

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on Tuesday, May 19, 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. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Joseph.

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 May 5, 2009 be approved.

**PROCLAMATIONS, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

3a) Chairperson Corkin read the following Resolution Honoring the Service of Andrea K. LaPointe on her Retirement:

*MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION  
HONORING SERVICE OF ANDREA K. LAPOINTE  
ON HER RETIREMENT*

*WHEREAS, Government has an obligation to provide its citizens with services of the highest quality;  
and*

*WHEREAS, quality services can only be provided by employees of the highest caliber; and*

*WHEREAS, Andrea K. LaPointe was hired as a Service Worker in the Facilities Division of the Resource Management Development Department on January 1, 1990; and*

*WHEREAS, Andrea was promoted to Lead Service Worker on April 16, 2001. Andrea has been a Lead Service Worker for the last eight years; and*

*WHEREAS, Andrea performed both custodial functions and directed other service worker staff engaged in the cleaning and maintenance of the county buildings and grounds;*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully expresses its appreciation to Andrea K. LaPointe for her contributions to maintaining the cleanliness and beauty of its buildings and grounds for over nineteen years; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all County Citizens, the Marquette County Board wishes Andrea and her spouse Thomas a long, healthy, and happy retirement.*

*Proclaimed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following Late Addition: 11a) A Resolution Urging No More Prison Closures in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period May 8, 2009 through May 14, 2009 in the amount of \$549,559.18 be approved.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

- 9a) Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority 2008 Annual Report.  
(A complete copy of the Annual Report is in the Commissioners Room).

*Chairperson Corkin commended Rick Aho, Director of the Marquette County Solid Waste Management Authority, on the seventeenth year with the same tipping fee. He also explained that the Solid Waste Management Authority has paid the final payment of the 1988 bond for their municipalities.*

- 9b) Marquette-Alger Great Start Collaborative (GSC).
- 9c) Invitation to Attend an Official GSC Grant Announcement Event at MARESA.

*Comm. Struck urged Commissioners to attend the official GSC grant announcement at MARESA. He explained that the GSC Group provides resources and supports to assist families in providing a "great start" for their children from pre-birth through age 5.*

- 9d) Iron County Board of Commissioners Communication Re: Improve Michigan Roads and Highways.

**ACTION ITEMS**

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

- 10a) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the U.P. State Fair Authority Interlocal Agreement with changes as outlined by Civil Counsel.
- 10b) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Perkins Park Phase IV Engineering and Design Project and authorize the Board Chair to execute all documents.
- 10c) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the Avis/Budget Car Rental Lease Space Consolidation Request.
- 10d) Committee of the Whole Recommendation to Approve the following Resolution Amending the High Volume Water/Sewer Rate Adjustment:

**RESOLUTION AMENDING WATER & SANITARY SEWER FEE SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, Section 2000.13 of the Marquette County Water Ordinance, and Section 1000.11 of the Marquette County Sewer Ordinance, provide that all rates and charges relating to the Sawyer Water and Sewer systems, respectively, shall be set by the County Board of Commissioners by a majority of those present at a meeting when the resolution is adopted; and,

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WHEREAS, such rates and charges are currently specified in the document entitled "Water & Sanitary Sewer Fee Schedule As of January 1, 2009" hereinafter referred to as "the Schedule;" and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire and intent of the Board of Commissioners to amend the Schedule by this Resolution:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Marquette County Board of Commissioners does hereby amend the Schedule as follows:

1. That section of the Schedule entitled "Wastewater Rates & Charges" shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows:

**Wastewater Rates & Charges**

Minimum Monthly Fee (includes first 1,000 gallons)	\$9.70
Useage over 1,000 gallons (per 1,000 gallons)	\$9.70
As of July 1, 2009	
Minimum monthly fee (includes first 1,000 gallons)	\$10.00
Useage over 1,000 gallons to 750,000 gallons (per 1,000 gallons)	\$10.00
Useage over 750,000 gallons (per 1,000 gallons)	\$ 5.00
Tap-In Charges	
6" or less	\$500.00
Larger than 6"	\$1,000.00
Application/Permit (includes inspection)	\$ 50.00

2. All other terms and provisions of the Schedule not modified by this Resolution are hereby ratified and confirmed, and shall remain in full force and effect.

*Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

**ACTION ITEMS CON'T**

10e) The County Board considered the FY-2010 Community Corrections Grant. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that this is a continuation of the Community Corrections Grant from the Michigan Department of Corrections Office of Community Corrections. This is the final year of the 3 year grant cycle. He further explained that with the state of the State’s budget, hanging on to what we currently have is a positive outcome. Comm. Cihak mentioned that there is a movement in Lansing to try to increase this line item, however, with the current budget deficit it is unknown what will happen.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County approve the FY-2010 Community Corrections Grant.

10f) The County Board considered an Announcement from UPCAP of Available Funds and Request for Letters of Intent for FY-2010. The Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging/UPCAP announced the availability of Federal and State funding for the provision of services to the elderly of the Upper Peninsula during Fiscal Year 2010.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board authorize a Letter of Intent to apply for funding.

10g) The County Board considered the FY-2010 UPCAP Homemaker Contracts. Sue Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained that UPCAP has requested letters of intent to apply for funding for services to the aging in Marquette County for fiscal year 2010 (10-1-2009 – 9-30-2010).

If Marquette County wishes to apply for Homemaker Aide funding and then subcontract with the four senior centers to provide the direct services to seniors, a letter of intent must be authorized by the County Board and submitted to UPCAP by May 29, 2009.

As in prior years, the allocation to each senior center would be based on funding formula using an UPCAP approved unit rate reimbursement.

