

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, at approximately 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. Bergdahl, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Arsenault and Comm. Wallace.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on October 13, 2009 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved with the following addition: Item 8) Letter of Support for MSU Extension and Agriculture Stations.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the Period October 16, 2009 through October 22, 2009 in the amount of \$2,477,973.73, and Biweekly Payroll for the period ending October 17, 2009 in the amount of \$637,772.75, be approved.

The Committee considered a Drug Treatment Court Grant Agreement. The grant will continue the expansion of the sobriety court caseload, provide continued funding for a second part-time case manager, allow for continued random bar and home visits by the Sheriff's Department, increased drug testing (at no cost to participants), free preliminary breath testing for participants, and it will provide reimbursement for transportation to services and mandatory court appearances. The number of participants will increase from the current 36 to a maximum of 40 people. Program length will remain 24 months.

The sobriety court is for repeat misdemeanor and felony operating-while-intoxicated offenders. All repeat misdemeanor and felony OWI offenders are identified through the Marquette County Jail immediately following their arrest and are screened for eligibility by the County Prosecutor. The court has been operating since 2004. Prior to grant funding in 2008-2009, the number of participants ranged from 15 to 25. There have been 44 successful graduates, none of whom have been charged with new drinking and driving offenses in Michigan.

The grant will expand the sobriety court through September 30, 2010. The enhancements are based on the court's experience over the past six years. Of the 542 eligible persons who chose not to participate, or for whom there was not an opening, 45 were arrested on new drinking and driving offenses in Marquette County.

The 96th District Court applied for funding through the Michigan Supreme Court. The Michigan Supreme Court is providing competitive grants using U.S. Department of Transportation Alcohol Traffic Safety and Drunk Driving Prevention Incentive Grant funds.

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Marquette County and the 96th District Court will be receiving \$70,000 for continued expansion of the 96th District Sobriety Court to a maximum of 40 participants (from the current 36). Pathways is providing \$25,000. Marquette County's portion of the project is in-kind personnel, supplies, and travel expenses to training programs. The 2009 and 2010 budgets will be amended to include the grant funds.

District Judge, Dennis H. Girard, was present to answer questions. Judge Girard emphasized the fact that there have been zero repeat offenders through the program. He also stated that the Treatment Court Staff is outstanding. Commissioners congratulated Judge Girard on the success of the program.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Bergdahl, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Grant Agreement with the Michigan Supreme Court State Court Administrative Office for Drug Treatment Court.

The Committee considered Perkins Park Phase IV Bids. Bids were opened for the project on October 19, 2009. Seven firms submitted bids. Only one bid was within the project budget of \$263,000. The low bid of \$245,720 was provided by Associated Constructors LLC, of Marquette. The next 3 closest bids were within 3.5% of budget validating the architects estimate.

The scope of work for the project is as follows:

- Construction of a new accessible day office with unisex bathroom and water utilities per the plans.
- Expansion of existing campsites and relocation of sanitary sewer and water utilities per the plans.
- Construction of new electrical system to serve the campsites per the electrical plan.
- Conversion of four existing sites into ADA accessible sites by means of grading and pathway construction.
- Trail, sidewalk, and handicap access to the beach as shown on the plans.
- Landscaping work as shown on the plans and as directed by the owner.

The project management team recommends the project be awarded to Associated Constructors, LLC.

Dottie Lewis, Planner, was present to explain the project and answer questions. Kim Bourgeois, Park Manager/Harbormaster, was also present.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Perkins Park Phase IV Project to Associated Constructors, LLC, in the amount of \$245,720, authorize the Board Chair to sign the necessary documents, and direct staff to issue a Notice to Proceed.

The Committee considered a Letter of Support for MSU Extension and Agriculture Stations. It was moved by Comm. Bergdahl, seconded by Comm. Joseph, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the following letter be sent to the Governor as soon as possible asking that she support funding MSU Extension and Agriculture Stations:

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Dear Governor Granholm:

Michigan State University Cooperative Extension is a valued partner with Marquette County. The Marquette County Board of Commissioners asks that you support funding MSU Extension and Agriculture Stations.

If MSU Extension is not funded, there will be a community education void on topics such as land use, personal financial management, and health lifestyles. Traditional, proven programs such as 4-H will be at risk. In Marquette County, MSU Extension is a valuable partner in a community conflict mediation and resolution program.

MSU Extension is a proven state/county partnership and example of intergovernmental cooperation. While struggling with the huge responsibility of balancing the state's budget, please consider funding programs that are effective in meeting the public's needs.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. None was forthcoming.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin gave an update on the ballot initiative regarding mining in the U.P. He explained that the citizens in the Lower Peninsula need to be informed.

Comm. Pellow announced that a ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 4:30 p.m. celebrating the Richmond Township Sewer and Water System Project. Comm. Pellow also questioned a water problem at the Mangum Farm. She was informed that the problem is resolved.

Comm. Struck gave an update on a recent Sawyer Development Group Meeting, and also on a Michigan Transportation Asset Council Meeting.

Comm. Cihak reported on a recent MAC meeting including an update on the State Budget. The update included a report on the Jail Reimbursement Program.

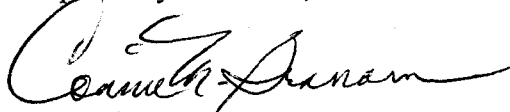
Comm. Cihak announced that Sunday, November 1st, 2009 is the 52nd Anniversary of the Mackinac Bridge. All non-commercial vehicles will receive a free pass.

Comm. Bergdahl reported on the 2nd U.P. Fair Board Meeting.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, announced good news for Marquette County. He requested that Dottie Lewis, Planner, explain recent approval of a grant application.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Connie M. Branam
County Clerk