

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, March 24, 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. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent: Comm. Heikkila.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on March 10, 2009 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following additions: Item 12) Letter of Support for U.P. State Fair; and Item 13) FY 2010 Budget Proposal for Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES).

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

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the Period March 13, 2009 through March 19, 2009 in the amount of \$133,395.70, be approved.

Brian Wibby, 4-H/Youth Development Director was present, and introduced himself as the new employee to the Michigan State University County Extension Office. Mr. Wibby explained his role in the community. He also discussed some of the programs MSU Extension offers. Commissioners welcomed Brian Wibby to Marquette County!

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The Committee considered a Resolution regarding Reduction of State Funding for MSU Extension. The State of Michigan is proposing a 50% reduction of state funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. This proposed cut is an unacceptable solution to the State's budget problem.

Chairperson Corkin read a resolution from Wayne County and requested that Commissioners support the Resolution.

Marquette County currently provides \$118,785 to help support MSU Extension programming. The County investment is coupled with state and federal appropriations, as well as grants, ensuring that the programming will meet the needs and interest of the County's citizens.

Commissioners stated that possible reduction of funds is unacceptable.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Approve a Resolution regarding Reduction of State Funding for MSU Extension, and a copy of the Resolution be sent to the Governor and State Legislators explaining that the 50% reduction of state funding for MSU Extension and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is an unacceptable solution to the State's budget problem.

Carol Fulsher, Treasurer, Iron Ore Heritage Authority, updated Commissioners regarding the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. Ms. Fulsher stated the Heritage Trail Millage Proposal on the November Ballot – Failed. The current plan is to have the Heritage Trail Millage Proposal on the August 2010 Ballot. Ms. Fulsher explained the public has been very supportive of the trail and appreciates the County Board’s support.

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The Committee considered Proposed Perkins Park Fees and Rules for 2009. Kim Bourgeois, Park Manager/Harbormaster, was present and explained that fee data from the following campgrounds was collected comparing the current Perkins Park fees with other local parks. Van Riper, two State Forest Campgrounds- only pit toilets, City of Houghton, Hancock City, Ontonagon Township, Marquette Tourist Park, Pentoga (County park in Crystal Falls), Munising, Antoine County Park, and Woodland Park (Grand Marais) rates were located on each parks website. Many of these campgrounds have increased their fees for the 2009 season.

Averages for the campsites most resembling ours are:

No hook-up \$15.37, Electric only \$22.00, Full Hook-up \$30.00.

Our current fees:

No hook-up \$13.00, Electric only \$18.00, Full Hook-up \$23.00 and Pull Thru \$25.00.

Our last fee increase at the Park was in 2006. Staff is proposing an increase of \$2.00 per campsite. There are no proposed changes to the Park rules and regulations.

The following fee proposal for Perkins Park is recommended for the 2009 camping season.

Type	Fee per night	Fee per 5 nights	Fee per month
No hook-up	15.00	65.00 (13.00/night)	330.00 (11/night)
Electric only	20.00	90.00 (18.00/night)	480.00 (16/night)
Full hook-up	25.00	115.00 (23.00/night)	630.00 (21/night)
50amp Pull-Thru	27.00	125.00 (25.00/night)	690.00 (23.00/night)
Rental Tent	20.00		

Ms. Bourgeois updated Commissioners on the improvements to the Park thus far.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve the Proposed Perkins Park Fees and Rules for 2009 as presented by Kim Bourgeois, Park Manager/Harbormaster.

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The Committee considered a Resolution regarding Implementation of a Plan to Improve Michigan Roads and Highways. Chairperson Corkin emphasized the following parts of the Resolution:

State, County, and Municipal roads are deteriorating at a record pace. The State of Michigan may see additional federal dollars through a national stimulus plan that is specified for ready-to-go projects, however many communities are not likely to see any new road projects with this money, and in addition, stimulus money cannot be used for patching potholes or snowplowing roads, and furthermore, the stimulus plan is designed as a

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one-time shot-in-the-arm and not a solution to fix Michigan’s chronically under-funded and failing transportation system.

The Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation has testified before the House and Senate Transportation Committees of the Michigan Legislature that the proposed stimulus package is not an answer to the highway and road funding of Michigan, and in addition, numerous other voices across the state – major newspapers, road industry trade associations, voices across the state - major newspapers, road industry trade associations, municipal and county associations, labor organizations and chambers of commerce - has expressed that Michigan must invest more dollars into road maintenance, and one such organization is the Michigan Transportation Team, a partnership of businesses, associations and citizens linked with the common goal of improving Michigan’s transportation infrastructure.

