
REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 – 6:00 P.M. – COMMISSIONERS 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
Salute to the Flag followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board Action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on September 1, 2020. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted. (6-0)

3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS:

a. Resolution Recognizing the Service of Norman Holmes

WHEREAS, Norman was appointed to serve on the Marquette County Planning Commission in the late 1970's, and **WHEREAS**, during his tenure was instrumental in guiding major intergovernmental projects including regulatory zoning and solid waste planning, and

WHEREAS, Norman also served on the County's Zoning Board of Appeals, Natural Resources Commission, and Forestry Commissions, and

WHEREAS, Norman served as the Chairperson of the Marquette County Planning Commission for several years, and

WHEREAS, Norman Holmes passed away on August 25, 2020

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Marquette County Board expresses its sincere sympathy to Norman Holmes's family, friends and colleagues. The Board honors Norman for over 40 years of dedication to this county as he served others through his choice. Norman will truly be missed.

Proclaimed: Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board Action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve the agenda with the additions of 11a) MI Trust Fund Resolution and 11b) Marquette Township & Surrounding Townships/Cities Signing - Opposing Michigan Tax Tribunal re-appointment of Victoria Enyart. Second by Comm. Derocha. Motion adopted. (6-0)

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

- **Matt Wiese, Prosecutor**, updated the board with the following: Prosecutors Office received \$39,000 Corona Funding; Uptick in cases especially Methamphetamine; First Felony Jury Trial to begin middle of October since Corona Virus; with crime going up the Prosecutor's Office has been extremely busy!
- **Lt. Derocher** updated the board with the following:
 - Calls for service – August = 214; Civil Papers served = 147
 - Citations = 128; Daily Jail Population = 72
 - Traffic Crashes = 34 (Including 1 fatal traffic crash on road 550);
 - Arrests = 49 (15 Meth; 3 Other drugs; 5 assaults one of which was aggravated; 1 CCW; 1 Possession of a firearm in the commission of a crime; 3 fleeing and eluding; 8 retail frauds
 - **Search & Rescue--Lost Hikers/Calls for Assistance**
 - *Lake Superior – 2 Kayakers; Michigamme River – Septic Truck in water; Dead River Basin – *Vehicle in the water/boat launch; Lake Superior-Swimmer in distress; Lake Superior-Outer break wall light (broken leg extrication off wall by boat)
 - **Rescue 131- Calls for Assistance:**
 - *Water Rescue-Little Presque Isle, Tale Lake and Big Bay
 - *Republic Twp. – PIA Accident ORV/Hazmat
 - *PIA Accidents –Humboldt, Negaunee City, Negaunee Twp., Skandia, Champion, Ishpeming Twp.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to total expenditures for the period August 28, 2020 through September 10, 2020 were \$529,244.86 (This amount does not include the check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending September 5, 2020 was \$678,838.47. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (6-0)

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve check #201560, Dated 9/11/2020 for \$2,150.34~Payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (5-0) Abstained: Comm. Alholm.

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

a. Community Development Block Grant for CDBG Cares Funding – Application

Chairperson Corkin opened the Public Hearing for Public Comment after reading the following:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

(CDBG) FUNDING FOR County of Marquette will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 6:00 pm EST in Room 231 of the Henry A Skewis Courthouse Annex, Marquette, MI for the purpose of affording citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the proposed application for a CDBG grant.

The County of Marquette proposes to use \$238,840.95 CDBG funds for services that are necessary to respond, mitigate, or prevent COVID-19 and benefit at least 51% low to moderate income persons. No individuals will be displaced as a result of the proposed activities.

Further information, including a copy of the County of Marquette’s community development plan and CDBG application is available for review. To inspect the documents, please contact Anne Giroux at (906) 225-8177 or review at the Administrator’s Office, 234 W. Baraga Ave., Marquette. Comments may be submitted in writing through (date) or made in person at the public hearing.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the project in person at the public hearing or in writing through Thursday, September 10th, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. - Citizen views and comments on the CDBG project are welcome.

Hearing no Public Comment the Public Hearing was closed.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

a. Resolution to Reject Appointment of Victoria Enyart

Whereas; all fifteen counties in the Upper Peninsula, who are members of the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners (UPACC), have the responsibility for ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of Township residents and visitors; and,

Whereas; the financial resources necessary for the provision of such services are derived from taxable value assessment, collection, and distribution to reliant entities, and,

Whereas; such tax collection and distribution generally occur after services are committed or rendered to constituents; and,

Whereas; local County Assessors are required to apply provisions of the formal Assessors Manual as issued by the Michigan Tax Commission in determining said taxable values, and;

Whereas; the Michigan tax Tribunal is not required to apply the provisions of the formal Assessors Manual in their review of appeals; and,

Whereas; the Michigan Tax Tribunal is required to follow Michigan law contained in statute and in binding appellate court decisions and the Michigan Supreme Court has required the Tribunal to adhere to standard appraisal practices; and,

Whereas: the Michigan Tax Tribunal has accepted and applied the “dark store” theory in their decisions regarding commercial properties since 2010; with the most significant ruling yet in the recent Court of Appeals remand decision of the Menards Inc. v City of Escanaba case written by Victoria Enyart; and Preeti Gadola; and,

Whereas; in her opinion on remand Victoria Enyart rejected the Court of Appeals published and binding decision in Menard Inc. v City of Escanaba and determined that the Court of Appeals reliance on published and binding case law and the Court of Appeals analysis of legal precedent was error; and,

Whereas; in her opinion on remand Victoria Enyart rejected market analysis that is standard in the appraisal profession, that was required by the Court of Appeals and determined the market analysis would not be used at the Tribunal to determine the value of big box stores; and,

Whereas; in her opinion on remand Victoria Enyart rejected the Michigan Legislature’s long-standing definition of “fee simple” and Michigan appellate court decisions interpreting that standard and instead determined that rental property could not be transferred in fee simple unless the property was first entirely vacant and had no tenant when transferred; and,

Whereas; Victoria Enyart has a long history of rendering “Dark Store” opinions, of rejecting standard appraisal methods, of rejecting standard assessment methods that have national consensus and rendering biased decisions; and,

Whereas; Victoria Enyart has no legal training or background, is not competent to render decisions on Michigan law, and is, historically, among the most frequently reversed members ever to be appointed to the tax tribunal, and

Whereas; the Michigan Senate is required to approve the appointment of Victoria Enyart as recommended by Governor Gretchen Whitmer ignoring the impacts to local governments, tax revenue reliant agencies, and all constituents;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved; that the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners and its member counties, hereby resolve to respectfully ask Governor Whitmer to withdraw the nomination or the Michigan Senate to reject the appointment of Victoria Enyart to the Michigan Tax Tribunal as proposed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to the detriment of local governments, tax revenue reliant public agencies, and all constituent taxpayers.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to accept for filing the above resolution to reject appointment of Victoria Enyart to the Tax Tribunal. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Resolution Approving CDBG Grant & Emergency Solution Grant Funding

Anne Gioux, Finance Manager, was present to explain and answer questions: the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law 116-136, makes available supplemental Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV) funding for grants to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus (COVID-19). The CDBG grant will provide flexibilities for grantees to expedite the use of grant funds to help address the challenges facing our nation during this historic public health crisis.

WHEREAS, the Michigan Strategic Fund has invited Counties to accept Community Development Block Grant Program funds to support CDBG CARES Funding; and

WHEREAS, the County of Marquette will seek to receive up to \$238,840.95 in CDBG funds to reimburse for unexpected costs associated with COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will benefit all residents of the project area and at least 51% of the resident of Marquette County are low and moderate income persons as determined by census data provided by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Marquette hereby designates their Finance Director as the Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the Michigan CDBG pre-agreement documents, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant.

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to approve the Resolution approving the CDBG Grant & Emergency Solution Grant Funding as stated above. 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)

b. Sheriff Department Police Patrol Vehicles

Captain Stephen Kangas, presented the following to the board: On Friday, August 28, 2020 at 11:02 proposals were opened from vendors for three Dodge Charger AWD police patrol vehicles and one Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Police Patrol Vehicle (PPV). Nineteen total requests for proposal letters were sent out for the vehicles and the specifications posted on the Marquette County Website. Only two proposals were returned.

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| *LaFontaine CDJR-Fleet, Lansing | \$27,710.00 per vehicle = \$83,100.00 (Cars) |
| *Fox Motors, Marquette | \$41,030.02 (Tahoe) |

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to award LaFontaine (MIDEAL Vendor) in the amount not to exceed \$83,100.00 for the three Dodge Charger AWD, and award Fox Motors for the one Chevrolet Tahoe in an amount not to exceed \$41,030.02. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (6-0)

c. Veteran's Affairs Phone Application Bid Recommendation

Craig Salo, Veteran's Affairs Department Director, a request for proposal was advertised in the Mining Journal during a 7-day run and posted on the Marquette County Website for the development of an Android/Apple app for the use of veteran services. Per the RFP language, bids were received from the following companies on September 8th before 3:00 p.m.:

- *906 Technologies located at 161 Co Rd 492, Marquette, MI 49855; \$48,528.00*
- *Payoda Technologies Inc. (digital company); \$59,800.00*

906 Technologies is the low bidder and has a proven track record of product development and the experienced engineering staff to produce this local product for the veterans and family members of Marquette County.

The purpose of this design and implementation is to increase veteran awareness of local, state, and federal benefits, inform the veteran community and public at large of local veteran events, and to help synchronize both private and public veteran service providers within our county.

The Marquette County Department of Veterans Affairs requests the Marquette County Board of Commissioners' approval of 906 Technologies bid of \$48,528.00 for the development of an Android and Apple veteran phone application. This is a fully funded and approved grant project through the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. Funds associated with this grant must be approved by the end of the State of Michigan's Fiscal Year 2020 (September 30, 2020).

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to award the bid for app development for veteran's use and services in the amount not to exceed \$48,528.00 to 906 Technologies. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (6-0)

d. Central Dispatch – Assistance to U.P. 911 Recommendation

Gary Johnson, Central Dispatch Manager, was present to explain the following and answer questions: The UP 911 Authority is in the process of replacing our 911 Call Processing Equipment (CPE) hardware in each 911 center. The total project cost is \$757,000. The Authority applied for and received a Next Generation 911 Advancement grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant program is managed by the State 911 Office and we are a sub-recipient. The total grant award is \$677,940 of which \$33,897 is a required match by the Authority. The Authority does have enough funds on hand to cover the match and the costs of the project above the grant amount. However, with all federal grants, we must expend the funds for this project and then we are reimbursed with the grant dollars.

*Comm. DePetro & Chairperson Corkin thanked Gary Johnson for his Management Expertise!

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to allow Central Dispatch to cover the upfront cost for the grant portion of this project. We have done this in the past, most recently with or CAD server replacement project.

The grant fund portion of this project is \$644,043. Central Dispatch does have an adequate fund reserve to cover this expense until the funds are reimbursed. Second by Comm. DePetro. Motion adopted (6-0)

e. FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Scott Erbisch, Administrator, explained the following: Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Management Coordinator, has submitted the FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Work Agreement for administrative review. Funds awarded through the EMPG Work Agreement amount to 34.83% of the Emergency Management Coordinator's salary and benefit package. ‘

This is an annual Agreement “provides federal pass-through funds to the County for the development and maintenance of an emergency management program capable of protecting life, property, and vital infrastructure in times of disaster or emergency”.

Board action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve and sign the State of Michigan FY 2020 EMPG Work Agreements for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. Second by Comm. Adamini. Motion adopted (6-0)

f. SB 690 Water Assistance Program – Data Sharing Agreement

SUMMARY OF REQUEST: As part of an earlier Governor's Executive Order (EO), municipal water and wastewater systems were (and continue to be) prevented from shut off due to lack of payment. This EO extends to December 31, 2020. In response to the potential loss of revenues to the municipality, Senate Bill 690 was passed which includes a provision that, if a customer qualifies, a portion of a past due payment(s) will be covered.

There is a specific criterion for a customer to qualify, so not all customers with past due bills will receive the benefit. One condition is the customer must qualify for the MiBridges Food Assistance through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The program is being facilitated by the Bureau of Community Action and Economic Opportunity (BCAEO). For those that qualify, it will provide relief for the past due water/sewer bills. At no time will the customer receive these funds. They will be provided directly to the utility.

This agreement is coming before the County Board because of the condition that the County's Sawyer water and wastewater system must accept participation in the program. Key conditions are:

- Not to shut off water service to residential customers in the program for a minimum of 90 days beyond the date the customer receives assistance.
- The County will forgive 25% of the amount billed.

Upon County Board approval, Marquette County will work with Community Action Alger Marquette (CAAM) for this effort. CAAM will be working with the State of Michigan to review eligibility. Marquette County needs to provide CAAM customer data to CAAM. Therefore, a data sharing agreement is required.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to authorize entering into a data sharing agreement with Community Action Alger Marquette. Second by Comm. Adamini. Motion adopted (6-0)

g. Response to Citizens Request re: Sugarloaf

Thyra Karlstrom, Planning Manager, was present to explain the following: an adjacent property owner recently addressed the Board about concerns with public wandering onto private property from the Sugarloaf Mountain Natural Area. Although there is an improved trail to the summit of the Mountain, the County has never taken formal action to encourage the public to stay on the trail. Further, there is limited delineation of property boundaries making it difficult for one to realize they might be trespassing. The exponential growth in the number of visitors is exasperating the situation and threatening the ecosystem and Sugarloaf experience the community cherishes. These steps will reduce degradation of the ecosystem, nuisances such as illegal fires and trespassing, and help preserve the experience of hiking Sugarloaf for generations to come.

