

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2010 – 6:00 P.M. – ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855

1. ROLL CALL.

- 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.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BUDGET WORK SESSION HELD ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2010, AND MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2010.

Committee of the Whole Action: Commissioner Wallace moved to approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Budget Work Session held on September 23, 2010, and the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on September 28, 2010. Second by Commissioner Struck. Motion adopted.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Committee of the Whole Action: Commissioner Arsenault moved to approve the Agenda with the following Addition at the request of Commissioner Pellow: Item 6d) Memo from Cheryl Hill regarding Elected Officials Salaries. Second by Commissioner Cihak. Motion adopted.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

5. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS.

Committee of the Whole Action: Commissioner Bergdahl moved to approve Claims and Accounts for the period October 8, 2010 through October 22, 2010 in the amount of \$2,790,434.69, and BiWeekly Payroll for the period ending October 16, 2010, in the amount of \$659,918.52. Second by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

6. AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. State Radio System.

Steve Powers, County Administrator, and Joe Van Oosterhout, Central Dispatch Manager, explained the following:

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In February 2011, the state radio system (MPSCS 800 MHz) will be upgraded to version 7.9. This is a \$25M statewide upgrade that provides a higher speed IP-based system. The current consoles used by Central Dispatch (gold Elite consoles) in their current configuration will not operate on version 7.9. Some console upgrades will be needed, and we can upgrade the current consoles at a price that is approximately 50% of the cost of new. This would allow them to operate on the system but not in an IP mode needed to keep pace with future ongoing MPSCS software revisions. To be fully integrated into the MPSCS, we will need the new equipment.

The new IP consoles will also equip Marquette County to fully participate in the virtual consolidation project being implemented in the U.P. With the new consoles, we would be able, for example, to dispatch not only law enforcement in one of the partner counties but also page out their fire/EMS agencies for PSAPs connected to the MPSCS Covington zone controller. Our current equipment, even if upgraded, would not give us that functionality. The non-federal portion of this purchase will most likely also be considered a "soft match" as part of the required 20% match of the PSIC grant being used for the consolidation project.

Even though we will eventually need three consoles, at this time it is recommended that we purchase the hardware for a single console and the necessary "back room" equipment. This is because we have a federal grant that must be used as soon as possible, which will cover most of the costs of this purchase. We have other grant requests submitted that may pay a significant portion of the rest of our project.

The price is based on the discounted state contract for this equipment and no other vendor is capable of providing this equipment at this time. Installation services will be separately negotiated.

Committee of the Whole Action: Commissioner Struck moved to recommend the County Board approve the purchase of the hardware for a single position MCC 7500 dispatch console and the necessary "back room" equipment. Second by Commissioner Pellow. Motion adopted.

Mr. VanOosterhout briefly updated Commissioners on the recent storm.

b. Sobriety Court Grant.

Charity Mason, Court Administrator, presented the following information. Jennifer Bennon, Deputy Court Administrator, was present to answer questions.

The Court will receive \$70,000 from SCAO/OHSP for FY 2011. The structure and purpose of the Sobriety Court remains unchanged. The monies received next year will be used in the same manner as they have been used in the two previous years, to contract with MCSD for a part time deputy, to pay for an additional half time case manager and to offset the costs of participation to the clients by paying for phts and drug screens.

Committee of the Whole Action: Commissioner Wallace moved to recommend the County Board approve the Sobriety Court Grant and authorize signature by the Board Chair. Second by Commissioner Heikkila. Motion adopted.

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c. MERS – Marquette County Opt Out.

Commissioners discussed a request by Commissioner Cihak to discuss 2005 information regarding the MERS – Marquette County Opt Out Program. The Committee also discussed a FOIA request sent by Ms. Hill to MERS asking what triggered the recent policy change and how it was approved. Ms. Hill informed the Board that the cost of the information requested amounted to approximately \$2,400. Commissioners discussed sending another request, either by phone or letter, which would eliminate the \$2,400.00 FOIA fee.

Committee of the Whole Action: After discussion and debate Commissioner Cihak moved to recommend the County Board direct Civil Counsel to telephone or send a letter to MERS requesting information she deems appropriate to get answers regarding what triggered the recent rule change including the issue of retroactivity. Second by Commissioner Heikkila. Motion adopted 8 to 1. Commissioner Joseph voted no.

d. Memo from Civil Counsel regarding Elected Officials Salary for 2011.

Commissioner Pellow requested clarification as to whether elected officials salaries could be set before November 1 of each year. Civil Counsel answered yes, and provided the statutory language. No action was taken.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

- Mike Quayle, Marquette, voiced his personal opinion regarding the opt out/retire rehire policy, and the recent amendments by MERS. He suggested the Board hire outside counsel as they have done in the past on various issues.
- Gary Walker, Prosecuting Attorney, responded to comments by Mr. Quayle. He also addressed the voters of Marquette County.
- Bruce Ward, Skandia, a retired/rehired employee, spoke in support of paying the \$2,400.00 FOIA fee for the MERS information.
- Jacki Lykins, Marquette, a retired/rehired employee, responded to comments by Mr. Quayle. She spoke regarding the steps taken prior to employee participation in the opt out/retire rehire program. She also spoke regarding the good faith efforts by those participating.

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

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8. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- Chairperson Corkin responded to comments by Mr. Quayle comments regarding the financial running of Marquette County. He also reported on discussion of Co. Rd. 595, formally known as Woodland Road, at a recent County Road Commission Meeting. Commissioner Joseph and Commissioner Pellow also attended.

- Commissioner Cihak reported on a recent visit to the State Police Crime Lab; a MPRI meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on October 15th; and the proposed unfunded mandate legislation.

- Steve Powers, County Administrator, addressed the discussion regarding the issue of transparency and access to information. He also recognized Al Feldhauser for his commitment to the Boy Scouts.

- Commissioner Pellow spoke regarding the employees affected by the MERS policy change. She hopes the County Administrator will meet with employees to discuss possible options.

9. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.



Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Minutes Proposed for Approval on November 9, 2010.