
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010 – 6:00 P.M. – ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855

1. CALL TO ORDER – SALUTE TO THE FLAG – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

- Call to Order by Chair at 6:00 p.m. – Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette.
- Roll Call: Present: Commissioner Arsenault, Commissioner Bergdahl, Commissioner Cihak, Commissioner Heikkila, Commissioner Joseph, Commissioner Pellow, Commissioner Struck, Commissioner Wallace, and Chairperson. Corkin.
Absent: None.

- **SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 16, 2010.

Board Action: Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 Regular Meeting of the County Board of Commissioners. Second by Commissioner Cihak. Motion adopted.

3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS.

- a. Chairperson Corkin read the following Resolution Honoring Dwight Sunday on his Retirement.

*MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION HONORING SERVICE OF ALTON DWIGHT SUNDAY
ON HIS 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, Alton Dwight Sunday was hired on March 19, 2001 as an Equalization Director and served in this capacity through May 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, as Equalization Director, Dwight managed the administrative functions of the Equalization Office. He directed surveys of assessments and provided the Board of Commissioners with the information necessary to adopt the annual equalization in accordance with property tax laws; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2004, the County of Marquette entered into an agreement to provide assessing services to the City of Marquette. Dwight served as acting Level IV City Assessor while employed by the County of Marquette as Equalization Director.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners gratefully expresses its appreciation to Dwight Sunday for over 9 years of excellent service to Marquette County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, on behalf of all County Citizens, the Marquette County Board wishes Dwight and his wife Joyce a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Board Action: Commissioner Pellow moved to approve the Agenda with the following changes: Delete Item 10e) Heritage Trail Request; and move Commissioners Comments, Staff Comments and Announcements before the Closed Session. Second by Commissioner Wallace. Motion adopted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

5. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS.

Board Action: Commissioner Arsenault moved to approve Claims and Accounts for the period November 11, 2010 through December 2, 2010, in the amount of \$855,757.58; BiWeekly Payroll for the period ending November 13, 2010 in the amount of \$691,247.16; and BiWeekly Payroll for the period ending November 27, 2010 in the amount of \$669,216.47. Second by Commissioner Pellow. Motion adopted.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS. None.

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT. None.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS. None.

10. ACTION ITEMS.

a. Medicare Advantage Proposal.

John Greenberg, Human Resources and Risk Manager, presented the following information:

For the past several years, Marquette County has received rates from Blue Cross Blue Shield for transferring our Medicare-eligible retirees to a Medicare Advantage plan as part of the renewal process. In my memo to the Board dated January 20, 2009, I wrote: "There are two types of alternatives to the traditional Medicare supplement coverage we now provide for this group. A Medigap Policy is standardized health insurance sold by private companies to fill gaps in the original Medicare coverage, while Medicare Advantage Plans are health plan options (like HMOs and PPOs) approved by Medicare and run by private companies. I have looked at these plans in the past and not found them worthwhile in terms of the overall cost of health insurance for our combined active employee and retiree insurance population. In other words, the savings we would experience for this group (65 and over) would be offset by increased cost for the rest of the group as well as the loss of the Retiree Drug Subsidy we now qualify for. Since this cost situation is subject to change based on our ongoing underwriting experience I do plan to review proposals on Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans periodically".

For 2011, the situation has changed. BCBSM has verified that if we "carve out" the 65 and over retirees and move them to the BCBSM Medicare Advantage plan, BCBSM will not rerate the rest of the group. They have also resolved the previous problem of coverage for those retirees under age 65, as well as coverage for couples where one is 65+ and the other is younger. Those under 65 would maintain their current coverage. The third change is that they would allow us to use two different Medicare Advantage plans. The advantage of two Medicare Advantage plans is that we would be able to closely match the coverage retirees are currently receiving through the Medicare supplemental plan while saving considerable premium dollars. We are anticipating a savings of \$250,000 or more on an annual basis.

Based on the premium savings, and the fact that the retirees would experience little or no change in coverage, it is my recommendation that we move our 65 and over retirees (and spouses) to the BCBSM Medicare Advantage plan that most closely matches their current coverage. Due to the process involved, this change would be effective March 1, 2011.

Board Action: Commissioner Heikkila moved to approve the recommendation from John Greenberg, Human Resources and Risk Manager, and move the 65 and over retirees (and spouses) to the BCBSM Medicare Advantage plan that most closely matches the current coverage, effective March 1, 2011. Second by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

b. T-Hangar & End Storage Unit Rate Increase Recommendation.

Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, presented the following information:

During the November 4, 2010 Long Range Planning session of the Airport Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed the current fees for the Fixed Base Operator (FBO), airport terminal daily parking, terminal employee parking, fuel flowage fees, and T-hangars & T-hangar end storage units.

As a result of this review, the Committee made a recommendation that the single T-hangar and end storage unit fees be increased by \$5.00 per month and the twin T-hangar rate be increased by \$10.00 per month. The Committee also recommends that the fee increases go into effect beginning with new leases or renewed leases effective January 1, 2011. The T-hangar and end storage unit fees have not changed since at least October of 2005.

Additional Background:

In October of 2005, County staff recommended reducing the T-hangar rental rates in an effort to generate increased occupancy and as an incentive to occupy the north side T-hangars which have icing issues in the winter months. The County Board supported this recommendation and reduced the rates as follows:

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- *Single north side T-hangars: Reduced from \$135.00 per month to \$100.00 per month.*
 - *Single south side T-hangars: No change, remained at \$135.00 per month.*
 - *Twin north side T-hangars: Reduced from \$180.00 per month to \$150.00 per month.*
 - *Twin south side T-hangars: No change, remained at \$180.00 per month.*
 - *End Storage Units: No change, remained at \$50.00 per month*

T-hangar occupancy has increased nine (9) total units since reducing the rate on the north side T-hangars. Currently, 33 of 40 T-hangars are occupied.

Recommendation:

- *Increase the monthly fees for all single T-hangars and end storage units by \$5.00 per month.*
- *Increase the monthly fees for all twin T-hangars by \$10.00 per month.*

The fee increase to go into effect for all new leases and renewed leases effective January 1, 2011.

Board Action: Commissioner Wallace, moved to increase the monthly fees for all single T-hangars and end storage units by \$5.00 per month; and increase the monthly fees for all twin T-hangars by \$10.00 per month; with the fee increase to go into effect for all new leases and renewed leases effective January 1, 2011, as recommended by Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager. Second by Commissioner Pellow. Motion adopted.

c. Approval of the Final Draft of Sawyer's ACIP for FY's 2011-2021.

Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, presented the following information:

BACKGROUND:

Please find attached the final draft of Sawyer's 10-Year Airport Capital Improvement Plan (ACIP) for FY's 2011 – 2021. The projects listed per Fiscal Year and priority is a result of significant discussions between staff, Sawyer's Airport Advisory Committee, and Mead & Hunt.

Due to the very high cost for pavement reconstruction as we have experienced over the past four-years, pavement rehabilitation continues to be our Number 1 priority, and as per the recommendations of the FY-2008 & 2009 MDOT and Sponsor funded pavement studies, you'll note that the attached is in contrast with the ACIP submitted in 2009, as staff is today recommending that we place a renewed emphasis and an elevated priority for the continued rehabilitation of Sawyer's aviation pavements and airfield lighting, to include, as follows:

- ***FY-2012 - Rehabilitation of Runway Edge Lighting and Asphalt Shoulder Pavement for Runway 1/19; Project design is underway with Grant 3210 received on March 30, 2010. Estimated Project Cost: \$2,560,000.***
- ***FY-2014 - Rehabilitation of Asphalt Pavement for Runway 1/19. Estimated Project Cost: \$4,360,000.***
- ***FY-2015 - Rehabilitation of Asphalt Pavement for Taxiways Echo and Foxtrot. Estimated Project Cost: \$530,000.***
- ***FY-2011 & 2013 - Phased Replacement of Joint Sealant Material for Concrete Pavements (extends service life of aviation pavements); Estimated Project Cost: \$401,625 and \$771,750 respectively.***

Pending the receipt of AIP Discretionary funding for two projects as highlighted above, if all of the above projects are realized, this also allows Sawyer to acquire two major pieces of snow removal equipment during Fiscal Years 2011 & FY-2015, pending

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the completion of an in-house analysis of our snow removal fleet, and additionally, phased replacement of additional snow removal equipment during FY's 2018 & 2021.

All projects within the plan are pending due to what projects the FAA deems as SAW's priority, in contrast with what County and Airport staff deems as our priority, allowing Sawyer to stay within our annual capital budget for receiving Sponsor Entitlement funds at approximately \$1,000,000 per year – and of course, pending fiscal restraints at both the federal and state level.

As communicated to the airport community by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), staff remains very concerned regarding the future support of aviation funding from both Washington and Lansing, as the FAA's Airport Improvement Program has been identified as one program by the White House Debt Commission for reductions in funding.

If that occurs, one likely scenario could see airports fall back to the late 1990's with the possibility that non-hub primary airports like Sawyer could return to a 90/10 funding allocation, in addition to a reduction of AIP Entitlement funds by approximately 35%. Therefore, staff is taking a cautious approach to project funding, and has been instructed by MDOT officials to continue a 95/2.5/2.5 percent funding allocation until further advised.

Additionally, receipt of discretionary funding for the above two highlighted projects could be very difficult to justify, and/or result in these two projects being phased over multiple years, resulting in all subsequent projects being rolled back to other fiscal years – hence, a continuing juggling of airport priorities due to anticipated decreases in federal and state funding.

To complete the submittal of the program application by the deadline of December 15, 2010, and as required by the Federal Aviation Administration, FAA Form 5100 requests local approval for the grant pre-application of the projects listed in the ACIP for that specific Fiscal Year, which is again required for submitting the final grant application to MDOT.

STAFF REQUEST:

Airport staff respectfully requests that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners approve the 10-year ACIP as submitted to MDOT and FAA officials, with an emphasis on project submittals for FY's 2012, 2013 & 2014.

Board Action: Commissioner Struck moved to approve the 10-year ACIP as submitted to MDOT and FAA officials, with an emphasis on project submittals for FY's 2012, 2013 & 2014, as recommended by Keith Karspari, Airport Manager. Second by Commissioner Cihak. Motion adopted.

d. Sheriff's Department Budget Amendment.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, distributed the following information and Captain David Lemire, was present to answer questions.

BACKGROUND:

The Sheriff has been successful in contracting with townships. Michigamme Township has contracted for one full-time deputy. The contract began October 1, 2010. Richmond Township will be contracting for a half-time deputy starting January 1, 2011. Tilden Township contracts for a half-time deputy, and Marquette Township contracts for one and a half deputies.

The Sheriff is requesting one full-time deputy be added to the 2011 budget. One half of the expense will be funded by Richmond Township and half funded within the Sheriff's Department Road Patrol Division. Additional 2011 state road patrol grant and airport security revenue (the airport security expense is in the General Fund) allow funding half the expense.

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This recommendation is for 2011 only. Marquette County must continue to encourage townships desiring a higher level of service to contract and pay for that service. Also, if the state of Michigan reduces Marquette County's revenue sharing, causing a need to reduce expenditures, the General Fund support for the position could be part of the expenditure reduction options considered and recommended to the county board.

The hours not assigned to Richmond Township will help the Sheriff's Department with the increasing number of calls requiring mental health evaluations, stays, or transports downstate, civil process serving, and general road patrol.

IMPACT ON COUNTY BUDGET: Refer to the attached budget amendment. With the revenue from the township contracts and expense reduction in the Sheriff's Department, the net impact to the General Fund is zero.

Board Action: Commissioner Pellow moved to approve the following budget amendment adding one full-time Road Patrol Deputy. Second by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

11. LATE ADDITIONS. None.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no public comment.

13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- Commissioner Pellow announced the MCTA Christmas Potluck to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at the Ishpeming Township Hall. She also asked if the County has a contract with Boreal Aviation yet.
- Commissioner Wallace addressed a Mining Journal Letter to the Editor regarding certain Commissioners' travel expenses. He feels the amount is excessive, especially at a time when the County is trying to save money. Commissioner Wallace suggested that an ad hoc committee be formed to consider travel accountability.
- Commissioner Heikkila asked if the travel expenses were budgeted. He explained that not all Commissioners have the time to travel and appreciates those that do.
- Commissioner Pellow feels it is important to have a presence in Lansing. She stated that any Commissioner who has the time be permitted to travel and represent the Board.
- Commissioner Arsenault echoed Commissioner Pellow. He encourages Commissioners to travel if they have the time to do so. He is a strong believer in a physical presence at meetings. The expense is minimal compared to what the impact can be.
- Chairperson Corkin strongly echoes Commissioner Arsenault's comments. Commissioners need to be involved in State activities, but agrees that travel must be done reasonably. The County Board is a leader in the U.P. He reminded everyone of the many trips to Washington D.C. regarding the reuse and redevelopment of Sawyer, and the increase in jail reimbursement. He explained that there is value being involved.

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- Commissioner Cihak responded to the Letter to the Editor. He explained that he is the subject of the Letter to the Editor and the FOIA requests regarding travel expenses. He believes Marquette County taxpayers are getting the full value for their investment. He outlined a variety of accomplishments he has had while serving as County Commissioner. He also explained that living and working in the U.P. requires extensive time and travel as an elected official. He is willing to make that commitment, as have other County Commissioners. Commissioner Cihak announced that he enjoys working for the Marquette County taxpayers, advocating for Marquette County and the U.P. against unfunded mandates.
- Commissioner Struck feels travel is important, but parameters should be discussed. Commissioner Struck also reported on a recent Mackinac Bridge Authority meeting held for the first time in Marquette County; and a recent meeting of the Sawyer Community Alliance.

14. CLOSED SESSION: MCL 15.268(c) for Strategy and Negotiations Sessions Connected with the Negotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Board Action: Commissioner Arsenault moved to go into Closed Session for the purpose of MCL 15.268(c) - Strategy and Negotiations Sessions Connected with the Negotiations of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Second by Commissioner Pellow. A roll call vote was recorded: 9 Ayes (Commissioner Arsenault, Commissioner Bergdahl, Commissioner Cihak, Commissioner Heikkila, Commissioner Joseph, Commissioner Pellow, Commissioner Struck, Commissioner Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin) to 0 Nays. Motion adopted.

Chairperson Corkin declared a two minute recess to clear Commission Chambers.

CLOSED SESSION

The County Board came back into Open Session.

Board Action: Commissioner Arsenault moved to approve the following changes to the core health insurance plan to the Community Blue Plan 4 effective January 1, 2011 for **non-representative and elected officials** as recommended by John Greenberg, Human Resources and Risk Manager. Second by Commissioner Bergdahl. Motion adopted.

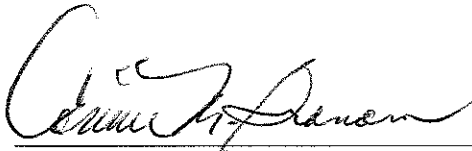
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Marquette County Health Insurance Benefit for 2011 for non-representative and elected officials:

- *Increase the deductible to \$500 per person and \$1,000 per family.*
- *Increase the out-of-pocket maximum to \$2,000 per person and \$4,000 per family.*
- *Change the current prescription copay amount to \$10 for generics, \$40 for brand name formulary, and \$80 for brand name non-formulary.*
- *Change the office visit and chiropractic copay to \$30 per visit.*
- *Increase health insurance opt-out to \$300 per month.*

15. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.



Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Minutes Proposed for Approval on January 4, 2011.