The four senior centers have all been notified that the Board would be considering this action. Staff recommends the Board authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the letter of intent and subsequent application for UPCAP funding for fiscal year 2010.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the application for UPCAP funding for Fiscal Year 2010.

10h) The County Board considered Building Fee Waiver Requests. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that as a follow up to the May 12, 2009 Committee of the Whole discussion, staff has revised the recommended change to Policy 229, Building Fee Waiver Requests. The Committee's discussion clearly indicated that the draft policy change was overly complicated. The proposal acknowledges the public benefit of community improvement projects, recognizes that efficiencies are realized from multiple, repetitive inspections in a limited geographic area, and limits the reduction criteria to a local government's publicly-funded project regardless of who owns the improvement or holds the permit and allows for the Building Code Manager to reduce the fee less than 25%. Mr. Powers further recommends that the policy maintain the consistency with the Marquette County Comprehensive Plan. He also explained that he is recommending the Board consider language that would say **up to** 25%. This would give the Building Code Manager and the County Administrator more flexibility to award a reduction not less. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, that the County Board approve the Building Fee Waiver Requests as recommended by Steve Powers, County Administrator for permit fee reductions **up to** 25%. A roll call vote was recorded: 4 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin) to 4 Nays (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow). Motion Fails.

Comm. Pellow then suggested a reduction of 50% to encourage communities to build on their infrastructure. She explained that without infrastructure communities will not have economic development and the community would not be revitalized. Discussion followed.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, that the County Board approve the Building Fee Waiver Request with a reduction of 50%. A roll call vote was recorded: 4 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, and Comm. Pellow) to 4 Nays (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin). Motion Fails.

Discussion continued.

Comm. Pellow then suggested a 35% reduction. Comm. Arsenault explained that if a 35% reduction is approved its approved for everyone not just Richmond Township. Comm. Heikkila and Comm. Cihak

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questioned whether the policy could be approved at 25% and an exception made for Richmond Township. It was explained there will be other projects forthcoming and that all projects should be treated the same.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak that the County Board, approve a 35% reduction. A roll call vote was recorded: 4 Ayes (Comm. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, and Comm. Pellow) to 4 Nays (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin). Motion Fails.

Discussion continued regarding infrastructure projects specific to water and wastewater projects. It was suggested the issue be discussed at a later meeting when all nine Commissioners are present. Comm. Pellow explained that Richmond Township needs an answer tonight regarding their reduction in order to move forward. It was suggested the 25% reduction be approved, contingent upon revisiting the issue at a later date for language changes more specific to the types of projects the policy would apply to.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board approve the Building Fee Reduction Requests **up to** 25%, with the understanding that the issue be considered again at a later date for potential changes in the policy regarding specific projects.

LATE ADDITIONS

11a) The County Board considered a Resolution Urging No More Prison Closures in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Comm. Cihak explained that he and Chairperson Corkin took the initiative to bring this resolution to the County Board for action, to then be forward to all Counties in the U.P. It became very clear during the U.P. County Commissioners Spring Conference, and part of the basis behind the resolution, is that Marquette County has a very good track record on many issues. Many communities throughout the Lower Peninsula said no prisons in their back yards. The U.P. stepped up and said consideration should be given.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the County Board adopt the following Resolution Urging No More Prison Closures in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and further that the resolution be distributed to Governor Jennifer Granholm, the Department of Corrections, Upper Peninsula Representatives, all U.P. Boards of Commissioners, and the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners for consideration and action.

*MARQUETTE COUNTY RESOLUTION  
URGING NO MORE PRISON CLOSURES  
IN THE UPPER PENINSULA OF MICHIGAN*

*WHEREAS, in the past, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan “stepped up to the plate” and offered to be the home of a number of prisons while many communities in the Lower Peninsula said “not in my backyard”; and,*

*WHEREAS, with the potential for more prison closures in Michigan, we strongly urge all of the appropriate stakeholders and decision makers to not close any more prisons in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan; and,*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor, Department of Corrections, and Legislature to not close any more prisons in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.*

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*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be distributed to Governor Jennifer Granholm, the Department of Corrections, Upper Peninsula Representatives, the 14 other Upper Peninsula Board of Commissioners, and the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners (UPACC) for their consideration and action.*

*Adopted this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009  
Gerald O. Corkin, Chairman  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. William Luetzow, Richmond Township Supervisor, thanked the County Board for their support of the Building Fee Waiver Requests.

There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson Corkin updated Commissioners regarding the U.P. County Commissioners Conference. He spoke regarding the 9-1-1 Authority, road issues, stimulus money and the State Budget. Chairperson Corkin also spoke briefly with Matt Johnson to discuss the Kennecott Project. They are hopeful to get some answers within the next 30–60 days. He explained that the road into Humboldt is being designed. A very positive sign.

Comm. Cihak also spoke regarding the U.P. County Commissioners Conference. He explained that it is a very bleak picture with the State Budget. The State is now using stimulus monies to plug holes. He also met with Ann Jousma Miller, Governor Granholm’s U.P. Representative. He explained that she has a very tremendous amount of energy in a very positive way. Comm. Cihak also spoke regarding the County Jail Reimbursement Program. He explained that the Committee is advocating for full funding, however, information received from Tom Hickson is that the CJRP Funding will run out this week or possibly next. It will be the second year in a row that funding will end early.

Comm. Heikkila requested an update on the Building Codes Department for the first quarter of this year.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that Sawyer Airport will be receiving \$1.7 million for taxiway lighting repairs and improvements. The application for dormitory demolition was turned down.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam  
Marquette County Clerk