

**Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval**

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 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 and Excused: None.

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the minutes of the County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting held on April 7, 2009, be approved.

**PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

3a) Chairperson Corkin read the following EMS Week Proclamation to designate the week of May 17 – 23, 2009 as Emergency Medical Services Week:

**COUNTY OF MARQUETTE  
EMS WEEK PROCLAMATION**

*To designate the Week of May 17-23, 2009, as Emergency Medical Services Week*

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, the members of Marquette County's eighteen (18) emergency medical services agencies, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now

THEREFORE, *we recognize this event and do hereby proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2009, as*

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK**

With the 2009 theme, EMS: A Proud Partner in Your Community, we encourage the community to observe this week and show appreciation for what these individuals continually give to us.

*Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairman  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

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

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Joe Derocha, Humboldt Township Supervisor, requested to speak to Action Item 10a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt a Resolution to Support the Proposed Relocation of the Upper Peninsula Crime Lab. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period April 10, 2009 through April 16, 2009 in the amount of \$295,455.80, be approved.

**PRIVILEGED COMMENT**

8a) Michigan State Police Professional Excellent Awards - Joe VanOosterhout, Central Dispatch Manager, was present to introduce and recognize F/Lt John Halpin, Post Commander, Negaunee. Mr. VanOosterhout stated that Cmdr. Halpin is a very strong supporter of Marquette County and Central Dispatch.

Cmdr. Halpin, stated that it is his pleasure, on behalf of the entire Michigan State Police Department, specifically Cpt. McCormick, 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander of the Upper Peninsula, to present two citations/awards to two individuals who were instrumental in saving the life of another on January 31, 2009. He introduced Dispatcher Kristi Buris and Dispatcher Jim Shaw. Cmdr. Halpin read the citations and presented the Professional Excellence Awards. He further explained that in his 23 year career, this is the second time he has presented an award of this type to someone outside of the Department.

Commissioners applauded Dispatcher Kristi Buris and Dispatcher Jim Shaw for their actions.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Ciahk, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following Informational Items be accepted on placed on file:

9a) Marquette County Jail Inspection Report.

*Commissioner Corkin commended the Jail Staff for their excellent work keeping in compliance with the administrative rules for jails and lockups. .*

*Comm. Cihak added, that especially with the continued overcrowding in the Marquette County Jail, this speaks well to the professionalism of the Jail Staff.*

*Comm. Pellow requested that a memo be sent to the Jail Staff acknowledging appreciation of their hard work continued efforts.*

9b) Meeting Notice – Deer Lake Area of Concern Public Advisory Council.

**ACTION ITEMS**

The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt a Resolution to Support the Proposed Relocation of the Michigan State Police Upper Peninsula Crime Lab to the former ELF

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Site located in Humboldt Township, Marquette County. Joe Derocha, Humboldt Township Supervisor, was present to answer questions. He distributed a packet of information which was provided to the Governor.

Discussion followed. Commissioners commended Joe Derocha, the Humboldt Township Board, and the residents of Humboldt Township, for their leadership and initiative in the relocation of the Crime Lab.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board adopt the following Resolution to Support the Proposed Relocation of the Michigan State Police Upper Peninsula Crime Lab to the former ELF Site located in Humboldt Township, Marquette County, Michigan:

*RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE  
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE UPPER PENINSULA CRIME LAB TO THE FORMER ELF SITE LOCATED IN  
HUMBOLDT TOWNSHIP,  
MARQUETTE COUNTY*

*WHEREAS, The Marquette County Board is in full support for the proposal to relocate the Michigan State Police Upper Peninsula Crime Lab to the former ELF site in Humboldt Township, Marquette County. We are aware of the important role the MSP Crime Lab plays in the handling of criminal cases for law enforcement agencies throughout the Upper Peninsula. Loosing this facility would cause a tremendous hardship not only on law enforcement personnel but also on the Marquette county prosecutors, defense attorneys and the residences in the Upper Peninsula who rely on their expertise; and*

*WHEREAS, proposal to relocate the MSP Crime Lab to Humboldt Township makes good sense for a number of reasons:*

- *This facility is far less expensive than any other alternatives.*
- *It is centrally located in the Upper Peninsula.*
- *Fixtures and infrastructure are already in place, streamlining relocation.*
- *Reuse of the existing facility.*
- *High level of Security built into location.*
- *Local unit municipally will provide a long term relationship with state.*
- *A percentage of the additional proceeds to be returned to a Upper Peninsula Veterans Facility on a annual basis.*

*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board supports this proposal and joins in our efforts to preserve the Michigan State Police Crime Lab in the Upper Peninsula and relocate to the ELF Sit located in Humboldt Township in Marquette County.*

*Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Action Items 10b), 10d), and 10f), be approved as follows:

10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the following Resolution Declaring Michigan's Public Health Funding Crisis, and a copy of the Resolution be sent to our Legislators:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING  
MICHIGAN'S PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING CRISIS**

*WHEREAS, the Marquette County Health Department is responsible for providing preventive and mandated public health services including, but not limited to, communicable disease control, food service sanitation, sexually transmitted disease control, immunizations, hearing and vision screenings, drinking water supply safety, and onsite sewage management; and*

*WHEREAS, the agreement between local health departments and the state of Michigan to bear half the cost of providing these services has not been maintained by the state; and*

*WHEREAS, the burden of fulfilling these requirements to provide the most basic services is becoming increasingly more challenging for the local public health department to meet; and*

*WHEREAS, the demand for services such as Family Planning Immunizations and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) have increased exponentially in the past year due to the downturn in Michigan's economy; and*

*WHEREAS, lack of increases in state funding has forced local health departments to shift local dollars to fund programs the state mandates; and*

*WHEREAS, proposed cuts in the family planning services will result in 4,000 less women being served in the state. Teen pregnancy increased in the state in 2006 for the first time since the early 1990's, and about 50% of those births are covered by Medicaid. The state should be increasing this preventive care line item rather than reducing it; and*

*WHEREAS, the Marquette County Health Department waited until April 2009 for payment on Department of Human Services billings that were submitted in January 2009, totaling an estimated \$17,000.00; and*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the Michigan state legislature add Five Million Dollars for the Local Public Health Operations in the Department of Community Health budget for fiscal year 2010; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners requests the Michigan state legislature restore the following cuts proposed in the Governor's budget recommendation:*

- *Reductions in Sexually Transmitted Disease funding*
- *Reductions in Family Planning funding*
- *Elimination of methamphetamine clean-up funding*
- *Reductions to chronic disease prevention*
- *Elimination of funding for poison control centers*
- *Elimination of funding for the Nurse Family Partnership; and*

*BE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners implores the Michigan state legislature to not make any further reductions to state revenue sharing payments to counties; and*

*BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the Michigan House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and to the Michigan state senators and representatives serving the residents of Marquette County.*

*Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation approve the Leachate Agreement with the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Agreement.

10f) Adoption of the following Resolution Supporting Local Operation of the Upper Michigan State Fair:

***RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL OPERATION OF THE  
UPPER PENINSULA STATE FAIR***

*WHEREAS, Governor Granholm announced on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 in her State of the State Address, that Michigan will no longer fund Michigan State Fairs in Detroit and the Upper Peninsula; and*

*WHEREAS, the Governor's February 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Order directed the Michigan Department of Agriculture to transfer the Upper Peninsula State Fair properties to the Department of Management and Budget for the future conveyance to a local entity; and*

*WHEREAS, Delta County has agreed to accept the transfer of land, facilities, and personal property; and*

*WHEREAS, Delta County has agreed to conduct a title search and survey of the property in a timely manner; and*

*WHEREAS, State Senator Michael Prusi has agreed to work with Representatives Nerat, McDowell, Lindberg and Lahti to introduce legislation for the transfer of the facility; and*

*WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP) has submitted an application to service mark the names "Upper Peninsula State Fair" and "U.P. State Fair"; and*

*WHEREAS, UPCAP has agreed to work for and on behalf of the U.P. counties to set up the Upper Peninsula State Fair Authority consisting of residents appointed by and from each of the fifteen U.P. counties; and*

*WHEREAS, the Authority will appoint an administrative/fiscal agent to work and advocate for an on behalf of the Authority and its governing body members; and*

*WHEREAS, the administrative/fiscal agent will contract with a local management organization to carry out the day to day operations of the Authority's programs and services including the U.P. State Fair;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Marquette County agrees to work collectively, collaboratively and in the spirit of cooperation toward the establishment of the Upper Peninsula State Fair Authority and further existence of the Upper Peninsula State Fair.*

*Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

**ACTION ITEMS CON'T.**

10c) The County Board considered a Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Support the Efforts of the Friends of Blueberry Ridge in Support of a Cross-Country Ski Trail User Fee. It was noted that the Lineman School at Sawyer was also instrumental in providing the lighting at one of the ski trails. The Lineman

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School worked with the Board of Light and Power in Marquette another great example of collaboration between units of government. It was also noted that the Lineman School is also part of Northern Michigan University.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board adopt the following Resolution supporting the Efforts of the Friends of Blueberry Ridge in Support of a Cross-Country Ski Trail User Fee.

*RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAIL USER FEE*

*WHEREAS, the Friends of Blueberry Ridge (FOBBR) is a group committed to keeping Blueberry Ridge Ski Pathway open with quality grooming for cross-country skiing; and,*

*WHEREAS, the FOBBR have been lobbying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Commission, and several Upper Peninsula state legislators for a mandatory, annual, statewide state forest cross-country ski trail user fee; and,*

*WHEREAS, the fees collected would provide a funding source for the maintenance, grooming, and improvement of state forest ski trails; and,*

*WHEREAS, the economic impact of cross-country skiing is significant, especially in the Marquette area; and,*

*WHEREAS, it is believed that a mandatory annual user fee will be supported by skiers as long as the funds are earmarked for ski trail maintenance, grooming, and improvement; and,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners supports Friends of Blueberry Ridge in their effort to have legislation passed by the Michigan State Legislature to require a mandatory, annual, statewide fee for in-season use of state forest cross-country ski trails.*

*Adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2009*

*Gerald O. Corkin, Chairman*

*Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

10e) Commissioners requested additional information from Anne Giroux, Marquette County Treasurer, regarding a Resolution approving the Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing the Marquette County Land Bank Authority (IGA). The County Board will consider the issue on the May 5, 2009.

10g) The County Board considered appointment to the Central Dispatch Policy Board. At a meeting of the Ishpeming City Council on April 8, 2009, a motion was adopted recommending that the Marquette County Board appoint Councilman John Stone to the Central Dispatch Policy Board replacing Councilman Pat Scanlon as a City of Ishpeming Representative.

The replacement was requested due to representation on the Central Dispatch Board.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board appoint Councilman John Stone to the Central Dispatch Policy Board replacing Pat Scanlon as a City of Ishpeming Representative. The appointment is for an unexpired term ending 12-31-2009.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

April 21, 2009

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Comm. Corkin distributed information received by the Governor regarding Competitive Grant Opportunities for Michigan Communities, Non-Profits. The County Clerk will mail the information to each City and Township in Marquette County.

Comm. Cihak announced that he attended a meeting in the Lower Peninsula and received a copy of a Resolution Supporting Adequate State Funding to Hold Counties Harmless from the Department of Human Services Lawsuit Settlement Agreement. The resolution is being distributed to all 83 Michigan Counties. He requested it be reviewed at an upcoming agenda meeting.

Comm. Wallace announced that the Holocaust Memorial Service will be held tonight at 7:00 p.m. St. Peter's Cathedral. All are invited to attend.

Comm. Corkin, on behalf of the County Board, commended Dispatcher Buris and Dispatch Shaw for their actions. It is an honor when employees take action to save a human life.

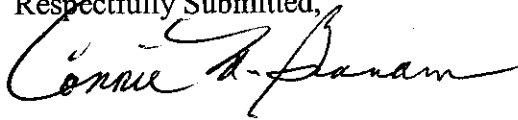
Comm. Struck spoke regarding the Resolution adopted supporting EMS Week. He explained that the EMS providers in Marquette County, and throughout the State, do an outstanding job. It's appropriate that Dispatcher Buris and Dispatcher Shaw are honored. They are part of the EMS team, all members of our community who take the time to be trained, and available, and on occasion they do make the difference between life and death.

Comm. Heikkila echoed Comm. Struck's comments. He stated that Marquette County is very fortunate to have these individuals in our community.

Comm. Cihak announced that he attended an Economic Club luncheon with Comm. Wallace and Comm. Struck, featuring Sen. Debbie Stabenow. Sen. Stabenow spoke to the issues directly effecting Marquette County. She is very optimistic and has advocated on behalf of Marquette County many times.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connie M. Branam  
Marquette County Clerk