PROPOSAL

- In cooperation with the Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) a plan for straightforward signage, placed in strategic locations, to encourage visitors to stay on the trail and protect the ecology of the area is being developed. SWP has volunteered to assess the situation and contribute to the cost of sign development and installation. This project will be completed this fall.
- Delineate boundaries of county-owned land by performing a partial boundary survey of the Sugarloaf Mountain property. Staff will prepare a request for proposals for professional survey work per the county's purchasing policy. The anticipated completion date for this work is weather dependent, therefore spring 2021.
- Develop and install signs on county property along public/private land interfaces notifying that public land ends here and private land is ahead to discourage trespassing. A representative from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association recommends this action. This work will be completed once the survey work is finished.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the three step proposal as stated above which will encourage visitors to stay on the trail. This will protect Sugarloaf's ecosystem, reduce nuisances such as trespassing and illegal fires, and protect the County's asset for generations to come. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

h. Adler Lumber Lease Extension

Duane DuRay, Director of Operations at Sawyer, was present to request approval of a lease extension with Adler Lumber. They are a producer of dimensional lumber, has been operating in Building 431 since 2007. Their lease agreement for Building 431, 2536, 2537, and 2538 expired April 12, 2020. Also, in conjunction with the previously stated property, Adler Lumber leases Building 418, a 3,000 sf pole building. The agreement for 418 is a one-year agreement and is slated to expire September 30, 2020.

Adler Lumber has requested to go with a one-year lease extension for both properties and requested that the current lease rates remain for the next year. Their operation has been adversely affected by the COVID pandemic with uncertainty of future orders and challenges relating to maintaining their employee base.

Current rates are below:

- Building 431, 2536, 2537, and 2537 with 12,953 sf of leased space @ \$2.63 per sf annually;
- Building 418 with 3,000 sf @ \$2.00 per sf annually.

Staff requests both agreements to be merged into one and have the proposed lease rates carry through the one-year extension. Proposed agreement terms below:

- Buildings 431, 2536, 2537, 2538 - \$2.63 per sf annually
- Building 418 - \$2.00 per sf annually
- Lease commencement date October 1, 2020.
- At the end of lease, the agreement shall revert to a month to month with a 3% annual escalator.

If approved, the annual lease revenue shall be \$40,093.08.

*Comm. Nordeen stated Adler Lumber has been a long time quality customer with the County!

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the agreement and authorize Civil Counsel to prepare the lease agreement in accordance with the above terms and authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement. Second by Comm. Derocha. Motion adopted (6-0)

i. US Army Winter Lease 662 & 663 Re-Occurring Agreement

Duane DuRay, Director of Operations at Sawyer, the US Army Winter Icing Test Group has requested to lease hangar facilities to complete aircraft icing tests during the 2020/2021 winter season. Staff developed a short-term lease agreement for hangar 663 to include support services. An advance team will arrive on October 1, 2020, to prepare the facilities, the remaining team members will follow. They are scheduled to operate until April 1, 2021.

Key Lease Points:

- Lease terms - October 1, 2020, through April 1, 2021 (End date may vary, dependent on conditions and operation).
- Monthly base hangar rent - \$250 per day.
- Additional monthly recurring expenses vary with services required for the operation.
 - **Note:** Some of the miscellaneous expenses reflect services rendered by airport personnel and outside services. These charges may vary due to Lessee requests.
- Utilities – Reimburse to Marquette County at actual cost plus 15%.
- Electrical, telecommunication, and other miscellaneous upgrades to the facility will be billed on an actual cost plus 15% administrative expense for processing.

This will be the fifth winter season of tests with the Army’s Icing team at Sawyer and these operations provide substantial spin-off revenue for supporting businesses throughout Marquette County.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to approve the short-term lease agreement with the US Army (dba Tyonek Services, Inc.) covering the 2020/2021 winter icing test season and authorize Board Chairman, Mr. Gerald Corkin, to sign the Agreement. Second by Comm. Nordeen. Motion adopted (6-0)

j. Contract Approval for Memorandum of Agreement between the FAA & Marquette County
Megan Murray, Assistant Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Sawyer International Airport staff is requesting the Marquette County Board to approve and continue the agreement with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to provide the use of FAA-owned navigation, communication, and weather aids that support Air Traffic Control (ATC) communication. This agreement does not include any financial agreements, only an agreement to continue the operation of this FAA-owned equipment at the Sawyer International Airport. The current contract with the FAA expires on October 1, 2020. The new contract term is a 20-year agreement, which commences on October 1, 2020 and expires on September 30, 2040.

