

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 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. Arsenault, Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent: None.

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 January 8, 2008 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the agenda be approved the following addition: Item 14) Lease Extension and Lease Agreement between the County of Marquette and Mike Wills Excavating for Building #405 and Building #112.

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.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote the Claims and Accounts for the period January 12, 2008 through January 18, 2008 in the amount of \$543,575.15 and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending January 18, 2008 in the amount of \$625,266.17 be approved.

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The Committee considered the Lake Superior Community Partnership/Economic Development Corporation presented their 2007 accomplishments. John Marshall, Vice-Chair, Lake Superior Community Partnership, was present and thanked the County Board for the invitation and for their strong continuing support of the partnership over the past ten years. He stated that the Board will be pleased with the accomplishments that will be introduced tonight. He stated that although a lot has been accomplished it has been a bitter sweet year with the loss of Monsieur Cappo. Monsieur Cappo was a long time chair who provided leadership and direction during those ten plus years.

Monsieur Cappo kept the partnership on the right path and urged others to keep the group growing. Mr. Marshall introduced Amy Clickner, Executive Director, Carol Fulsher, Recreation Specialist and Technical Support, Greg Nominelli and Lois Ellis Economic Development Specialists.

Amy Clickner, Executive Director, explained and presented the 2007 review. She thanked the County Board for their support over the years and she stated that the history of the Lake Superior Partnership is one we can all be proud of.

The Lake Superior Community Partnership also wishes to extend the current agreement between Marquette County, the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation and the Lake Superior Community Partnership. The extension would be through June 30, 2008.

Comm. Corkin commended the Partnership and the EDC. He stated that the LSCP has worked hard to bring communities together.

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Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the 2008 budget includes funding for the contract extension which includes the EDC.

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 extend the agreement through June 30, 2008 between the County of Marquette, the Economic Development Corporation of the County of Marquette, and the Lake Superior Community Partnership Inc.

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The Committee considered the Proposed Big Bay Harbor of Refuge Fees for 2008. Kim Bourgeois, Park Manager/Harbormaster, explained that in accordance with the State Waterways Commission agreement, it is time for the County Board to consider the 2008 fee structure for the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge.

The State Waterways Commission sets transient and seasonal mooring rates at the harbor. The County normally accepts the States transient rates but, in the past, Marquette County has made a request to the State Waterways Commission for permission for a reduction in the fees for seasonal mooring at the Big Bay Harbor in order to attract seasonal boaters to the marina. She stated that it is staff’s opinion that the distance to Big Bay and available amenities reduce demand for slips at the facility. The State rates have not changed for 2008 and will be the same as in 2007. Ms. Bourgeois recommends the County Board adopt the State transient rates and request to the State that our seasonal rates be set at the same rate as in 2007, which was \$20.30 per foot (about a 40% discount from the State for a 20’ boat).

She further explained that due to the shoaling that is being experienced in the harbor, the Harbormaster requests permission to prorate seasonal fees to a weekly rate if necessary, using a 20 week season, subtracting off any weeks the harbor is not accessible.

Commissioners engaged in a short discussion regarding the shoaling issue at the harbor.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Big Bay Harbor of Refuge Fees for 2008.

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The Committee considered an informational item from Anne Giroux, County Treasurer, regarding bond requirements. As required under recently Senate Bill 368, MCL 48.40a, a written report must be provided to the County Board of Commissioners that the Marquette County Treasurer is covered by blanket bond in the amount of a \$1,000,000.00, which meets the statutory threshold as identified in the act. Ms. Giroux informed the Board that this bond is valid for FY2008.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the memo be placed on file.

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The Committee considered resumption of maintenance responsibility for the Health Department Service Center. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the Marquette County Health Department is currently responsible for the Health Department Service Center Building. The building is owned by Marquette County. There are advantages to consolidating facility maintenance responsibility. Marquette County’s building maintenance expertise and experience will be applied to a County-owned facility. Pooling resources

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should allow greater flexibility than limiting employees to specific buildings. While an employee may have a building as his or her primary responsibility, there will be opportunities to assign employees to where the greatest need exists.

Mr. Powers reminded Commissioners that approximately one year ago the County Board approved consolidation of the Information System resources between the Health Department and the County. He stated that as the County Board is aware, the Health Department operates with a certain amount of autonomy, and has some staff and resources, that in the case of the IS Department, made sense to merge. The recommendation is to authorize the budget amendment that would implement this decision.

Resumption of responsibilities is assumed to be budget neutral. Budget impact will be determined by the actual time needed to maintain the building. The Service Center also houses Planning and MSU Extension. The Health Department Fund will be charged for a share of the expenses proportionate to the amount of space the department occupies. Mr. Powers recommends this agreement be effective February 6, 2008.

Mr. Powers explained two reasons for the timing of this recommendation: 1) retirement of an employee, which creates a vacancy; and 2) recent interests in the building for County purposes.

Commissioners engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding several issues. Comm. Joseph questioned if in fact this request would be budget neutral for both departments. Comm. Bergdahl discussed the condition of an aging building.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that the management of a County asset should be one that is managed by County staff, and is overseen by the County Board as far as policies and priorities for the funding for improvements to County owned facilities.

Commissioners requested a cost analysis of the maintenance of the Service Center. Comm. Wallace explained that improvements have been made to the Service Center, and also that Health Department is a County agency, it is not a separate entity. He explained the Board of Health's role in regards to autonomy.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and carried by voice vote 7 ayes to 2 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl and Comm. Joseph) that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Facilities resumption of maintenance responsibility for the Health Department Service Center.

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The Committee considered the Reassignment of Engineering Agreement for Superior Extrusion, Inc. Water and Sewer. Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, was present and explained that when the plans were drawn for the Superior Extrusion, Inc., (SEI) expansion, it was determined the placement of the public water and sanitary sewer lines needed to be relocated. The estimated costs to relocate the water and sewer lines were \$133,000.00 for construction and \$15,330.00 for engineering design and inspection.

Marquette County originally sought a Community Development Block Grant for the funding of the project, with the required match, \$15,300.00 (engineering costs), to come from the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation's (EDC) CDBG Revolving Loan Funds monies.

Mr. Erbisch further explained that although Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) advised that it would not be acting on the CDBG grant application, it ultimately authorized the use of the Revolving Loan Funds (as a grant) in the amount of \$15,330.00 for the water and sanitary sewer engineering. The state was made aware that the source of funds for the construction of the project would come from others and would not be CDBG funding.

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However, when SEI learned that the State would not be acting on the CDBG request, and prior to the County being given authorization to using the Revolving Loan funds for the engineering, SEI did enter into an engineering agreement with Tri-Media Engineering to complete the public water and sanitary sewer relocation.

In order to use the Revolving Loan funds, the agreement with Tri-Media must be reassigned to Marquette County. SEI officials and Tri-Media are supportive of the reassignment. Mr. Erbisch recommends the reassignment.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve of the reassignment of the Tri-Media Engineering sanitary sewer and water main relocation design, construction, and field inspection engineering agreement from SEI to Marquette County in the amount of \$15,330.00; and further authorize the County Chair to sign the Agreement. (The funding will come from the EDC's CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monies in the form of a grant.)

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The Committee considered a memo from the Economic Development Corporation regarding the Superior Forest Partnership Project. Thyra Karlstrom, Planner, was present to discuss the issue. Ms. Karlstrom explained that back in November she participated in a phone conference with Carrie Weaver, Michigan DNR, who was in charge of the application for the grant. She stated that basically the project was never awarded to the DNR. It scored low on their ranking criteria for several reasons. Ms. Karlstrom explained those reasons and also read a list of planning commissions, questions, and discussions.

Comm. Heikkila stated that the Planning Commission should consider economic development when approving projects, and whether there is access to the property. He feels the State shouldn't be buying property that the public can't get to. He also stated that taking land off the tax role is a big issue in the U.P.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Ms. Karlstrom for her time on this project and the effect it would have on Marquette County.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that information be placed on file.

The Committee considered the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Eric Anderson, Senior Planner, was present and explained that as part of Marquette County's compliance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, he submitted the Marquette County Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Board approval. The plan has been approved by the Emergency Management Division, Michigan State Police, and has been forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Administration. (FEMA) closed for approval. FEMA approval is anticipated this month.

Mr. Anderson further stated that approval of the Hazard Mitigation Plan makes Marquette County eligible for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDMP) grants that require at FEMA and County approval of the plan for eligibility. The plan is a culmination of ongoing interaction between County staff and State Administrators, and should serve as a template for Marquette County's hazard mitigation activities for the next 5 years. In fact, the way in which the plan was written will potentially make the County eligible not only for PDMP Grants, but also Flood Mitigation Assistance Programs (FMAP) Grants. Fewer Counties are competing for FMAP dollars, in part because the eligibility requirements are stricter.

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Staff recommends approval of the Marquette County Hazard Mitigation Plan by adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution.

It was moved Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan by adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. (This recommendation will be considered at the Special County Board meeting immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting).

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The Committee considered the Administrators report for Marquette County. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained and presented an overview of Marquette County. He stated that in the past the County Board has done a very good job producing documents like this to educate and inform the public, and also County Planners have spent considerable time preparing documents for Government Service Coordination in Marquette County. He stated that with the recent media coverage over the past few years regarding the state budget and the state economy in Michigan, Staff felt it important to provide information that is accurate regarding Marquette County. In addition to sharing with the public what is happening in Michigan with State government, it is also important to explain what impact those changes have in Marquette County

Mr. Powers further explained that he has met with various groups. His intent would be to continue this type of information with the public so they are aware of what is currently happening in Marquette County, what the future might hold, where we are, what we are, and where we are headed. He explained that a copy of this presentation can be provided to anyone or any group interested that Commissioners feel appropriate.

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The Committee of the Whole considered a Lease Extension and Lease Agreement between the County of Marquette and Mike Wills Excavating. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that in February of 2003, Marquette County approved a Sublease (the Air Force was the Lesser at that time) with Mike Wills for cold storage/warehouse space in Building 405, consisting of 800 sf. No utilities are utilized, and the County incurs no cost with respect to this building. The Agreement was written for a term of 5 years at a rate of \$50/month, which is due to expire on January 31, 2008.

Mr. Powers is recommending an extension of this Agreement at the existing rate for a period of one year and request that the Board Chair be authorized to sign the necessary document.

Mr. Powers also explained that in December 2000, Marquette County approved a Lease Agreement for Building 112 with Mike Wills for the storage of trucks and other equipment needed to support and maintain the test track(s) to be operated by Delphi Automotive, on adjacent property. The Lessee is responsible for the cost of all utilities, janitorial services, building maintenance and ground maintenance, without cost to the County.

The Agreement was written for a term of 5 years, which ended on November 30, 2005. The County Board approved the first Amendment to extend this Agreement to November 30, 2006, in December of 2005. A second Amendment was also granted, extending the Agreement to November 30, 2007, and a month-to-month tenancy has continued at the original rate of \$2.80 psf.

Mr. Powers is recommending that the Board approve a third extension (subject to the same terms and conditions) for another year at a rate of \$2.90 psf and authorize the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents.

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 an extension of the Lease Agreement

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for Building 405 at the existing rate for a period of one year and request the Board Chair be authorized to sign the necessary documents: and also approve a third extension for Building 112 (subject to the same terms and conditions) for another year at a rate of \$2.90 psf and authorize the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents. (This recommendation will be considered at the Special County Board meeting immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting).

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for Public Comment. James Gallant again addressed the Committee regarding child neglect.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Corkin announced the Committee assignments would be the same as for 2007. He also announced the next meeting of the County Board will be in 2 weeks, February 5, 2008.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk