

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners met as a Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, 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. Pellow, Comm. Struck, Comm. Wallace and Chairperson Corkin. Absent and Excused: Comm. Bergdahl and Comm. Joseph.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on June 10, 2008 be approved.

It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Heikkila, and unanimously carried by a voice vote that the agenda be approved with the addition of Item 10) Request from the DNR.

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

It was moved by Comm. Arsenault, seconded by Comm. Wallace, and unanimously carried by voice vote that Claims and Accounts for the period June 14, 2008 through June 20, 2008, in the amount of \$247,997.56, and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the period ending June 14, 2008, in the amount of \$602,297.49 be approved.

The Committee of the Whole was presented the 2007 Audit by Mike Gretz, Anderson, Tackman & Company. A complete copy of the Audit Report was distributed. Mr. Gretz provided information in the form of graphs and tables to use in conjunction with the Audit Report Presentation.

Mr. Gretz noted that there was a change regarding what was once called reportable conditions. The reportable conditions are now called significant deficiencies. He reviewed the deficiencies with Commissioners. Mr. Gretz explained that County staff is currently working to correct the deficiencies.

Commissioners thanked Mr. Gretz and staff for the hard work they have done in completing the audit.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the 2007 Audit Report be accepted, and that staff be directed to carry out any recommendations by the Auditor.

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The Committee considered development of a UP 9-1-1 Authority. Joe VanOosterhout, Central Dispatch Manager, explained that discussions regarding the development of a UP-wide 9-1-1 Authority began in October 2007. This was a time when the State had a brief government shutdown, the new 9-1-1 law was embroiled in political controversy (as it is yet today), and the State Police had announced 400% increases in the fees they would charge counties to be dispatched by Negaunee Regional Dispatch. The State Police were also asking for five year contracts with the counties even though the 9-1-1 law sunsets in just over one year.

Also the Region 8 (UP) Homeland Security Board applied for a \$1.6M grant to virtually (electronically) consolidate the seven county dispatch centers in the U.P. which are not affiliated with Negaunee Regional. The idea is to share equipment and dispatchers so that we can answer each others' calls just as we would in a single building, but be housed at seven different locations. We would also be an option for the Regional counties to consider for their dispatch services should they choose to leave Negaunee (at least have the option).

Mr. VanOosterhout explained that the Authority would serve a number of purposes:

- Develop the protocols for the consolidated dispatch.
- Possibly own equipment used by the multiple counties. This prevents ownership issues like the one we experience today at Negaunee.
- Seek grants to enhance the consolidation beyond what the initial \$1.6M can take us.
- We would be the 5th or 6th largest 9-1-1 entity in the State with the most legislators to provide some political strength.
- The Authority members can share costs related to equipment, maintenance, legal expenses, consultants, strategic planning, etc.
- Perhaps develop its own dispatch center, but that would be the choice of the members. Consolidation is a buzz word in Lansing and the U.P. will have accomplished consolidation on its own terms (virtual, physical, combination, etc.).
- Each county maintains its own 9-1-1 Plan and there is nothing in the Agreement that obligates a county to take any particular action to which it does not independently agree.

On May 16, the Upper Peninsula of County Commissioners unanimously approved the concept of the development of the Authority with UPCAP assisting and serving as the fiduciary. Civil Council in Marquette as well as a number of other counties have reviewed and approved the Interlocal Agreement.

Discussion followed. Commissioners thanked Mr. VanOosterhout for his leadership.

It was moved by Comm. Struck, seconded by Comm. Arsenault, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board approve a Interlocal Agreement to establish a UP-wide 9-1-1 Authority.

The Committee considered a Fixed Based Operator (FBO) Agreement Extension Request. Scott Erbisch, Sawyer Operations Manager, explained that Marquette County entered into a five (5) year Agreement with Boreal Aviation beginning July 1, 1998.

In 2003, the Agreement was extended for an additional, but not to exceed, five (5) years with a termination date of June 30, 2008.

County Staff has attempted to prepare for and begin negotiations, but is still not in a position to begin discussions.

With the current Agreement expiring at the end of June, 2008, Mr. Erbisch is requesting that the County Board of Commissioners consider and authorize a six (6) month extension, with the same terms and conditions of the existing agreement, with Boreal Aviation. Boreal Aviation is supportive of this extension too.

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It was moved by Comm. Cihak, seconded by Comm. Pellow, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Approve a six (6) month extension to the Fixed Based Operator Agreement with Boreal Aviation under the same terms and conditions of the current agreement.

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The Committee considered a Superior Extrusion/Heartland Business Bank Collateral Agreement. Harley Andrews, Civil Council, reminded Commissioners that as part of its current expansion Superior Extrusion leased from the County three small parcels of raw land to be used for traffic flow and for storage of its aluminum logs. That lease became effective on April 2, 2008.

Also as a part of this expansion SEI is obtaining partial financing from the Heartland Business Bank. The Bank is requiring that SEI put up its leasehold interest in the three parcels as a part of the collateral for that financing, and has submitted an Agreement by which the County would consent to that arrangement. Mr. Andrews had some concerns about some of the language of that proposed Agreement, but those concerns have now been worked out with the Bank's attorney.

The Agreement essentially provides that if SEI were to default on its loan the Bank could take possession of the leased premises in place of SEI, and could continue to operate that business or could insert a new tenant, subject to the approval of the County. As long as the bank remains in possession it will be obligated to comply with the terms of the lease, including the continuation of rent payments which amount to \$330.00 per month. When SEI's obligation to the bank is paid off the Agreement will no longer be in effect.

The Agreement requires signatures on behalf of the Bank, the County, and SEI. Given the language changes that have been made and the minimal potential effect on the County, Mr. Andrews recommends approval of the Agreement.

It was moved by Comm. Wallace, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board Approve the Superior Extrusion/Heartland Business Bank Collateral Agreement and authorize the Board Chair to execute the Agreement on behalf of the County.

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The Committee considered a request from the Department of Natural Resources. Chairperson Corkin explained that in April Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Resource Management Department, received an invitation to attend a developmental meeting of the Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs). Those meetings and brainstorming sessions provided the Department of Natural Resources with valuable information to be used to establish the charter for the CACs. The Department of Natural Resources is announcing that they are ready to accept applications for group representatives and/or individuals to serve on the councils.

Two groups are being established based on the Department's ecosystem boundaries in the UP. The East UP CAC will cover Alger, Chippewa, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft counties. The West UP CAC will cover Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Marquette, Menominee, and Ontonagon counties.

The DNR asks that groups send in more than one nomination since oftentimes members already serve on other committees and may not be able to devote additional time to these councils. If the jurisdiction of the group extends across the UP, groups may send in more than one application for each group. Individuals can

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send in applications for consideration as well. The DNR provided a copy of the CAC charter and an application form. They ask that the application be submitted by July 1, 2008.

Council members will be selected by a panel made up of DNR representatives, Natural Resources Commissioners, and representatives from three constituent groups for the UP. Applicants will be notified in writing following completion of the selection process.

Chairperson Corkin explained that Ms. Karlstrom has been attending these meetings on behalf of Marquette County. He questioned whether any Commissioner is interested or whether the Board wishes to nominate Ms. Karlstrom.

It was moved by Comm. Pellow, seconded by Comm. Struck, and unanimously carried by voice vote that the Committee of the Whole recommend the County Board nominate Thyra Karlstrom, Marquette County Resource Management Department, as the Representative for Marquette County on the UP Citizen Advisory Councils (CACs).

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

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