This agreement ensures both the FAA and the Sawyer International Airport are able to operate efficiently and provide the best service to the aviation community and businesses. The equipment provided by this agreement is listed below:

- MALS (Medium Approach Lighting System)
- LOC (Localizer)
- GS (Guide Slope)
- VOR/DME (Short Range Radio Navigation System)
- RCAG (Remote Control Air Ground System)

Board action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve the agreement with the FAA to continue the use of FAA-related navigation, communication, and weather aids in support of Air Traffic Control Operations. Second by Comm. Alholm. Motion adopted (6-0)

11. LATE ADDITIONS:

a. MI Trust Fund Resolution

Thyra Karlstrom, Planning Manager, was present to answer questions and explain the following: the Planning Division has applied to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant program to renovate the play area at Perkins Park and Campground in Big Bay. Preliminary application scores and comments were released last week by the Michigan DNR. Applicants have until October 1 to submit additional information to increase their score.

One way to increase our points is to supply a 40% match. In March, the County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution in support of the grant application that included a 36% match of \$55,000. Staff requests

the County Board consider increasing the match to 40%, or \$60,000 to better the chances of being awarded the grant. The additional \$5,000 will come from the Forest and Recreation Fund. The total cost of the project is \$150,000.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to adopt the following resolution. Second by Comm. DePetro.

RESOLUTION APPROVING SUBMISSION OF DNR TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR PERKINS PARK AND CAMPGROUND PLAY AREA PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners supports the submission of an application titled, "Perkins Park and Campground Play Area Project" to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for improvements at Perkins Park and Campground and,

WHEREAS, the proposed application is supported by the County's 5-Year Approved Parks and Recreation Plan and,

WHEREAS, Marquette County has made a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$60,000 matching funds; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes submission of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application for \$150,000 and further resolves to make available its financial obligation amount of \$60,000 (40%) of a total \$150,000 project cost.

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. Marquette Township & Surrounding Townships/Cities Signing - Opposing Michigan Tax Tribunal re-appointment of Victoria Enyart

Letter is as follows: Dear Governor Whitmer

As elected officials, from villages to the governor's office, all of us have taken an oath to perform our duties to the best of our ability. While we probably believe we all have the right answers and direction for every contingency, it is in our constituents' best interest that we consider other opinions when difficult decisions arise. This is one of those instances: a Michigan Tax Tribunal board appointment that must be withdrawn.

Much has been spoken and written about the Michigan Tax Tribunal outcomes for the better part of a decade. Your recent recommendation to reappoint Victoria Enyart to the Tribunal board echoes the negative outcome of Ms. Enyart's previous votes. Countless cities, villages, counties, and townships have had to burden their residents with higher taxes and extra millages because of "Dark Store" decisions handed down under her tutelage. Ms. Enyart deliberately ignoring the requirements to follow that code, is inexcusable.

Our county and the rest of the Upper Peninsula have been badgered by Tribunal decisions pitting corporate stores against family businesses and the resident voters that own and operate them. It's time to stop allowing subversion of the laws at the expense of the voters and residents whom we support. We cannot in good conscience espouse to the reappointment of Victoria Enyart to the Michigan Tax Tribunal to which the accompanying signatures attest.

Signed by Lyn Durant, Supervisor, Marquette Township

Board action: Comm. DePetro accepted the letter for filing and all County Commissioners signed as well. Second by Comm. Derocha. Motion adopted (6-0)

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

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Chairperson Corkin** stated that Steve Bertucci, Mine Inspector for Marquette County, was newly appointed and has been working diligently out in the field. An update will be coming soon!
- **Chairperson Corkin** also thanked Vice-Chair Derocha on his good work with the Black River Bridge residents.
- **Comm. Derocha** announced a public presentation by the owners of Spaceport will be coming in the near future. So all the Marquette County residents can be fully informed of what the project is about.
- **Comm. DePetro** congratulated Randy Girard on his Retirement from Marquette Township Manger for the past 18 years. Manager Girard with his vision and the support from his prior and his present Township Board, supported Randy into bringing Marquette Township into the 21st Century. Also, Congratulations to Jon Kangas as the new Marquette Township Manger.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners