

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 11, 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. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Bergdahl, and Comm. Pellow.

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 February 13, 2008 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, 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 use of restraint. There being no further public comment Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

Comm. Wallace responded to James Gallant opinions about the operation of Pathways. He stated that he has provided the County Board with a response letter from the CEO of Pathways. That letter was read in open session during a Pathways Board meeting. There was considerable discussion involving not only Mr. Morton and their Board, but also their Chief Psychiatrist. He stated there is nothing for the County Board to do as a Board of Commissioners, the County Board has no authority over this situation.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period March 1, 2008 through March 7, 2008 in the amount of \$435,240.02 be approved.

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The Committee of the Whole was given a presentation by Randy VanPortfliet, P.E., Superior Region Engineer, Michigan Department of Transportation. Also present was James Lake, Communications Representative, for MDOT and James Iwanicki, County Road Commission. Mr. VanPortfliet explained that the mission of MDOT was: "Providing the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life." He explained the Transportation Funding Task Force (Public Act 221 of 2007) is created to "review the adequacy of surface transportation and aeronautics service provision and finance" in Michigan. He stated that this applies to roads, transit, and aviation; it is supported by MDOT's staff; and assisted by Citizens' Advisory Committee. The Task Force members are: 9 Citizens, representing 8 economic sectors were appointed by the Governor on February 1, 2008. The Citizens Advisory Committee is a Governor appointed committee (Comm. Struck is a member). He also, explained that the duties of the Task Force involve reviewing strategies for maximizing return on transportation investments; evaluating potential alternative strategies to replace or supplement state motor fuel taxes: existing and alternative user fees; and nonuser revenues to support economic activity and personal mobility in Michigan. He explained that the primary focus of the Task Force is to examine alternatives to fuel tax by analyzing feasibility, and suggest or recommend alternative user fees or nonuser taxes. The Task Force may recommend "implementation of pilot programs to

test feasible alternatives” to fuel tax. Preliminary recommendations of the Task Force are due October 31, 2008.

Mr. VanPortfliet, also explained a calendar of events. He then asked for any questions of the Board.

Chairperson Corkin, thanked Mr. VanPortfliet and Mr. Lake for their presentation, and also thanked James Iwanicki, Marquette County Road Commission for being present.

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The Committee considered a Legislative Action Alert regarding EDA Funding. The President’s FY2009 budget calls for a 53% funding cut for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the only federal agency with the prime mission of helping our local communities create and retain high-quality private sector jobs. The FY2009 request of only \$132.8 million essentially eliminates the public works program, while maintaining most of the other EDA core programs for planning, economic adjustment, technical assistance and trade adjustment assistance at or near the FY2008 enactive levels.

Action needed:

- Call and contact House members and urge them to sign a letter in support of full funding for EDA under the FY-2009 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriation (CJS) Bill. The deadline for signing is March 7.
- Call and contact Senators urging them to write to the Senate CJS Appropriation Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member in support of full funding for EDA as part of the Senate’s FY2009 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriation Bill.

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 send a letter of support to our Legislators urging them to support full funding for EDA under the FY-2009 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriation (CJS) Bill.

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The Committee considered a PFC Application (08-09-C-00-SAW). Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, was present and explained that as a funding mechanism for the payment of airport capital projects, Marquette County uses the FAA’s Passenger Facility Charge program to pay for the County’s 2.5% or 5% local share of projects. Marquette County is submitting a new Impose and Use application with a \$4.50 per enplaned (outbound) passenger, minus the airline administrative fee as approved by Congress.

Staff is submitting an application totaling \$864,250.00 (Mr. Kaspari explained a change in the financing plan) for projects from FY-2008-2010 with a collection authority period from May 1, 2008 to November 1, 2009, and is submitted with the following assumptions:

- Marquette County continues to receive annual FAA airport entitlement funds at \$1M for FY’s – 2008-2010;
- MDOT’s Bureau of Aeronautics continues to provide funding assistance at 2.50%;
- Outbound passenger numbers continue at existing levels;

- Any labor and/or work stoppages, or reduction in service by the airlines may adversely impact and possibly reduce our ability to collect and make payment for Sawyer’s local share of capital projects; and,
- Marquette County continues to receive discretionary funding support for very large capital projects.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend that the County Board approve the submittal of PFC Application No: 08-09-C-00-SAW, and direct staff through the County Administrator to proceed with airport development projects as FAA and MDOT grant funds become available.

The Committee considered a Contract with the Charter Township of Marquette. Al Feldhauser, Senior Planner, explained that the Charter Township of Marquette has requested contractual planning services from the County of Marquette Resource Management/Development Department Planning Staff. The Township desires to update their Recreation Plan. County Planning Staff has expertise in this regard and developed a scope of work, a proposed “outline” of the planning process/content and an estimated level of effort and associated cost (not to exceed \$11,000.00). The Township Board unanimously approved the project and fee.

Last year, planning staff assisted Marquette Township in preparation of a Road Facilities Plan. One of the transportation components considered during that initiative was the Townships’ trail system. The Township saw an advantage to incorporating the work done regarding trails into the Townships’ Recreation Plan. Since these plans need to be updated every five years, and the next update was due in 2008, the Township inquired as to whether County staff would be interested and available to complete the update. Planning staff met with Township Officials to further develop the proposal for County Board consideration.

In the Board approved 2008 Resource Management/Development Department budget, an activity and a revenue line item for contract services recognizes these projects.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault seconded by Comm. Wallace and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board support the Contractual Agreement with the Charter Township of Marquette to update their Recreation Plan, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Contract documents.

The Committee considered Review and Adoption of the Marquette County Recreation Plan. The Marquette County Planning Commission explained that during the regularly scheduled Marquette County Planning Commission meeting on February 5, 2008, the Planning Commission was provided a draft of the Marquette County Recreation Plan for 2008-2013. On that same date, a copy of the draft plan was made available for review by the public on the Marquette County Website. Clerks from each municipality in Marquette County were notified of the draft plan’s availability. Staff’s email address was linked to the draft plan so reviewers could submit comments via email. No comments were received. This public review period meets the Department of Natural Resources public review requirements for recreation plan adoption.

On March 5, 2008, during the regularly scheduled Marquette County Planning Commission, a public hearing was held to gather public comment on the draft Marquette County Planning Recreation Plan for 2008-2013. A notice of the public hearing was placed in the Mining Journal on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. No public comments were given. The Marquette County Planning Commission discussed the capital projects and future grant opportunities. Commissioners agreed the plan would be an effective planning tool to further the recreation goals of the County owned recreation property and would qualify the County to participate in the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant Application Process.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the Marquette County Board adopt the Marquette County Recreation Plan 2008-2013, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Resolution.

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The Committee considered Review and Adoption of the MNRTF Grant Application for Perkins Park Phase IV. The Marquette County Planning Commission explained that in 1994 a master plan for Perkins Park was developed. The plan recommended five phases of improvements that would renovate the entire park, significantly enhance the facilities and increase use of the park. With the assistance of state and federal grants, the County creatively selected the most desired components from each phase and implemented them in three phases. In January 2008, a new master plan was developed to determine the next phases of development. The plan continues the previous plan's goals and makes recommendations for continued phased development.

Perkins Park Phase IV is a development project for the 45 acre park that proposes to enhance its usability with improvements (explanation of improvements was provided). Proposed cost of the entire project is \$300,000.00. Twenty-six percent (26%) of the matching funds or \$78,000.00 would come from the Forestry and Recreation Fund. The total grant amount from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is \$222,000.00.

Perkins Park Phase IV follows the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2008 Application Guidelines with particular attention to the "Access to Recreation Initiative for 2008". The Access to Recreation Initiative is funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to enhance public access to Michigan's natural resources for people of all abilities.

Though partnerships among the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association and the Midwest Community Foundations' Ventures, development projects can potentially earn up to 30 points on their grant application under the Special Initiative for Universal Access. Applications that receive 30 points will be considered for funding that would pay one-half of the requested MNRTF grant amount and one-half of the proposed local match.

On March 5, 2008, during their regularly scheduled Marquette County Planning Commission, a public hearing was held to gather public comment on the proposed Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Application for Perkins Park Phase IV. A notice of the public hearing was placed in the Mining Journal on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. No public comments were given. The Marquette County Planning Commission discussed components of the proposed project. Commissioners voted unanimously in support of the proposed grant.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Support the Michigan Natural Resources Grant

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

Application for Perkins Park Phase IV, and designate the Board Chair to sign the Resolution committing up to \$78,000.00 or 26% of the matching funds for the project.

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Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for Public Comment. James Gallant, responded to Comm. Wallace's comments regarding Pathways. There being no further public comment Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Heikkila announced that last week he received information from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, which used Marquette County as a case study for energy savings. He commended Larry Gould, Facilities Manager and staff for the programs they have implemented. The savings amounted to \$20,000.00 per year in the first year.

Comm. Struck commented on the MDOT presentation. He stated that he was glad it was brief, but was surprised they didn't get into some of the seriousness of the issues being confronted. He explained we all know that our roads, certainly in the U.P., are in bad shape as well as downstate. He explained that some very significant issues will be confronted, immediately, one of which is money, but also what is happening to the roads as population changes. He is also concerned regarding the Citizens Research Council coming out with statements saying that Act 51 needs to be revisited. He explained that Act 51 provides the formula that gives funding to the local counties, villages and communities.

Comm. Corkin announced reading that four large urban areas in Michigan want to change Act 51 and direct more of the money to the busiest roads. He stated it is very scary for the rest of Michigan if that ever happens.

Comm. Wallace questioned whether there was any indication that aviation would be a topic of discussion.

Comm. Struck explained that MDOT will be looking at the whole multimobile transportation network. Aviation, railway, water transportation, but mostly road surface transportation.

Chairperson Corkin wished all four U.P. teams: Cedarville, Ewing-Trout Creek, Menominee and Negaunee, good luck in the State Quarter Final Basketball Tournaments. He also wished Northern Michigan Wildcats good luck on their Hockey Tournament. He hopes all Teams will be successful.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk