
**REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, MAY 5, 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. DePetro moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on April 7, 2020 and the Equalization Meeting held on April 14, 2020. Second by Comm. Nordeen. 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)

3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board Action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Adamini. 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

- **Gene Champagne, Big Bay**, sent a request to Chairperson Corkin to read a letter regarding 2nd Amendment Sanctuary County. (*The entire letter to the board is on file at the Clerk's Office*)
- **Darlene Allen**, League of Women Voters, updated the board on voter service activities and looking to open some virtual possibilities concerning contested races for August.
- **Bree Carlson, MSUE**, reported that May is Mental Health Month, stating there are many new classes on line that are available to the public for free. Contact: 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. Derocha moved to approve the Total Expenditures for the period April 10, 2020 through April 29, 2020 were \$1,836,596.24; and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending April 18, 2020 was \$661,474.99; and Electronic Payments for the period totaled \$3,664,279.05. 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)

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

- a. **MDEQ – Air Quality Pending Permits**
- b. **Notice of Public Hearing – Upper Peninsula Power Company**

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

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. KI Sawyer WWTF Influent Pumping Improvement Project

Duane DuRay, Director of Operations, stated the following: Staff is looking for Board consideration on a recently bid project for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Influent Pumping Improvement Project. In early 2019, the KI Sawyer WWTP staff began planning for an upgrade on the wastewater influent pumping system located at the WWTP. Working closely with GEI Consultants, the process began with developing plans, costs, and applying for funding assistance through a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) grant program. The cost to implement the improvements on the influent pumping system was estimated at \$165,000. With the successful MDARD grant application, the State of Michigan will be providing \$100,000 and the remaining costs will need to be funded locally.

A request for proposals (RFP) was advertised with bid opening set for April 3, 2020. Two bids were received, as seen below:

FA Industrial Services, Inc.	\$223,946.00
Prime Specialty Contracting LLC	\$177,950.00

After a complete review of the bid package results, GEI recommends Prime Specialty Contracting, LLC as the most responsive bidder. The cost for construction and engineering fees exceed the cost completion estimate by \$33,950, which brings the overall project cost to \$198,950. The Waste Water Department has the necessary funding available in the Repair Reinvestment (RRI) account which was established for these types of projects.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve and award the Influent Pumping Improvement project to Prime Specialty Contracting LLC, at the cost of \$177,950.00. 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)

b. FAA Construction Administration Agreement ~ Re: Pavement Marking & Crack Sealing

Duane DuRay, Director of Operations, stated the following: Sawyer staff is looking for Marquette County Board approval, contingent on the awarding of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) CY 2020 AIP Grant, to move forward with the Construction Administration Agreement with Mead & Hunt for the Pavement Marking and Crack Sealing. This is a recurring project for pavement marking and crack sealing. This preventative maintenance project is routinely scheduled every two to three years to remain compliant with the FAA regulations.

Prior to the COVID 19 crisis and the Cares Act, this project would normally have had a Federal, State, Local funding split, but the Cares Act established 100% federal funding for all CY 2020 AIP projects.

Project cost breakdown:

➤ Construction Administration:	\$ 19,550
➤ Total Estimated Project Cost:	\$220,000

The project is out on bids with the bid opening in early May, followed by final application submission to the FAA. Anticipated grant awarding is in August.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to approve the Construction Administration Agreement between Marquette County and Mead & Hunt, contingent upon the CY 2020 FAA Grant and authorize Board Chairperson, Mr. Gerald Corkin to sign the agreements, following grant acceptance. Second by 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)

c. 1st Quarter Budget Amendments

Anne Giroux, Finance Manager, stated the following: at this time, we continue to monitor how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect the County's budget. We expect some increased expenses, but the bigger challenge will be the losses of revenues. It is too early to fully understand the impacts and as such, this budget amendment does not include any adjustments related to the pandemic. Similarly, we continue to monitor the Airport budget and work through the details of the CARES Act funding for airports.

The following five budget amendments are presented for your consideration (The first budget amendment of 2020 was presented and approved in February for the Public Improvement Fund).

#2- General Fund

This amendment includes several minor adjustments to the General Fund budget including a 3% increase to the MSU Extension Program Coordinator/Work Plan, an increase from the Michigan Supreme Court to the Probate Judge salary and an increase in UPSET funding. We continue to monitor consultant expenses and may need additional increases as the year goes on. The budget remains balanced with the budgeted contingency amount of \$150,000 unchanged.

#3-ROD Automation Fund

This amendment provides for the previously approved media conversion project in the Register of Deeds office.

#4-Rescue Safety Fund

This amendment provides for the expense associated with the purchase of the Search and Rescue Canine. Donations of \$11,900 had been reserved for this purchase with the remainder of the funding coming from Search and Rescue millage.

#5-KI IRP Fund

The KI Intermediary Relending Program loan was paid in full to USDA in March. This amendment provides for the interest expense on the final loan payment.

#6-Veteran Affairs Fund

This amendment provides for the County Veterans Service Fund Grant received from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. The grant agreement was received and signed in March.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to approve 1st Quarter Budget Amendments. 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)

d. Marq-Tran Millage Language for the August 2020 Election

Delynn Klein, Executive Director of Marq-Tran, submitted the following language to the County Board for Approval allowing it to be considered to voters on August 4, 2020:

COUNTY PROPOSITION - MILLAGE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE
MARQUETTE COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MARQ-TRAN)

To provide local funds for the continuing operations and capitol purchases of the Marquette County Transit Authority (MARQ-TRAN), on all properties within the County of Marquette, Michigan, shall the total amount of ad valorem taxes collected be renewed at six tenths (.6) of a mill (\$0.60 per \$1,000.00 of Taxable Valuation of real and taxable personal property) for the years, 2020 through 2026, inclusive? (The taxes collected the first year would amount to approximately \$1,461,643).

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to adopt the millage language for Marq-Tran that was submitted to the Board pending legal review. 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)

e. Board of Health Appointment

Linda Talsma, Clerk, stated the following: I have attached a letter of resignation from Marie Aho a member of the Board of Health Board. Her term would have expired 12/31/2020; this leaves an unexpired term vacancy.

I posted an ad in the Mining Journal and on the County Website this week for the public; an application was received from Nina van den Ende for this vacancy.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to appoint Nina van den Ende for an unexpired term ending 12/31/2020 to fill the vacancy position on the Board of Health. 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)

f. Support DNR Efforts to Keep Motorized Boat Access in Perpetuity on Silver Lake

Comm. Derocha requested the following resolution be brought before the Board for consideration:

Resolution - Support for Motorized Boating Access to Silver Lake Basin

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has received public input from boaters and anglers who recreate in the Silver Lake Basin area, and

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette wishes to support any effort in maintaining boating access to the Silver Lake Basin for all recreation, including motorized boating; and

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette Board of Commissioners wishes this site to be designated accessible to all motorized boating in perpetuity, and

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette acknowledges the importance of the public use of best practices in halting the spread of invasive species by using proper precautions when recreating, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Marquette supports keeping the Silver Lake Basin open for motorized boating access to the general public in perpetuity.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to adopt the Resolution in Support for Motorized Boating Access to Silver Lake Basin. Second by Comm. Nordeen. 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)

g. Health Department Director Contract Extension

Scott Erbisch, Administrator, Gerald Messana was hired by the Marquette County Board of Commissioners on March 1, 2015 as the Administrative Provisional Health Officer. The Agreement expired February 29, 2020. He was originally considered provisional due to not having the required Public Health certification. The public health certification was a state requirement at that time. Mr. Messana received his Public Health Certification in May 2017.

Given that Mr. Messana's Employment Agreement expired February 29, 2020, the Marquette County Board of Health considered a one (1) year extension. This extension does not make any changes to the Agreement it extends it for one (1) additional year.

The Health Department Board motioned and approved a one (1) year extension to the Health Officer contract through February 28, 2021, and that this recommendation be brought before the Marquette County Board of Commissioners for its approval.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve a one (1) year extension of the Health Officers Contract, without modifications, as recommended by the Marquette County Board of Health. Second by Comm.

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

h. Rename Portion of Highway M-35 as the Ben Lauren-Don Riling Memorial Highway
Comm. Nordeen requested the following resolution be brought before the Board for consideration:

Rename Portion of Highway M-35 as the Ben Lauren-Don Riling Memorial Highway

WHEREAS, Marquette County relies primarily on volunteer firefighters to protect its citizens; and
WHEREAS, Benjamin Lauren was a Captain in the Forsyth Township Volunteer Fire Department; and
WHEREAS, Benjamin Lauren died while fighting a house fire on March 13, 2020 in Forsyth Township; and
WHEREAS, Donald Riling was a professional firefighter with the United States Air Force and also a firefighter with the Forsyth Township Volunteer Fire Department; and
WHEREAS, Donald Riling died while fighting a house fire on March 19, 1988 in Forsyth Township; and
WHEREAS, it is our duty to respect and honor these fallen firefighters that gave their lives protecting our community, Lest We Forget; and
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners support, recommend, and promote the naming of State Highway M-35 in Forsyth Township, Marquette County, to “Ben Lauren and Don Riling Memorial Highway”, from the border of Forsyth Township and Turin Township on the southeast end, to the border of Richmond Township and Forsyth Township on the northwest end.
FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Honorable Sara Cambensy, 109th District of the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Honorable Ed McBroom, 38th District of the Michigan Senate, and the Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of the great State of Michigan, be requested to assist in renaming this portion of Highway M-35 in Forsyth Township, Marquette County, to honor our fallen firefighters.

Signed this fifth day of May, in the year Two Thousand Twenty

*Comm. Nordeen stated that due to this tragedy of the loss of two great men – Ben Lauren was known by his community as a very wonderful and giving young man, along with his family.

*Clerk Linda Talsma also knew Ben Lauren very well and his family – a very tragic event for the community!

*Only Six Volunteer Firefighters have died in the Upper Peninsula and two have been from Forsyth Township so it was very fitting for this tribute of both young men.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to adopt the Resolution Renaming a Portion of Highway M-35 as the Ben Lauren –Don Riling Memorial Highway. Second by Chairperson Corkin. A roll call vote was taken: Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

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, hopefully to be back to conducting these meetings with all of us present in Commissioner Chambers.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to have a Special Meeting on May 12th, 2020 if after legal review there are any modifications to the wording of the Marq-Tran Millage Language Proposal. 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)

Comm. Nordeen wishes this COVID goes away sooner than later, with that said the ceremony to Honor Ben Lauren were postponed due to COVID and moved to May 23, 2020, now it's been postponed yet again. Hopefully someday soon a large ceremony can take place honoring our fallen Firefighter Ben Lauren.

***Also**, Fireman Tournaments were to be held on July 23-26 in Forsyth Township it may have to be canceled as well.

Comm. DePetro gave Kudos to Duane DuRay, Operations Manager at Sawyer for his due diligence in obtaining \$18 Million for Sawyer Airport Relief due to COVID.

***Also**, Marquette City Fire Department, Station 1 on Third Street in Marquette will be Retiring Captain Jeff Green after serving 25 years on the Fire Department. Congratulations and Happy Retirement!

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:58 p.m.

Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners