

Minutes are Subject to Correction and Approval

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 6:00 P.M., in Room 231 of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, 234 W. Baraga Avenue, Marquette, Michigan.

Chairperson Corkin called the meeting to order. Present: Comm. Arsenault, Comm. Cihak, Comm. Heikkila, Comm. Joseph, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace, and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Bergdahl and Comm. Pellow.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on March 9, 2010, be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Agenda be approved as presented.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Gallant, Skandia, addressed the Committee regarding Pathways and Suicide Prevention. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the Period April 2, 2010 through April 8, 2010, in the amount of \$3,282,804.37, and Biweekly Payroll for the Period April 3, 2010, in the amount of \$663,321.26, be approved.

The Committee considered a Bid Award - Engineering for Energy Grant Implementation. Al Feldhauser, Planner, explained that in February of this year, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners accepted an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Multi-Purpose Block Grant from the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth.

The first step in implementation of this grant is to secure engineering services for design, specification development and construction management of identified projects.

Bids were solicited in the Mining Journal, by internet, and through direct mailing to local firms. Three sealed bids were received that were competition in price. The low bidder is Integrated Designs, Inc. in the amount of \$15,930. Since the bid is below the project budget and meets specifications, Staff recommends the contract be awarded to Integrated Designs, Inc.

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board award the Engineering for Energy Grant Implementation to Integrated Designs, Inc. in the amount of \$15,930 and that the Board Chair be authorized to sign all contract documents.

Rich Miketinac, Director, Department of Human Services, was present at the request of Comm. Struck to review the 2009 Annual Report of the Marquette County Department of Human Services. Mr. Miketinac highlighted key services provided including: Public Assistance Programs (including Overall Recipient Data) – Food Assistance Program, Health Care Programs, Family Independence Program, State Disability Assistance Program, State Emergency Relief Program, Child Development and Care Program, and Staffing and Performance Outcomes (Public Assistance Programs); Services Programs – Children’s Protective Services,

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2009 CPS Staffing/Outcomes, Foster Care Program, 2009 Foster Care Staffing/Outcomes, Adult Services Program, 2009 Adult Services Staffing/Outcomes; Volunteer Services Program; and Indian Outreach Services. A Marquette County DHS Staff Listing as of December 31, 2009 was also provided.

Mr. Miketinac briefly explained each service provided. He thanked the County Board for the opportunity to speak, especially Comm. Struck for his involvement. Discussion followed.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Miketinac for his leadership and commitment to those residents seeking public assistance.

It was moved by Comm. Joseph, seconded by Comm. Cihak, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the 2009 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services be accepted and placed on file.

The Committee considered approval of MDOT Contract Agreement. Keith Kaspari, Airport Manager, explained that on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners provided approval for the acceptance of FAA Grant No: 3-26-0153-3210 for the Phase II improvements to Sawyer's airfield taxiway lighting system, and various design-only projects.

The project is funded by the Federal Aviation Administration at 95% or \$1,384,464.00; the Michigan Department of Transportation at 2.50% or \$36,433.00; and Marquette County at 2.50% or \$39,103.

The amount of the airport sponsor's share at \$39,103, approximately \$2,670 will need to be paid for by a future budget amendment for the airport department, with the balance of funds being paid for with current and future passenger facility charges.

Airport staff respectfully requests that the Marquette County Board of Commissioners approve the MDOT Contract Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve MDOT Contract Agreement No: 2010-0228, authorize the Board Chair to sign the documents, and authorize the County Clerk to execute the resolution.

The Committee considered sending the following letter to the EPA requesting they conclude their review and allow the Kennecott Eagle Project to move forward:

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners requests the United States Environmental Protection Agency concur with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment's conclusion that the Kennecott Eagle project be allowed to proceed. The MDNRE gave final state permit approval on January 14, 2010, finding that the non-ferrous metallic mineral mine will satisfy or exceed state environmental standards.

An Underground Injection Control permit for water disposal is the EPA's only direct regulatory role in the permitted mine. Kennecott has changed the water disposal design from piping buried underground to an above-ground system. The modification came after three years of review by the EPA of Kennecott's UIC permit application. Kennecott believes a UIC is no longer needed and has withdrawn the permit application.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment determined the above-ground system is not a significant change to the mine's ground water discharge permit. The state of Michigan has repeatedly found the Kennecott Eagle Mine will meet or exceed environmental protection requirements.

The Board of Commissioners asks that the EPA conclude its review of whether a UIC permit is needed and make a prompt decision, allowing the project to move forward.

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It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote, that the Committee of the Whole direct Staff to send the above letter to Bharat Mathur, Acting Regional Administrator, asking that the EPA conclude its review of whether a UIC permit is needed and make a prompt decision, allowing the project to move forward.

Chairperson Corkin opened the meeting for public comment. Jim Gallant, Skandia, once again addressed Commissioners regarding Pathway's and Suicide Prevention. He made comments questioning the commitment of Comm. Wallace, as the County Board liaison on the Board of Health, to improving the health of Marquette County communities. There being no further public comment, Chairperson Corkin closed this portion of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Corkin announced that there are many agencies in Marquette County that deal with suicide prevention. Comm. Wallace is one of six members on the Board of Health. He does a very good job of keeping the County Board informed.

Comm. Wallace responded to comments by Jim Gallant. "Mr. Gallant has made comments questioning my commitment to improving the health of Marquette County communities. That notion is simply false. To say that I am blocking things in public health is more than ridiculous. When I moved to Marquette 32 years ago as a professor of health education at NMU, I immediately joined a group of public health activists who worked to bring family planning services to teenagers and young adult women. As a result, Marquette-Alger Planned Parenthood was established. I was elected by the group to serve as the Founding President of MAPP. The County Board appointed me to serve on the Board of Health, an appointment that I continue to this day. That appointment led to an invitation to join the Board of Directors of the National Association of Local Boards of Health. I served as the President of NALBOH. I was elected to serve as President of the MALPH. As a result of my willingness to serve in this leadership capacity, I have participated in several other important projects. I hope this description of my professional service will underscore my commitment to the mission of the public health community. And to say that I'm not doing my job in supporting public health issues in this County is simply not true!"

Comm. Cihak also responded to remarks made by Jim Gallant. He stated that comments made by Mr. Gallant regarding the availability of funding has a potential for misrepresentation.

Chairperson Corkin commended Comm. Arsenault, Dave Holli, John Jilbert, and Robert Dellangelo for resurrecting Hiawatha Homes and putting 10 people back to work! Congratulation on behalf of the County Board!

There being no further business to come before the Committee of the Whole, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Connie M. Branam
Marquette County Clerk