member, the FAA is prepared to issue a revised, albeit delayed, B/C re-calculation for members of the Cost-Share Program. Staff is uncertain what the estimated revised monthly cost will be for the continued operations of Sawyer's Tower.

However, members of the Policy Board has requested of the Contract Tower Program Manager to delay, or provide a moratorium on issuing the revised B/C recalculations until the Policy Board can provide additional information to the FAA's Contract Tower Office.

If however, Sawyer receives a revised B/C recalculation with an increase in monthly costs for the period noted, staff will provide this notification to the Administrator's office for additional discussion.

Mr. Kaspari is recommending approval of the Agreement and provide signature authority by Chairperson Corkin.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Agreement with Midwest Air Traffic Control Service Inc., and provide signature authority by Chairperson Corkin, and further authorize the County Clerk to execute both copies of the Resolution.

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The Committee considered a Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Design and Planning Services for the 600- Series Hangars. Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that the Agreement provides for services for the following projects at Sawyer International Airport:

- Services include architectural, structural, mechanical, and electrical design services associated with the Phase I design for the Replacement of the hangar bay heating system for Hangar 665; Rehabilitation of Building (Hangar 402); and, Hangar Door Safety Systems for the 600-Series Hangars.

Phase I will be completed using Sawyer's FY2007 AIP funds under the FAA's Military Airports Program with the September 2007 receipt of FAA Grant No: 3-23-0153-2407, a grant issued to the County under FAA time constraints based on estimates.

Costs for services under this agreement are \$161,464.00. The agreement has been approved by MDOT's project engineer; however, MDOT has only approved a not-to-exceed amount at \$123,000.00, pending the ability of airport staff and the consultant to bring in all elements under the project within allowable funding limits.

Note: When staff made application to the FAA for FY2007, 2008, & 2009, the projects in 2007 included work on the hangar door safety systems, yet staff also requested work on the 400-Series hangars. When their pre-application form was submitted to the FAA for funding, the 400-Series hangars were omitted as the 600-Series hangars were deemed as the priority. Staff is confident that elements for all projects under the above grant will be designed and constructed with sufficient funding.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Design and Planning Services for the 600-Series hangars with a not-to-exceed total of \$123,000.00, and authorize staff to issue a Notice-to-Proceed to Mead & Hunt to begin design of the Hangar improvement projects, and authorize Chairperson Corkin and the County Clerk to sign all copies of the Agreements where indicated; also approve authorization to immediately proceed with the design for work on the 400-Series hangar doors as funding is available with completion of the other projects within the 2407 Grant.

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The Committee considered a Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Amendment No: 1 for the Design and Planning Services of the Parking Lot Improvement Project. Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that in August of 2007 after Marquette County took receipt of FAA Grant No: 3-25-0153-2407, the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> approved an engineering agreement with Sawyer's engineering consultant, Mead & Hunt Inc., to begin preliminary design and planning services associated with the expansion of the passenger terminal-area parking lots.

Mr. Kaspari explained that Amendment No: 1 is for the remaining balance of the design and planning services for the parking lot project.

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Phase I (design) and Phase II (construction) will be funded with the above grant. Costs for services under the amendment are \$95,410.00, with total project design costs of \$144,500.00. The agreement has been approved by MDOT's Project Engineer.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Professional Services Agreement with Mead & Hunt for Amendment No. I for the Design and Planning Services of the Parking Lot Improvement Project at a total of \$95,410.00, and authorize Chairperson Corkin and the County Clerk to sign all copies of the Agreements.

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The Committee of the Whole considered 2008 Contracts for Senior Services. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and explained the 2008 Contracts for millage funded services to seniors have been approved by the Service Providers. The 5 Contracts include \$55,668.00 to AMCAB for home delivered meals, \$2,955.00 to Marquette Adult Day Services, \$76,457.00 for the Forsyth Township Senior Center, \$140,997.00 to the Ishpeming Service Center, \$190,468.00 to the Marquette Senior Center, and \$63,813.00 for the Negaunee Senior Center. The contracted amounts are included in the County budget for 2008.

Each contract outlines the vision/mission statement, eligibility criteria, priority services, and reporting requirements all approved by the Aging Services Advisory Committee. The 2008 Contracts to the four senior centers differ from prior years in that services are no longer tied to a standard unit rate for specific services. As in past years, up to 30% of the millage allocation can be spent on administration and general programming; the other 70% is to be spent on the service priorities outlined in the contract. Each center will only be required to report how millage dollars are spent: what services are provided, the number of seniors served, where the services are provided and the cost to provide the service.

Ms. Vercoe explained that all of the providers have signed the 2008 contracts. Staff recommends that Chairperson Corkin be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the County.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 2008 Contracts for Senior Services and authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the Contracts on behalf of the County.

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The Committee of the Whole considered 4th Quarter 2007 Budget Amendments. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, was present and explained that the preliminary yearend budget reports have been prepared for all departments; final reports for 2007 will not be closed until the end of March.

#32 General Fund – the General Fund Budget is increased by \$160,236.86. The majority of the increase is 2% gaming revenue totaling \$116,636.86, received from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians. As requested by the tribes, these funds will be allocated to the Health Department (\$13,000.00), Road Commission (\$10,500.00), TRIAD (\$3,086.00), Superior Watershed Partnership Youth Programs (\$10,000.00), and for County designation (\$80,050.86). This amendment would

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allocate the County portion for jail needs. Expenditure adjustments are offset by revenue adjustments. The contingency remains at \$186,000.00.

Ms. Vercoe also explained budget amendments #33-Airport Fund; #34-Airport Stabilization Fund; #35-Water Fund; #36-Sewer Fund; #37-Central Dispatch Fund; #38-Rescue Safety Fund; #39-Caretaker Fund; #40-Soldier/Sailor Relief Fund; #41-Technology Fund; and #42-1998B Debt Service Fund.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007 Budget Amendments #32 through #42 as presented by Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a License Agreement for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Steve Powers, County Administrator explained that the Fourth Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge is set to take place on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at the Little Trout Lake and is open to the public.

This fund raiser, which was previously coordinated through Forsyth Township, is designed to benefit Special Olympics Michigan. Preparations will begin at 9:00 a.m., with the event beginning at 1:00 p.m. The area will be cleared by 5:00 p.m.

The Marquette County Sheriff’s Department Dive Team, as well as an ambulance, will be on sight between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. when the actual plunge takes place. Appropriate insurance coverages are being required. There is no cost to Marquette County for this event.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the License Agreement for the Special Olympics Polar Plunge.

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The Committee of the Whole considered the UPSET Subcontract. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the UPSET Subcontract is between Marquette County and the Michigan Department of Community Health Department of State Police. The Subcontract are funds the State uses to help support Regional Drug Task Forces. He explained that the funds are budgeted; however the State share has been declining. The trend is that the cost is more the responsibility of the local agencies that participate. The Subcontract is for the period October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the UPSET Subcontract between Marquette County and the Michigan State Police for the period October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for Public Comment. None was forthcoming.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Corkin reported on the MAC conference. He stated that on Sunday, February 10, 2008, he was traveling to Lansing, got as far as the Mackinaw Bridge which was closed, then had to return back home.

Comm. Heikkila commented regarding funding available for bridges and how it relates to the dredging in Big Bay.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam  
Marquette County Clerk