Chairperson Corkin explained that, if adopted, the County Board send the Resolution to the Governor and Michigan Legislators to implement a plan to improve Michigan roads and highways. The Resolution also be forwarded to each County Commission and Road Commission in the Upper Peninsula.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Approve a Resolution regarding Implementation of a Plan to Improve Michigan Roads and Highways, and send a copy of the Resolution to Governor Jennifer Granholm, each member of Legislature, and County Commissions and Road Commissions in the Upper Peninsula.

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The Committee considered the Marquette County Community Corrections and Detention Center (MCCCDC) and the County Jail Renovations. Larry Gould, County Facilities Manager, and Jack Schneider, Undersheriff, were present to answer questions.

Mr. Gould explained renovation bids were solicited for the contractor part of the project by advertising on the County web site, the Mining Journal, and the builder’s exchanges. Six (6) sealed bids were received and tabulated. Integrated Design, Inc. (IDI) explained the bids and bid tabulations.

The low bidder, Menze Construction Company Incorporated, met the requirements and is below budget. Mr. Gould and Integrated Design, Inc. recommend that the bid for the Jail Expansion Project (MCCCDC and Jail) be awarded to Menze Construction in the amount of \$283,654.

Mr. Gould further explained that the other part of the project, including such items as purchasing furnishings, appliances, and equipment, will be done in-house. The project is on schedule for occupancy and completion. The specifications require the bidders to hold their bid prices for 60 days from the bid deadline.

Discussion followed.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize and award the bid for the Jail Expansion Project (MCCCDC and Jail) to Menze Construction in the amount \$283,654, and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign all construction documents.

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The Committee considered a letter of support for the conveyance of the Upper Peninsula State Fair Facility to Delta County and the City of Escanaba.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Marquette County Committee of the Whole send a letter of support to State Senator Mike Prusi, State

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Representative Steve Lindberg and State Representative Mike Lahti regarding the conveyance of the Upper Peninsula State Fair Facility to Delta County and the City of Escanaba.

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The Committee considered an FY 2010 Budget Proposal for Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) Resolution. Comm. Bergdahl was present and explained cuts to MAES will stop the advancement of new knowledge, innovation, and economic development in important State initiatives such as alternative energy, bioeconomy, environmental sustainability, food safety, cool cities and entrepreneurship. The Governor is recommending a 50 percent cut.

MAES is a key asset-the only one distributed across the state - in this need to prepare Michigan for a challenging future.

Commissioners stated that possible reduction of funds is unacceptable.

It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Approve a Resolution regarding FY 2010 Budget Proposal for Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES), and a copy of the Resolution be sent to the Governor and State Legislators explaining that the reduction of state funding for the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station is an unacceptable solution to the State's budget problem.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Comm. Wallace announced that Upper Great Lakes Family Health Center has been purchased by Marquette General Health Systems. They will ask for a \$60,000 Planning Grant to convert the clinic to a federally qualified health center which will take care of the surrounding areas. The Health Center will improve the delivery of health care to citizens of Marquette County.

Comm. Struck attended a meeting on March 23, 2009 at the Tailwinds Restaurant on Sawyer. Thirty community leaders were present and discussed how to promote Sawyer.

Comm. Struck announced that Governor Grandholm has appointed Ann Jousma-Miller as Director of the Governor's Northern Michigan Office. Anne is an outstanding person and will do a great job!

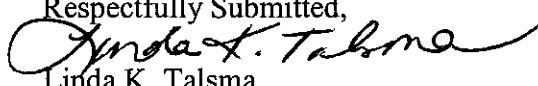
Comm. Cihak attended a MAC Judiciary Meeting. Julie Newberg, Government Solutions Consultant, was present and discussed the economic stimulus package. Ms. Newberg will help any government entity acquire available grants.

Comm. Cihak updated Commissioners on Jail Reimbursement and CUPPAD.

Comm. Wallace discussed a MAC meeting held for the Health and Human Services Committee. The Governor's Office proposes closure of three juvenile detention centers around the state.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced that the next Regular Meeting of the County Board on April 7, 2009.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda K. Talsma
Deputy County Clerk