
REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018 – 6:00 P.M. – HELD IN ROOM 231 - HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855

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

- Call to Order by Chairperson Gerald O. Corkin at 6:00 p.m. – Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette. Salute to the Flag followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Present: Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Alholm and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and excused – Comm. Nordeen.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board Action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the regular meeting minutes dated February 6, 2018, as presented. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (5-0)

3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS: NONE

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Board Action: Comm. DePetro moved to add agenda item 11a) Resolution of Support for Reoping of the Empire Mine and 11b) Automation Fund Expenditures. Second by Comm. Adamini. Motion adopted. (5-0)

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment.

- Jim Gallant, Skandia, spoke concerning suicide prevention in the Gwinn School System.

*No further public comment came before the Board – this portion of the meeting was closed.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

- **Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to approve total expenditures for the period February 2, 2018 through February 15, 2018 in the amount of \$639,803.98 (this amount does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending February 10, 2018 in the amount of \$641,488.52. Second by Comm. Derocha. Motion adopted (5-0)
- **Board action:** Comm. Derocha moved to approve Check #180667, dated 2/9/2018 for \$138.43 payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Adamini. Motion adopted (4-0) Comm. Alholm abstained.

7. PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

a. Annual Report – Marquette County Treasurer

- **Anne Giroux, Marquette County Treasurer**, was present and distributed to the Board copies of the 2017 Annual Reports for the Marquette County Treasurers Office, Marquette County Land Bank Authority and Marquette County Brownfield Authority.
 - **Marquette County Treasurers Office 2017 Accomplishments**
 - Professional Leadership: Treasurer Giroux completed her one year term in October 2017 as the President of the Michigan Association of County Treasurers. She has served on the board since 2012. She will serve as immediate past president through October 2018.
 - Dog Licenses: Purchased dog license signage that was placed at offices selling licenses to raise awareness of the requirement to license your dog.
 - Financial: The Treasurer’s Office continued its audit of Principal Residence Exemptions (PRE) which resulted in 66 PRE denials, generating interest revenue of over \$7,666.

- Outreach: Granted 11 Financial Hardship extensions from foreclosure. Continued to notify taxpayers about the Step Forward Michigan program. 6 households in Marquette County received \$22,894 in assistance with their delinquent property taxes through this program in 2016.
- Collaboration: Disposed of and archived old records in a portion of the Treasurer’s vault to allow the County Clerk additional storage space allowing for convenient on-site storage at no cost.
- **Marquette County Land Bank Authority**
The Marquette County Land Bank Authority, which was created on May 21, 2009, has acquired 142 parcels since its inception. Of those 142 parcels, all but 55 have been returned to tax-producing status. The mission of the Marquette County Land Bank Authority is to work collaboratively with local governmental units and community organizations, in determining the best way to return tax-foreclosed properties to the tax roll, while eliminating blight, providing affordable housing and economic development opportunities and revitalizing communities.
- **Marquette County Brownfield Authority**
The Marquette County Brownfield Authority was established in 2010. It has participated in four redevelopment projects that involved the adoption of a Brownfield plan. In 2013 the Authority was awarded an assessment grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Authority received \$200,000 for the assessment of hazardous materials sites and \$200,000 for the assessment of petroleum sites. At the end of 2017, the Authority had spent approximately 89% of the funds, and it has until 3/31/2018 to utilize the remaining grant funds.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. **KI Sawyer community Center (KISCC)**

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to accept KI Sawyer Community Center (KISCC) for filing. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (5-0)

10. ACTION ITEMS:

- a. **Resolution Re: Michigan HB 5096-5098**

Chirperson Corkin, explained that recently he had requested feedback from the Planning Commission regarding legislation currently before the Michigan House of Representatives. The Planning Commission did not feel that they had enough time to study the issue, so they offered staff opinion on the matter.

