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**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2011 – 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 Quayle, Commissioner Heikkila, Commissioner Corkin, Commissioner Arsenault, Commissioner Pellow, Commissioner Nordeen and Chairperson Bergdahl. Absent and Excused: Commissioner Cihak and Commissioner Joseph.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 4, 2011.**

**Board Action:** Commissioner Corkin moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the County Board of Commissioners held on October 4, 2011. Second by Commissioner Heikkila. Motion adopted.

**3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS. None.****4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.**

**Board Action:** Commissioner Pellow moved to approve the Agenda with the following addition: 11a) WE Energies. Second by Commissioner Corkin. Motion adopted.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Chairperson Bergdahl opened the meeting for public comment.

- Matt Wiese, Chief Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, thanked the Board for returning \$100,000 to the Prosecuting Attorney's 2012 proposed budget. He also spoke regarding the loss of a secretarial position.
- Pete Mackin, Chocolay Township, announced that Senator Casperson will be speaking at the Forsyth Senior Center on October 28, 2011. He also explained that he toured the Mill Creek Assisted Living Facility on behalf of the Aging Services Board. He thanked Sue Vercoe for all the time and hard work she devotes to the Aging Services Board. Mr. Mackin announced that Marquette County is a great place for seniors.

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

**6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS.**

**Board Action:** Commissioner Arsenault moved to approve Claims and Accounts for the period October 7, 2011 through October 13, 2011 in the amount of \$312,833.46; and Electronic Payments for the period totaling \$27,618.24. Second by Commissioner Heikkila. Motion adopted.

- 7. PUBLIC HEARINGS.
- 8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT.
- 9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS. None.
- 10. ACTION ITEMS.

**Board Action:** Commissioner Corkin to approve Action Items 10a), 10b), 10c), and 10d) as follows: Second by Commissioner Arsenault. Motion adopted.

- a. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to support the application for the 2012-2013 County Housing Allocation with the following signed resolution and authorize the Board Chair to sign all documents associated with the grant.

*Resolution*

*WHEREAS, Marquette County has a housing plan and desires to continue its efforts in implementing the Plan to provide safe, decent, affordable housing for its low to moderately low income residents;*

*WHEREAS, said Board of County Commissioners of Marquette County has reviewed and understands the content of the County Allocation application for grant funding that will further assist their housing goals;*

*WHEREAS, said Board of County Commissioners of Marquette County authorizes the chief elected official to sign any required grant funding documents of the 2012/2013 Marquette County Allocation;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Marquette County authorize submission of an application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for the 2012/2013 Marquette County Allocation to assist with the County's goal to provide safe, decent, affordable housing in Marquette County.*

*Charles Bergdahl, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

- b. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to adopt the following Personal Property Tax Resolution with copies sent to all Cities and Townships requesting that they also adopt the Resolution.

*MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GUARANTEED REVENUE REPLACEMENT  
SHOULD THE STATE REPEAL PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES*

*WHEREAS, Michigan counties provide crucial services on behalf of state government, as evidenced by the delivery of road patrol services, corrections, foster care, clean water, food safety, the judicial system, etc.; and,*

*WHEREAS, years of declining local revenues and cuts to state revenues to counties, coupled with unfunded state-mandated services, have placed Michigan counties in a position of financial stress; and,*

*WHEREAS, the state has a poor track record of fulfilling its statutory promises for its share of funding for things like revenue sharing, payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), public health, Medicaid reimbursement, and county jail reimbursement; and,*

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*WHEREAS, personal property tax revenue represents 7% (or \$993,328) of \$14,487,426 Marquette County's total taxable value; and,*

*WHEREAS, the elimination of personal property taxes would harm a county's ability to provide mandated services to the public; and,*

*WHEREAS, Michigan counties cannot continue to operate if the revenue from personal property taxes is not fully replaced with a constitutionally-guaranteed revenue source;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners urges the legislature and the Governor to retain the personal property tax until such time as the residents of Michigan vote in favor of a constitutional amendment that will fully replace the revenues lost from the repeal of personal property taxes.*

*Charles Bergdahl, Chairman  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

- c. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to approve the FY 2012 Comprehensive Plans and Services Contract.
- d. Committee of the Whole Recommendation to authorize the Tower Operating Agreement between the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Marquette County (Airport Sponsor) and authorize the Board Chair to sign the agreement.

**10. ACTION ITEMS: CONT'D.**

- e. Lake States Lumber Association, Inc. request to Support the following Resolution regarding the Ottawa and Hiawatha Federal Forest Management.

*Resolution by the Marquette County Michigan Board of Commissioners*

*WHEREAS, Marquette County recognizes the importance of the lands contained within the more than 2 million acres of the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests as an exceptional natural resource capable of producing a sustainable supply of timber products on an annual basis which provides economic, social and environmental benefits to county residents, and*

*WHEREAS, these lands are owned by the federal government under the assumption and obligation that the natural resources would be properly managed and utilized as a base for the local and regional economies, and*

*WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service has failed to address the negative impacts of unemployment, loss of tax base, school funding and the deterioration of the overall local and the regional economies created by the Forest Service's refusal to manage the forest land as a productive, sustainable timber resource, and*

*WHEREAS, the United States Forest service has failed to manage the National Forests as a sustainable resource that greatly contributes to the wood, papermaking, packaging, furniture and building material industries throughout Michigan. This has forced these industries to secure raw material from outside the U.S. and has also caused numerous businesses to close and lay off workers or to relocate outside of Michigan, and*

*WHEREAS, the United States Forest service has failed to manage the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests by allowing more timber to be lost to mortality than is harvested. The combined average annual timber mortality on the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests during the past five years is 206 million board feet, and*

*WHEREAS, since 1986, when the first Land and Resource Management Plans (Forest Plans) were adopted on the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests, the U.S Forest Service has never sold the Allowable Sale Quantity of timber in the Forest Plans, and*

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*WHEREAS, last year the Ottawa and Hiawatha harvested less than half of the timber required to maintain forest health. For example, on the Ottawa National Forest the 2006 Forest Plan authorizes an average annual Allowable Sale Quantity of 90 million board feet, yet it is only selling an average of 41 million board feet per year or approximately 45% of the Allowable Sale Quantity. On the Hiawatha National Forest the 2006 Forest Plan authorizes an average annual Allowable Sale Quantity of 109 million board feet, yet it is only selling an average of 42 million board feet per year or approximately 38% of the Allowable Sale Quantity. Since 1999, the Forest Plans on the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests authorized harvest of a total of more than 1.98 billion board feet. But only 930 million board feet of timber has been sold or approximately 47% of the Allowable Sale Quantity. This translates into reduced revenue, jobs and economy to local communities from direct Forest Service payments and a significant reduction in raw materials that are needed to sustain the local forest industry.*

*WHEREAS, for every one million board feet of timber that is harvested, it provides enough raw materials to sustain 11 direct jobs and goes to also help support other indirect jobs. In 2010, the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests cumulatively fell short of annual ASQ by more than 115 million board feet, which equates to a loss of 1,265 jobs, and*

*WHEREAS, Michigan has lost both paper mills and saw mills, a large number of logging contractors and trucking firms, there are other factors that play into the loss of these businesses, however declining harvest opportunities on the National Forest lands is the number one and primary reason for the loss of many of these employers, and*

*WHEREAS, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, recognizes that the Ottawa and Hiawatha Federal Forests are an exceptional natural resource that have the capacity to provide timber, recreational and environmental benefits for everyone provided that the lands are properly managed as a sustainable, renewable timber resource, and are managed with consideration to the local communities which rely on the economy generated, and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the severe reduction in timber harvesting are well below the documented sustainable levels within the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forest and it is the U.S. Forest Service's obligation to change this trend and we ask our Michigan elected officials both on the State and Federal levels to fix this problem that is creating economic hardships for our county, and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forest must be managed at the Allowable Sale Quantity level as identified in the Land and Resource Management Plan and to manage the backlog of unsold and un-harvested timber accruing since implementation of the Plan, and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS requests a written response from both Secretary Vilsack and the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service regarding detailed reasons why these lands are not being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Ottawa and Hiawatha Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, copies of this Resolution sent to the following:*

*Tom Vilsack, Secretary, U.S.  
Department of Agriculture  
Tom Tidwell, Chief, U.S. Forest Service  
U.S. Senator Carl Levin  
U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow  
Congressman Dan Benishek  
Governor Rick Snyder  
State Senator Tom Casperson  
State Senator Howard Walker*

*State Representative Matt Huuki  
State Representative Ed McBroom  
State Representative Steve Lindberg  
State Representative Frank Foster  
Rodney Stokes, Director MDNR  
Keith Creagh, Director, MDARD  
Michigan Association of Counties  
Lake States Lumber Association*

*Charles Bergdahl, Chairman  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners*

*Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval*

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## f. October Appointments to Board and Commissions.

*The term of Fran Baldasari (Democrat) Gwinn, and Joe Pietro (Republican) Gwinn, expire on 10-31-2011 from the Board of Canvassers. The Board of Canvassers consists of four members, two Democrats and two Republicans, nominated by their political parties and appointed by the County Board to 4-year terms. Both Fran and Joe and been nominated by their respective party for reappointment to the Board of Canvassers. There were no other applicants. Both Fran and Joe have been excellent members on the Board of Canvassers.*

*A motion would be in order to reappoint Fran Baldasari and Joe Pietro to 4-year terms on the Marquette County Board of Canvassers.*

*Also, the term of Brad Cory, Marquette, from the Department of Human Services Board expires 10-31-2011. The DHS Board is a three member body appointed to 3-year terms. Two of the appointments are made by the County Board, and the remaining appointment by the Governor through the Director of the State Department of Human Services. There are three applicants – incumbent Brad Cory, Marquette, Mathew Eliason, Champion, and Linda King, Ishpeming.*

**Board Action:** Commissioner Heikkila moved to reappoint Fran Baldasari and Joe Pietro to 4-year terms on the Marquette County Board of Canvassers. Second by Commissioner Corkin. Motion adopted.

**Board Action:** A roll call ballot was recorded. Brad Cory, Marquette, was reappointed to the Department of Human Services for a three year term expiring 10-31-2014. Brad Cory received five votes (Commissioner Quayle, Commissioner Heikkila, Commissioner Corkin, Commissioner Arsenault and Chairperson Bergdahl), Mathew Eliason received two votes (Commissioner Pellow and Commissioner Nordeen). Linda King received no votes.

## 11. LATE ADDITIONS.

## a. WE Energy.

**Board Action:** After discussion, Commissioner Corkin moved that the Board Chair and Staff work with all partners in the Upper Peninsula to bring back to the County Board a recommendation to formulate a next step in support of retaining the WE Energy's Power Plant in Marquette County. Second by Commissioner Heikkila. Motion adopted.

## 12. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Chairperson Bergdahl opened the meeting for public comment.

- Pete Mackin, Chocolay Township, thanked the Board for their concern regarding forest regulations and WE Energy.

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

**13. COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- Commissioner Quayle questioned the Department of Human Services proposal; the reapportionment letter to the Attorney General; and the labor market study.
- Commissioner Heikkila questioned using Integrated Designs for the space needs study. He also questioned the amount of revenue WE Energy generates for the County.
- Commissioner Corkin announced he will be attending the next MAC Meeting.
- Commissioners discussed the public defender issue for Marquette County.
- Commissioner Pellow questioned the federal inmate issue.
- Chairperson Bergdahl cancelled the budget work session scheduled for immediately following this meeting. He invited the judges to attend the next scheduled County Board meeting to discuss the public defender issue. And, he announced that the Annual Meeting will reconvene on October 25, 2011.

**14. ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma  
Deputy County Clerk

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Charles Bergdahl, Chairperson  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners

Minutes Proposed for Approval on November 1, 2011.