

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, 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. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Bergdahl.

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 December 8, 2009 be approved.

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

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the Period December 24, 2009 through January 7, 2010, in the amount of \$615,395.98, be approved.

Brent Nault, Information Systems Manager, was present and thanked the County Board for the opportunity to unveil the New Marquette County Website. He explained that in this day of information and technology, websites can be recognizable faces of any entity. Over a year-and-a-half ago Staff started looking at changing the website, with specific goals in mind. Mr. Nault introduced Jennetta Clark, Systems Analyst II, who was instrumental in developing the new site. Ms. Clark explained the changes and presented a web demonstration of the New Marquette County Website. She explained that a Website Committee was organized. Members attended regular meetings, evaluated vendors, and as a group, made decisions about almost every aspect of creating a new website including, layout, color schemes, fonts and how information would be organized. She also explained a group of Content Editors who have the authority to add and edit website content for their Department, under the direction of the department manager or supervisor.

Commissioners commented Mr. Nault and Ms. Clark for a Job Well Done!

The Committee considered a Public Notice dated December 17, 2009 from the Department of Environmental Quality regarding Woodland Road LLC, 504 Spruce Street, Ishpeming, Michigan. Woodland Road LLC has applied for a permit under authority of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Woodland Road LLC is a partnership between A. Lindberg and Sons, Inc., Michigan Forest Products Council, John Jilbert, and Kennecott Eagle Minerals Company.

The applicant proposes to construct a 22.3 mile long road from US-41 in Humboldt Township north traversing Ely and Michigamme Townships, ending in Champion Township at the intersection of Trail 5 and Triple A Road. Woodland Road will be a multi-purpose road open to mining, logging, and aggregate industries, and public recreational use.

Those persons wanting to make comments on the proposed project shall furnish written comments no later than 20 days from the date of this notice. Unless a written request is filed with the department within the 20-day public comment period, the department may make a decision on the application without a public hearing. A Public Hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Public Notice be accepted and placed on file.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board direct Staff to draft a letter for comment by Comm. Pellow at the hearing scheduled for February 10, 2010.

The Committee considered a Central Dispatch Lease Agreement with the State of Michigan. Steve Powers, County Administrator, explained that since 1977, Marquette County Central Dispatch has been located in the Michigan State Police Negaunee Township Post. In 1998, the partnership was formalized in a five-year agreement. In 2003, the agreement was renewed. The partnership between Marquette County and Michigan State Police over the 30 years has been outstanding and mutually beneficial. Michigan State Police (MSP) provides Central Dispatch with use of state equipment and space. When county supervision is unavailable, MSP shift commanders provide necessary oversight.

The lease includes Emergency Management for a total of 2,135 square feet. The state provides all utilities, telephone lines, janitorial, and maintenance. The lease is for five years with two five-year renewals with 150-day notice of any change in terms.

The Michigan Department of Management and Budget and the Michigan State Police have also provided month-to-month agreements for Marquette County's use of the garage at the MSP Post and for use of the Post space. The garage lease is for storage of Marquette County's rescue unit and search and rescue vehicles and equipment. Included is use of a small office area. The building and location are ideal. The payment, however, was to be in exchange for the state leasing a building at Sawyer. The state has placed that lease on hold. As a result, Marquette County should begin the process of reviewing moving the rescue unit and special operations to another location. A feasible location is on county-owned property at the Negaunee Township Service Center. The location provides the same access to US 41 and M-35 as the MSP Post.

The month-to-month lease for use of the MSP Post by Central Dispatch and Emergency Management will be superseded and canceled by the five-year lease. The month-to-month is an interim agreement that allows time for the state to get through its approval processes.

The \$26,687.52 annual payment to the State of Michigan will come from the Central Dispatch fund budget. The \$3,629.71 monthly payment for use of the garage at the Michigan State Police Post will come from the Special Operations/Search and Rescue fund budget.

Mr. Powers explained that the agreements have been reviewed by Civil Counsel and Risk Management. He also explained that Harley Andrews, Civil Counsel/Sawyer, stated that the Central Dispatch Lease Agreement does have language that allows the State to adjust the lease rate. The adjustment will be based upon the market rate as determined by the State Department of Management & Budget as opposed to past agreements and other agreements that the County has entered into that are tied to a CPI or to an arbitrary percentage. The Department of Management & Budget will have a market survey done that they would provide to the County if there was any adjustment.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize the Lease Agreements with the State

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of Michigan, Chairperson Corkin be authorized to sign the Agreements, and further that Staff be directed to start the process of looking at options for housing the search and rescue special operations equipment, preferably on County owned property along the US-41 corridor.

The Committee considered a communication from Jim Davis, Community Development Specialist, Office of Community Development, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, regarding a Monitoring Report, Marquette County Block Grant #MSC-2007-0743-HOA. The communication explained that a monitoring visit was completed for the Marquette County MSHDA Grant for the Homeowner Rehabilitation Program. Dottie Lewis, Marquette County Grant Administrator, was present and explained that all areas of program management were addressed, records were complete and all compliance components were met. Activities are proceeding within the grant term and reporting requirements have been met. She announced that MSHDA commends Marquette County on the successful Home Owner Repair Program.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the communication be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee considered 2010 Contracts for Senior Services. Susan Vercoe, Finance Manager, explained that the 2010 budget provides funding for these contracts for millage funded services to seniors in Marquette County.

The 6 contracts include \$61,374 to AMCAB for home delivered meals, \$3,258 to Marquette Adult Day Services, \$84,294 to the Forsyth Township Senior Center, \$177,075 to the Ishpeming Senior Center, \$239,395 to the Marquette Senior Center, and \$80,574 for the Negaunee Senior Center. The budget also provides \$22,050 for the RSVP Medical Transportation program. Staff recommends that Chairman Corkin be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the County.

It was moved by Comm. Heikkila, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board authorize Chairperson Corkin to sign the contracts on behalf of the County.

The Committee considered a request to discuss the Rehire Analysis. It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, to postpone discussion regarding the Rehire Analysis to the February 16, 2010 meeting to allow Staff more time to prepare information and to receive the requested actuarial analysis. Commissioners engaged in a brief discussion.

Comm. Arsenault requested a vote on the motion. A roll call vote was recorded: 5 Ayes (Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin) to 3 Nays (Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Pellow) to postpone discussion regarding the Rehire Analysis to the February 16, 2010 meeting to allow Staff more time to prepare and to receive the requested actuarial analysis.

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

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that he, along with Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, and Administrator Powers, met with developers today on airplane recycling possibilities for K.I.Sawyer.

Comm. Wallace explained that nothing will change in terms of dollars lost or gained postponing the Reire Analysis discussion for one month.

Comm. Arsenault requested that the sample resolution from the Legislation Commission on Statutory Mandates be scheduled for an upcoming meeting.

Comm. Cihak requested that Staff specify what provisions of the labor agreements, if any, would be violated if the rehire policy is rescinded. He explained that there are 25 rehired employees and two rehired elected officials working for the County. He requested verification that the job openings were posted to the public.

Chairperson Corkin announced a job opening for a Level IV Assessor.

Comm. Pellow requested that Staff provide information on the benefits of the rehired employees.

Comm. Hekkila questioned what percentage of payroll was paid to MERS in 2004 and 2005.

Chairperson Corkin reminded Commissioners that certain rehires were unanimously approved by the County Board.

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk