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**REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS ROOM 231, HENRY A. SKEWIS ANNEX, MARQUETTE, MI 49855**

**DUE TO COVID-19 ~ UNDER 10 PERSONS IN THE ROOM PRESENT ~ FOUR OF THE SIX COMMISSIONERS WERE PRESENT VIA ZOOM – ALL MOTIONS WERE ROLL CALL VOTES**

**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  
Salute to the Flag followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Present: Comm. Adamini and Chairperson Corkin
- Zoom/Video: Comm. Alholm, Comm. Derocha, Comm. DePetro and Comm. Nordeen

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

**Board Action:** Comm. Derocha moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 5, 2020 and the Special Meeting held on May 12, 2020. Second by Comm. Adamini. A Roll Call Vote was taken ~ Ayes: Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted. (6-0)

**3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS**

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

**Board Action:** Comm. DePetro moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Alholm. A roll call vote was taken ~ Ayes: Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted. (6-0)

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

- **Carley Wasik, MSUE**, announced that MSUE have many new classes on line that are available to the public for free. Contact: [msue.marquette@county.msu.edu](mailto:msue.marquette@county.msu.edu)

No further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

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

**Board action:** Comm. Adamini moved to approve the Total Expenditures for the period April 30, 2020 through May 13, 2020 were \$430,452.60 (this amount does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending May 2, 2020 was \$658,708.42; and Electronic Payments for the period totaled \$19,869.43. Second by Comm. Alholm.

A roll call vote was taken ~ Ayes: Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted. (6-0)

**Board action:** Comm. DePetro moved to approve check #199591 dated May 15, 2020 in the amount of \$168.54 payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Adamini. A roll call vote was taken ~ Ayes: Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Corkin. Abstained ~ Comm. Alholm. Nays ~ None. Motion adopted. (5-0)

**7. PUBLIC HEARING**

**8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT**

**9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- a. **Notice of Public Hearing – Upper Michigan Energy Resources Corporation**
- b. **Notice of Public Hearing – Upper Peninsula Power Company**

**Board action:** Comm. Adamini moved to accept informational item (a & b) for filing. Second by Comm. Derocha. A roll call vote was taken ~ Ayes: Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**10. ACTION ITEMS:**

**a. Revised Travel Policy Recommendation**

**Scott Erbsich, County Administrator**, updated the board with the following Revised Travel Policy Recommendation:

**Purpose:**

This policy applies to employees who engage in personal travel outside of Region 8 (the Upper Peninsula) during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy is intended to be consistent with guidelines issued by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the United States Centers of Disease Control (CDC) as related to precautions upon returning to work after travel and returning to work following potential high-risk exposure to COVID-19. This policy replaces all prior versions and is subject to revision based on the evolving nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**General Travel Recommendations:**

Employees are encouraged to follow MDHHS, CDC, and Marquette County Health Department [guidelines](#) as they relate to personal travel. Employees who choose to travel outside of the Upper Peninsula may require a 14 day isolation period on return at the employee's own expense (i.e., through use of paid leave).

**Before Travel:**

Prior to travel outside the Upper Peninsula, please notify HR of your plans. This will ensure you understand the County's expectations on your return to work and also help keep the workplace safe from potential exposure on your return.

**Returning from Travel:**

When returning from travel outside the Upper Peninsula, employees who do not require isolation and are unable to work remotely are expected to take the following precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 for 14 days upon return:

- Self-monitor for [symptoms](#) – check temperature twice a day, watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath.
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, do not report to work. Use normal call-in procedures to notify your supervisor and contact your primary health care provider for direction.
- If you become ill at work, promptly notify your supervisor or department head and contact your primary health care provider to determine whether you should go home or seek immediate medical attention.
- Wear a mask while in common areas and when unable to maintain a six foot distance from others.
- Adhere to all social distancing recommendations and avoid being within six feet of other employees.
- Adhere to hygienic recommendations for the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 including frequent handwashing, the use of hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol, avoiding sneezing into hands and avoiding unnecessary hand contact with your face or other surfaces within the workplace.
- Increase cleaning and disinfection of surfaces within your work environment.

**Board action:** Comm. Derocha moved to adopt the Revised Travel Policy for Marquette County Employees. Second by Chairperson Corkin. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**b. Argonic Lease Extension: Bldg. 726**

**Duane DuRay, Sawyer Director** discussed the following: Argonics, Inc. is looking for a five year extension on their lease of building 727, Parcel AL-48, Parcel B9-B, and Parcel AL-46. Argonics entered into the lease agreement in February 13, 2008 with Marquette County for a building to manufacture resistant polyurethane products. The lease agreement provided the right to renew the lease for not more than five (5) consecutive terms of (5) five year extensions. The lease is set to expire on May 31, 2020.

The lease agreement terms and conditions shall remain as stated in the original agreement. The five-year extension terms are as follows:

- Five-Year lease extension commencing June 1, 2020 and expires May 31, 2025
- Lease Rate Building 727, Parcel AL-48, Parcel B9-B, \$2.20 psf per anum

- Parcel AL-46
- Two (2) % annual escalator.

Argonics, Inc. continues to grow within the community, adding jobs and providing building improvements in all of their leased spaces.

**Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to approve the five (5) year lease extension for Argonics, Inc. as stated above and authorize the County Board Chairperson to sign the Lease Agreement. Second by Comm. DePetro. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**c. Argonic Lease Amendment: Bldg. 725**

**Duane DuRay, Sawyer Director**, discussed the following: Argonics, Inc. recently signed a lease agreement for 16,000 sf of storage space in the south bay of building 725, which replaces 9,600 sf of storage space in another section of the building. This previous space consisted of two separated areas in the building, one comprised of 8,000 sf and another of 1,600 sf.

After evaluation of the new space, Argonics determined that they require additional space and are requesting to once again lease the 1,600 sf section.

**Lease Terms are as follows:**

- One-Year lease commencing June 1, 2020.
- Lease will be for \$1.50 psf per anum for each bay.
- Argonics will be responsible for pro-rated share of taxes on building.

**Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to approve the Argonic Lease Terms Agreement Amendment as stated above and authorize the County Board Chairperson to sign the Lease Agreement. Second by Comm. DePetro. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**d. WWTP Clarifier Bid Recommendation**

**Duane DuRay, Sawyer Director** explained the following: an RFP for this project was placed in the Mining Journal and on the County website. One bid was received from Crane Engineering of Kimberly Wisconsin for \$153,330. The project includes a clarifier rebuild and the replacement of both the north and south Slide Gate Weirs. Crane Engineering completed the previous clarifier rebuild that was done in late 2017 meets the RFP requirements and this clarifier is one of two located at the WWTP and the units function is to separate out floating and sinking solids, as one of the final stages of treatment. The clarifier is a large round tank with a scrapper arm and a skimmer arm that rotate around the tank. See attached drawing of a clarifier. The proper operation for this system would be to alternate the use of the two clarifiers, but due to the condition of the north clarifier, the south clarifier is in use 100% of the time. The replacement of the clarifier is critical due to the risk of the other clarifier malfunctioning causing the possible shut down of the entire treatment plant. The estimated cost for the repair was \$162,500 and the bid received was \$153,330.

As part of the requirements for the recently completed WWTP Renovation project, the USDA Rural Development requires the County to maintain a Repair, Replace and Improvement (RRI) fund and this fund has sufficient funding to fund this project, Rural Development has approved using RRI funds for the clarifier rebuild.

\*Chairperson Corkin asked when this would be completed. Duane DuRay answered there is a 90 day timeline.

**Board action:** Comm. Adamini moved to Award the RFP to Crane Engineering for the WWTP Clarifier in an amount not to exceed \$153,330. Second by Comm. DePetro. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**e. Sugarloaf Mountain Parking Lot Bid Recommendation**

Thyra Karlstrom, Planner, explained the following: a growing number of visitors at the Sugarloaf Mountain Natural Area has resulted in unsafe parking conditions along County Road 550. Recognizing this risk to public safety, a parking master plan identifying options for increasing the amount of parking was developed and capital funds have been allocated for this project. In March of this year, the County Board of Commissioners made the decision to proceed with a parking expansion project.

The advisory committee for this project recommended the inclusion of deceleration and bypass lanes at the access to the new lot. This item was added to the project and the proposed improvements to the north lot, or existing lot, was included as a bid additive alternate.

A request for proposals was advertised in the Mining Journal, the county website, and at the Builder's Exchange. A total of five bids were received:

<b>Bidder Name</b>	<b>Base Bid Amount</b>	<b>Rock Excavation Unit Price</b>	<b>Additive Alternate (N. Lot)</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>A. Lindberg &amp; Sons Inc.</b>	\$304,800	\$6,000	\$26,600	\$331,400
<b>Oberstar, Inc</b>	\$409,000	\$19,000	\$59,000	\$468,000
<b>Associated Constructors, LLC</b>	\$395,339	\$8,000	\$71,225	\$466,564
<b>Hebert Construction Company</b>	\$420,489	\$2,500	\$79,543	\$500,032
<b>Smith Construction, Inc.</b>	\$358,000	\$10,000	\$28,000	\$386,000

\***Thyra Karlstrom** stated there was close to 60,000 visitors last year and around 45,000 the year before, the New parking lot will maximize the number of parking spaces for safety reasons.

\***Comm. DePetro** in 2018 Sugarloaf became a Pure Michigan tourism attraction, creating many more visitors to this attraction, the parking has now become a great concern for many, safety concerns were raised among many of the visitors. This Parking Lot area will keep many visitors safe!

**Board action:** Comm. DePetro moved to award the Parking Lot Improvements and Bypass Lane at Sugarloaf Mountain Natural Area project to the low bidder, A. Lindberg & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$331,400. Second by Comm. Derocha. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**f. Temporary Modification to MERS Defined Benefit Provisions**

**Jim Kent, Human Resources & Risk Manager** explained the following: the MERS Defined Benefit (DB) retirement plan requires eligible employees to work one hundred sixty (160) hours per month to receive service credit for that month. With the COVID-19 pandemic, some of these employees were on paid COVID-19 leave and others have been working reduced hours.

In order to provide the DB service credit for these employees, staff recommends the Board approve a Resolution providing service credit to DB employees who work at least eighty (80) hours in a month, or who have received at least eighty (80) hours of COVID-19 pay in the month, or a combination of eighty (80) hours.

According to MERS this resolution is not necessary for employees in a Defined Contribution plan.

**RESOLUTION TO TEMPORARILY REDUCE THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED TO QUALIFY FOR MONTHLY SERVICE CREDIT IN THE MERS DEFINED BENEFIT RETIREMENT PLAN OF THE COUNTY OF MARQUETTE**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Marquette is a participating municipality under the Municipal Employees Retirement Act and Restated Plan Document for the benefit of employees, retirees and beneficiaries covered under the plan; and **WHEREAS**, the County of Marquette desires to temporarily modify the Defined Benefit retirement plan so that employees enrolled in it can obtain service credit while on a reduced work schedule during COVID-19 pandemic, for the time period March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020; therefore

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**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Commissioners for the County of Marquette approves the extension of Defined Benefit Plan service credit for the month when employees enrolled in the Defined Benefit retirement plan work at least eighty hours, to include paid time off work due to COVID-19.

**Board action:** Comm. Alholm moved to adopt the Resolution to temporarily reduce the minimum number of hours worked to qualify for monthly service credit in the MERS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan of the County of Marquette. Second by Comm. Adamini. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

**g. Appointment to Marquette County Corrections Advisory Board**

Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board: The Community Corrections Advisory Board is a 15 member body responsible for developing the comprehensive Community Corrections Plan and applying for grant funding through the Office of Community Corrections within the Michigan Department of Corrections in order to carry out the plan through its Coordinator. Seven are designated by law from various County Department Heads. Eight are appointed in the following categories: Police Chief, Communications/Media, Service Area (Up to 3), Business, Criminal Defense, Workforce Development and General Public (2). The CCAB oversees such programs as cognitive behavior therapy, substance abuse and pretrial services which includes a tether program.

*\*One Citizen At Large Position: Applications from Anthony Misale & Wayne Filizetti to fill the vacancy for the Citizen At-Large position.*

\*The following Commissioners voted in favor of Anthony Misale – Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Alholm and Chairperson Corkin.

\*The following Commissioner voted in favor of Wayne Filizetti – Comm. Nordeen.

**Board action:** Anthony Misale was appointed to the Marquette County Community Corrections Advisory Board for term ending December 31, 2021.

**11. LATE ADDITIONS**

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment, none was forthcoming.

**13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Chairperson Corkin** thanked all Commissioners for gathering under these unusual circumstances, good news that soon the U.P. will be back in business, people need to follow the safety guidelines. Also, the House of Representatives passed a trillion dollars for the relief of cities, townships and counties. However, seems as though the bill will be dead on arrival. The next three months will be crucial to decide how the budget will be impacted.

**Comm. DePetro** thanked the Administrator, Chairperson and Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Planner for all the support and good work with the Sugarloaf Project, this project has been needed for years and now it will finally be completed in 2020. Many thanks to Lucy Turner, Darlene Turner, Jason McCarthy, Comm. Alholm, Lauren Luce, Bill Sanders, Jim Iwanicki for helping to make this possible for the Community.

**14. CLOSED SESSION**

**15. ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:39 p.m.

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**Linda K. Talsma**  
**Marquette County Clerk**

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**Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson**  
**Marquette County Board of Commissioners**