Specifically, the three bills limit the ability for public road agencies to levy fees to recover costs for inspecting work done in rights-of-way. Essentially, the bills shift costs for utility relocation in public rights-of-way from telecommunications companies to the public road agencies.

The Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Municipal League and County Road Association are all working to modify the bills.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, HB 5096-5098 seeks to amend various local government statues and the County Road Law in a way that would significantly reduce the ability of local governments, county road agencies, and county drain commissions to charge adequate fees, provide safe and reasonable criteria to access public jurisdictions, and collect adequate bonding should these properties be damaged and need restoration from telecommunication providers and their contractors that wish to work, install, and maintain cable, fiber optics, extended poles/antennas, towers, and power units on public properties; and

WHEREAS, the effect of these bills would force local governments, county road agencies, public works departments, and drain commissions to subsidize telecommunications with local and Michigan Transportation Funds, and

WHEREAS, as legal guardians of the public property and road right-of-way, local governments, county road agencies and drain commissions must ensure work in their jurisdictions is performed safely, does not damage our infrastructure, and meets engineering standards (above/below ground), along with federal and state requirements; and

WHEREAS, local governments and county road agencies do not profit by issuing permits, but simply recover the costs of issuing permits, making site inspections, and performing related tasks; and when the project is completed, funds should be reconciled with the permit holder; and

WHEREAS, HB 5096-5098 limit fees to \$300 per permit or \$1,000 on multiple projects; and

WHEREAS, this fee system with HB 5096-5098 has the potential to become an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, such a “one-size-fits-all” fee does not account for the type of work planned in a rural or urban setting, nor does it consider the risks a project may pose, and in general the Bills supplant engineering-based management with a “cookie-cutter” approach that puts public resources and workers at risk; and

WHEREAS, HB 5096-5098 limit security/bonding to \$20,000 regardless of the potential risk and damage beyond that amount, rural vs. urban setting, and requires that bonds be returned within 60 days after a project is completed, even if damage is being contested; and

WHEREAS, these Bills do not take into consideration the statewide ramifications and precedent that these bills would create; and

WHEREAS, that while the telecommunications industry may be able to point to isolated instances of local obstacles, it is certainly not a statewide problem; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners opposes HB 5096-5098 and strongly urges State Representative Cambensy and Senator Casperson to oppose HB 5096-5098 as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Snyder, Representative Cambensy, Senator Casperson, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the other 82 counties.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to authorize Linda Talsma, Marquette County Clerk, to sign the resolution opposing the bills as currently written. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (4-0). Comm. Alholm abstained.

b. Network Upgrades

Chairperson Corkin, explained that the purpose of this project is to replace our network switching infrastructure throughout the courthouse complex. This will increase the speed and reliability of our data connections and allow for segregation of sensitive data and departments.

The majority of the existing switches in the closets have been termed “end-of-life” by the manufacturers due to age. This means that they will no longer provide security and/or feature updates to the software.

This project will allow us to segregate network traffic from departments that deal with sensitive data thus allowing for the scope of audits to be narrowed to the areas that are affected, i.e. the IRS audit we have to do for FOC and Family Support. Without these switches, the IRS will require a full county wide third party audit. By implementing VLANs and zones this audit will be narrowed to only being required on FOC and Family Support hardware and software, therefore saving the county approximately \$20,000.

The money for this project has already been approved in the 2018 budget to the technology fund.

The following bids were received on the switching hardware:

CDW-G:	\$15,761.45	
Newegg Business:	\$15,090.39	
Hewlett Packard:	\$15,364.42	(Note: this pricing is through REMC/WSCA state pre-bid contracts)
Camera Corner	\$13,572.99	

(Note: this pricing is through a 30 day special quote from HP Big Deal Pricing.)

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to use Camera Corner as the vendor for this project. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (5-0)

c. Lease for Building 416 at Sawyer

Steven Schenden, Director of Operations at Sawyer, was present and explained that Building 414 is a 1080 sq ft pole barn on a 1.2 acre fenced in parcel. The building is currently leased by Mike Wills Excavating in a month to month status. Mike Wills Excavating has given a 30 day notice they will be vacating the building at the end of the month. Roland and Amy Smith of Gwinn are interested in leasing the building for use as a work shop and storage and have signed a Letter of Intent.

The terms of the lease are documented on the attached Letter of Intent. The lease will be a one year lease with options for two one year extensions. The starting rate is \$180 per month for the first three months and then \$270 per month and increasing 2% annually. Mike Wills Excavating has materials and equipment stored at the site and has requested to wait until the snow melts to remove. Since the Smiths will not be able use the outside area for the first three months a lower lease rate is proposed for that period.

The option for year two and year three are subject to the cost share provisions of the Telkite Marketing Agreement.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to approve the lease terms and authorize the County Board Chairperson to sign the lease agreement. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (5-0)

d. County Incentive Grant Award

Chairperson Corkin presented the following to the Board - The Veteran’s Affairs Department applied for and received notice that it is being awarded a “County Incentive Grant” from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency in the amount of \$17,800. The funds will be used to assist in the accreditation of the Department Counselor and for technology upgrades.

A requirement for the grant is that the County Board Chairman or County Administrator signs a letter stating the County is accepting the grant funds.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to authorize the County Board Chairman to sign the letter accepting the grant funds. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (5-0)

e. Negaunee Service Center Bids

Aaron Karlstrom, Facilities Manager, presented the following to the Board: Utility power outages at the Negaunee Service Center have exposed the Health Department medical records data storage and vaccination vulnerability. Late last year, a power outage at the Health Department caused the loss of an entire day of medical records; which had to be manually reentered into the system. For two days all medical records were manually kept and then entered into the system as the data was restored. Furthermore, Health Department staff had to initiate the protocol to relocate the vaccinations to Bell Hospital.

The current computer back-up battery system has approximately 15 minutes of power. This has not been adequate. This limited back-up power is only for the computer server and not the refrigerator that stores the vaccinations. It would cost approximately \$8,000 to upgrade the battery back-up which would allow for a half hour to hour of power. Furthermore, the operational lifespan of batteries is limited and requires routine replacement costing up to \$1,000 annually.

It is common to have \$70,000+ of vaccinations stored in the Health Department refrigerator. These vaccinations are temperature sensitive and a loss of power will result in transporting vaccinations to other refrigeration sources.

As an alternate to a more robust battery back-up system, staff investigated and sought bids for the purchase of a stand-by generator. A stand-by generator will provide power to the computer servers and the refrigerator. The specified generator will also have capacity for a small amount of expansion in the future.

Bids were advertised and posted per the requirements of the county's purchasing policy. The list of sealed bids received follows:

Frailing's Electric Co.	\$20,475.00
Code Electric	\$20,805.00
JP Electric	\$34,280.00
Swick Plumbing and Heating	\$21,206.00

The funding source for this project is Public Improvement Fund.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to go with the lowest bidder, Frailing's Electric, as long as the Company provides the required bid bond and proof of liability insurance to the Facilities Manager. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (5-0)

f. Civil Counsel

Comm. Derocha questioned the Board on where the issue stands for Civil Counsel. He expressed that he still would like to see the position return to an in house position.

Chairperson Corkin interjected that in January the Board voted to keep Mr. Steve Pence on as Civil Counsel on a month to month basis.

Comm. Adamini added that Chairperson Corkin had given him the go ahead to reach out to the only firm that had submitted a proposal back in January when the position was posted. That firm being Kitch Law Firm. Comm. Adamini continued on to say that he contacted Attorney Sean Fosmire who indicated that the staff member with the most experience in this area that was going to help him was relocating downstate. Mr. Fosmire informed Comm. Adamini at this time he would be withdrawing his proposal.

No action was taken by the Board.

11. LATE ADDITIONS.

a. Resolution of Support For Reopening of the Empire Mine

Chairperson Corkin, explained that this resolution was put out by the Chairman of CCI. They are looking between Minnesota and the Empire Mine. He continued on by reading the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Support for Reopening of the Empire Mine

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette is closely connected to Cleveland – Cliffs, Inc. (CCI) from a standpoint of shared history, economic ties, and partnership in economic development, and

WHEREAS, the idling of the Empire Mine has an approximately \$180m annual negative economic impact on the region, and reopening of the Empire Mine would turn that around through the increase in commerce and economic prosperity in the region; and

WHEREAS, the importance of reopening the Empire Mine to the local economy cannot be overstated; and

WHEREAS, Marquette County will continue to be a great location for CCI employees and their families;

and

WHEREAS, many citizens, business owners, organization and municipalities support reopening the Empire Mine; and

WHEREAS, reopening the Empire Mine would create many new, high quality jobs, indirect and induced economic benefits;

AND WHEREAS, Marquette County fully supports the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with incentives in assisting with the reopening of the Empire Mine; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Marquette encourages and supports a CCI decision to reopen the Empire Mine;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Marquette commends Chairman, President, and CEO Lourenco Goncalves and CCI for considering to reopen the Empire Mine and continuing to invest in the Marquette County region.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to sign the resolution supporting the reopening of the Empire Mine and fully support the Michigan Economic Development Corporation with incentives in assisting with the reopening of the Empire Mine. Second by Comm. Adamini. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None Abstained: None Motion adopted (5-0) Comm. Nordeen was not present at the meeting but an email was received from him expressing his support on the reopening of the Empire Mine.

b. Automation Fund Expenditures

Carla L’Huillier, Register of Deeds, presented the following information: In 2003, MDL 600.2568 was established regarding an automation fund. It reads: “The Register of Deeds shall deposit \$5.00 of the total fee collected for each recording into the automation fund for advanced technology.”

The money in this account should be used to digitize our old documents. The project would involve Deeds and Miscellaneous Records starting from the 1800’s to 1983 where we are at this time. They will also be providing us with a hard drive for a secure back up and give us the capability of printing these old documents from the hard drive. This in turn would also preserve our old books in the vault. When feasible we will be able to download these documents to our software system.

Justification:

Current law requires land records to be automated.

- Although requests for over \$10,000 normally are placed on bids, I request that this be waived as Fidlal has been our vendor since 2003 and would be the logical and most efficient. In the future these documents would be converted to our software system by them.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to use Fidlal as the vendor and proceed with digitizing documents from prior to 1983 with the cost of the project amounting to \$61,437.43. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (5-0)

12. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chairperson Corkin opened this portion of the meeting to public comment.

- Jim Gallant continued speaking concerning suicide in Marquette County; rules of order; and gave his opinion on a resolution discussion from 2013.

There being no further public comment to come before the Board this portion of the meeting was closed.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comm. DePetro congratulated the Upper Peninsula Sled Dog Association on a very successful 29th year. The event was well attended with over 8,000 people that lined up on West Washington Street and along the trail leading to the Welcome Center for the 7:00 p.m. start. With the chilly weather and excellent trail conditions the

mushers and their dog teams enjoyed a well-organized race with over 700 volunteers from crossing guards, ham radio operators and volunteers in the woods. Fun was had by all!

Comm. DePetro also informed everyone that this coming Friday, February 28th the Michigan Tech Hockey Team will be playing Northern Michigan University. Tech's hockey team is still in a fighting mood after having a brawl with the University of Arizona last Saturday night in Houghton.

Comm. Adamini explained the State Suicide Prevention Plan, how 50-60 different groups came together to create a statewide plan. Counties then had the opportunity to support the plan in their own perspective counties, which Marquette County supported in 2013.

Chairperson Corkin thanked Comm. Adamini and Comm. Derocha for representing Marquette County in Lansing regarding SB 390.

14. CLOSED SESSION.

15. ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:16 p.m.

Cheryl J. Hubbard
Chief Deputy Marquette County Clerk

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners