
**REGULAR MEETING – TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 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. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Alholm and Chairperson Corkin
- Zoom/Video: Comm. Derocha

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Board Action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on August 4, 2020. 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)

3. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board Action: Comm. Nordeen moved to approve the agenda with the addition of 11a) Letter to Gov. Whitmer opposing the re-appointment of Victoria Enyart to the Tax Tribunal. Second by Comm. Derocha. 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)

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

- **Kathleen Mudge, Marquette**, Kathleen is a concerned citizen regarding appropriate signage and boundaries at Sugarloaf Mountain visitors, she was inquiring about the status of this request.

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

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS:

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to Total Expenditures for the Period July 31, 2020 through August 13, 2020 was \$750,940.49; (this amount does not include check payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric); and Bi-Weekly Payroll for the Period ending August 8, 2020 was \$671,863.50. 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)

Board action: Comm. Adamini moved to approve check #201047, dated August 14, 2020 in the amount of \$3,172.04 payable to Alger-Delta Co-Op Electric. Second by Comm. Nordeen. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha and Chairperson Corkin. Abstained ~ Comm. Alholm. Nays ~ None. Motion adopted. (5-0)

7. PUBLIC HEARING:

a. CDBG/Global Response Grant Closeout

Chairperson Corkin, read the following:

**MARQUETTE COUNTY- NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR MICHIGAN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) GLOBAL RESPONSE PROJECT CLOSEOUT**

The Marquette County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on August 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM. The location of the hearing will be in the Commissioner's Chambers (Room 231) of the Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette County Courthouse, 234 West Baraga Avenue, Marquette, MI. Due to the Executive Order 2020-77 limiting in-person meetings to reduce spread of COVID-19, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners meeting will be also held electronically via Zoom. Information regarding participation will be available on the County of Marquette website located at

<http://www.co.marquette.mi.us/index.php>. The purpose of the hearing is to afford citizens an opportunity to examine and submit comments on the closeout and accomplishments of the CDBG grant Global Response project.

Final accomplishment data:

- Total CDBG funding \$430,220.45
- Total Match from Global Response: \$619,687.51
- Global Response trained and retained for a minimum of nine months, 62 full time new jobs at wage rate of \$10.50.
- 57 of the 62 hired were low to moderate income, as defined by HUD.

Further information for the Global Response project, including the grant agreement, is available for review. To inspect the documents, please contact Lauren Luce, Marquette County Resource Management and Development Department, from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday at (906)225-8198.

Special accommodations for public hearings are provided for individuals with disabilities. If needed, please provide five (5) days advance notice to James Kent, Marquette County Human Resource Director by calling (906) 225-8165.

Chairperson Corkin opened up the Public Hearing for comment, none was forthcoming.

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS:

a. Courtyard Improvement Project Change Order #1

Aaron Karlstrom, Facilities Manager, was present to explain the following: During the design phase of the Courtyard Improvement Project, county staff elected to reuse the existing ground buried conduit and exterior light pedestals to reduce the project cost. It was found during excavation that the existing electrical metallic tubing (EMT) was in poor condition showing signs of severe corrosion and requires replacement. The change order in that amount of \$6,290.93 will replace the old failing EMT with plastic conduit along with the installation of new conductors and light pedestal bases.

Board action: Comm. DePetro moved to execute the change order in the amount of \$6,290.93 to Premeau Construction. 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)

b. Sugarloaf Mountain Natural Area – Parking Lot Screening

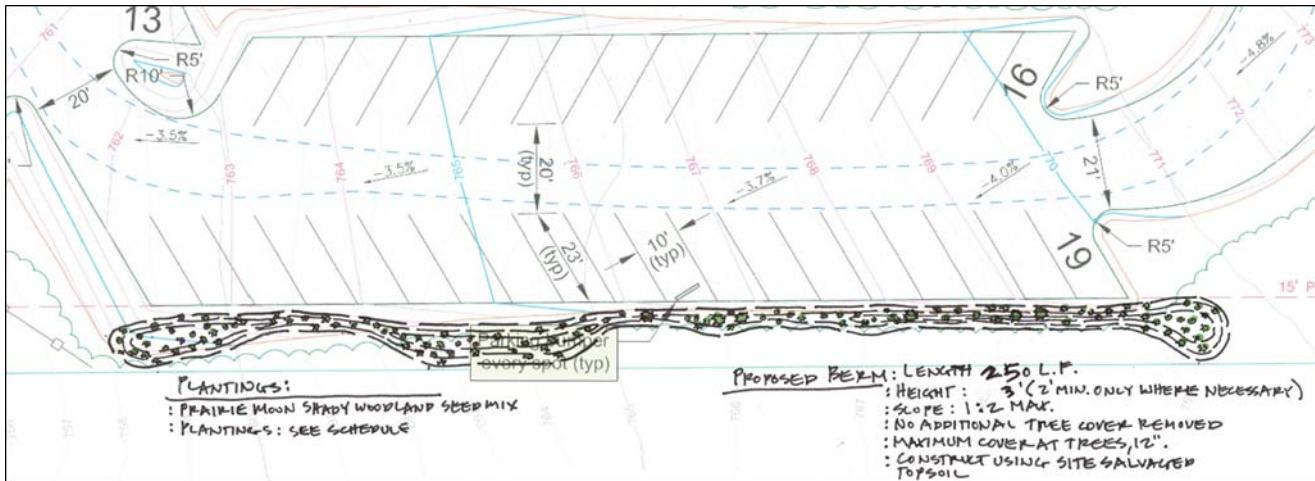
Thyra Karlstrom, Manager of Planning Division, was present to explain the following: staff and Commissioners have met with the adjacent property owner to the south of the gravel parking lot numerous times to discuss concerns about the new parking lot. The project landscape architect, contractor, and staff have developed two screening options to mitigate the impact of the change in use of the land. Both options are an added expense and will require on-going maintenance.

SCREENING OPTIONS

1. Fence- Construct a six foot wood privacy fence at the same, or close as possible, elevation as the southern edge of the parking lot. The fence will be approximately 250' in length. Signs near the end of the fence will be installed encouraging visitors to respect our neighbors. A fence will block vehicle light and greatly reduce trespassing. The close bedrock in the area may be problematic for digging holes for fence posts. Maintenance of a fence will be on-going and repairs will be costly. Per discussion, the adjacent property owner is not in favor of a fence. **Fence Cost: \$10,200**

2. Vegetated Berm- Develop a 2-3' high berm between the property line and the south parking lot edge. The berm will meander around existing trees and be planted with native vegetation suitable to site conditions. Annual inspection and additional planting if needed is recommended and can occur in conjunction with the Conservations District's annual tree sale. This screening option will do little to deter trespassing and will take time to establish,

but complements the aesthetics of a natural area. As extreme weather events become more commonplace, the berm could be prone to erosion and will require monitoring, however it will be planted with native deep rooted species and will be covered with mulch blanket to mitigate erosion until the plantings become established. Once vegetation is stabilized, virtually no maintenance will be required and will provide a pleasing screening between properties. **Vegetated Berm Cost: \$20,865**



In addition to screening options, a portable restroom will be installed on site until a permanent restroom is built, an estimated expense of \$705 through the end of this season. Additional professional services expenses for the screening options are not to exceed \$1,500.

Funding for this added item of the Sugarloaf Parking Expansion Project can come from the Forest and Recreation Fund.

Board action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve Option 2 (Vegetated Berm Cost: \$20,865) and include the cost of a portable restroom (\$705) and a not to exceed cost of \$1,500 for professional services relating to the screening development and implementation. Second by Comm. Alholm. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Comm. DePetro, Comm. Derocha, Comm. Adamini, Comm. Nordeen, Comm. Ahlom and Chairperson Corkin. Nays: None. Motion adopted (6-0)

c. MDOT Airport Awareness Grant & Resolution

Duane DuRay, Director of Operations, was present to discuss the following: The Michigan Department of Transportation, Aeronautics provides funding for an Airport Awareness program to address marketing of commercial air service at many Michigan communities. This program helps stabilize and expand commercial air service by undertaking activities aimed at promoting increased use of services available at local airports. Airport staff is looking for Board consideration for approval.

Sawyer Airport applied and received a grant award and is looking for Board consideration to approve. The funding breakdown is a 90/10 split, see below.

Michigan Department of Transportation (90% Share)	\$5,000
Marquette County (10% Share)	\$ 556
Total	\$5,556

The required sponsor match of \$556 has been reserved in the airport's marketing budget.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXECUTING CONTRACT NO. 2020-0729.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

Section I. That the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan shall enter into a Contract for funding of Airport Awareness, and that such Contract shall be as set forth hereinafter;

Section II. That Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and Linda Talsma, Marquette County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest said execution:

Section III. That the Contract Agreement referred to herein shall be as attached.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to enter into the Michigan Air Service Program Grant Contract No. 2020-0729 with the Michigan Department of Transportation's Office of Aeronautics and approve the associated Resolution (MDOT 2020-0729) authorizing the Board Chair to sign the Airport Awareness contract. Second by Comm. Corkin. 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. MDOT Capital Improvement Grant (ARFF PFAS Containment System) & Resolution

Duane DuRay, Director of Operation, was present to discuss the following: Sawyer International Airport staff is requesting Board consideration to accept a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Capital Improvement Grant. Staff submitted a grant request to MDOT for assistance with reconfiguring the floor drain system within the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) station located in the Airport Service Center.

The purpose for this alteration stems from the acknowledgement of a leak in the foam dispensing system of one of the airport Crash Fire Rescue (CFR) vehicles. The fire retardant that leaked from the truck entered the floor drain system and eventually made its way down to the waste water treatment plant causing contamination within the plant. Working with Environmental, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE), State of Michigan, the solution to eliminate the risk of further contamination requires isolating the drainage system from the rest of the building and routing any future material collection through the floor drain into a self-contained system.

GEI Consultants were hired to develop the necessary engineering to be included with an RFP to isolate the existing drainage system and install a holding tank. The cost to complete the alterations is estimated at \$28,290.

Michigan Department of Transportation	\$ 8,500
Marquette County	\$19,790
Total Estimate	\$28,290

The local share will be split between the CFR and Building Repairs Budget. If approved, staff will proceed with advertising a RFP for the project.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXECUTING CONTRACT NO. 2020-0737.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

Section I. That the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan shall enter into a Contract for funding of a Capital Improvement project, and that such Contract shall be as set forth hereinafter;

Section II. That Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and Linda Talsma, Marquette County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest said execution:

Section III. That the Contract Agreement referred to herein shall be as attached.

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to enter into the Michigan Air Service Program Grant Contract No. 2020-0737 with the Michigan Department of Transportation's Office of Aeronautics and approve the associated Resolution authorizing the Board Chair to sign the Airport Awareness contract. Second by Comm. DePetro. 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)

e. HIG Properties, LLC (aka Tri Media) Sawyer Lease

Scott Erbisch, Administrator, was present to explain the following: HIG Properties, LLC is setting up an operation at K.I. Sawyer. HIG Properties, LLC is purchasing a privately owned parcel and building (E-15). HIG Properties, LLC would like to lease, with the option to purchase, additional county owned properties that surround parcel E-15. Refer to the attached map for clarification and location of the parcels.

As you will note from the attached non-binding letter of intent, the proposed lease, with purchase option, has several components that are a bit unusual and are dependent on the adjacent lease holder with the County to release a portion of its land (AL-03 NW and AL-03 NE). I have had conversations with this lease holder about this request and they are agreeable with the understanding that its lease amount will be adjusted accordingly. Parcels E-14, E-13, E-28, and AL-61 are in the queue seeking release from the FAA. This process has been ongoing for over ten (10) years. It is hoped that the release will be granted soon.

The County and Airport do not have a current or foreseeable need for these parcels and do recommend, once the FAA finalizes release of these parcels, that they be released for sale as detailed in the memo.

Board action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve proceeding with the non-binding letter of intent as explained above. 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)

f. Winter Test Site Lease

Duane DuRay, Director of Operations, was present to explain the following: staff is requesting Marquette County Board of Commissioners approve entering into a three year lease with M.J. Van Damme, Inc. Currently, BWI Chassis Dynamics (BWI) leases the winter test site located on the south west corner of the airport (See attached diagram). This site was previously used as an Air Force staging area for first response aircraft and the site was transformed into an automobile testing and development site after Marquette County took possession.

The current lease agreement is set to expire September 30, 2020 with BWI and includes two buildings, Parcels L-7, L-7A, L-7B, the parcel of land commonly referred to as the "Snow Field Test Expansion Area," consisting of approximately 6 acres, and the Snow and Ice Circle with a combined space of approximately 31,912 sf and roughly 154.17 acres of property. BWI previously notified Sawyer staff it was instructed to research alternate testing options and / or locations for their operations. Negotiations between BWI and M.J. Van Damme took place whereby Van Damme agreed to assume responsibility for the lease with BWI renting test space from them on mutually agreeable terms.

M.J. Van Damme Inc. contacted county staff to discuss options to take over the lease agreement from BWI and run the operation as a test site with the intent to build the business and offer test space to multiple entities.

Open dialogue continued between both parties and county staff to insure all options were investigated. On August 7th, 2020, BWI provided notice of their intent not to renew the lease agreement with the County. Negotiations with M.J. Van Damme resulted in a three (3) year lease, detailed below. The basic fees remain the same with some minor changes.

Premises: Building 104, consisting of 25,000 sf, building commonly referred to as "the Garage Building, consisting of approximately 6,912 sf, Building 112, consisting of approximately 3,762 sf, Parcel L-7, consisting of approximately 114.04 acres, Parcel

L-7A, consisting of approximately 9.74 acres, Parcel L-7B consisting of approximately 4.39 acres, the parcel of land commonly referred to as the “Snow Field Test Expansion Area,” consisting of approximately 6 acres, and the parcel of land enclosed by fencing, commonly referred to as the “Snow and Ice Circle Expansion Area,” consisting of approximately 20 acres.

Lease Term: Three years commencing October 1, 2020, with option to renew for up to three additional three year terms.

Rental Rate: Eighteen Thousand six hundred eighty-four and 33/100 dollars (\$18,684.33) per month for thirty-six months upon commencement of the lease agreement. Extension terms to be negotiated and mutually agreed upon.

Improvement Fund: Lessor will place four thousand one hundred sixty-six and 67/100 dollars (\$4,166.67) of the monthly rent payment (fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) annually) into a separate account to be used for facility improvements, repairs or new construction. All such projects must be approved by the County. Should Lessee purchase some or all of the property at or before expiration of the lease or any extension, any funds in this account shall be applied towards the purchase. Otherwise, any remaining funds will be kept by Lessor.

Lessor Match: Lessor will fund one-half of the actual cost of any agreed on improvements not to exceed fifty-seven thousand dollars (\$57,000) of existing improvement funds.

Other: Lessee shall be responsible for all real estate taxes, snow removal, trash removal, and general maintenance of the buildings and property.

Building Condition: The property and buildings are provided as-is, where-is.

Security Deposit: Lessee shall make a payment equal to one month's rent in the amount of Eighteen Thousand six hundred eighty-four and 33/100 dollars (\$18,684.33). The security deposit will be held by the Lessor and returned to the Tenant at the expiration of the lease term, if Tenant remains a Tenant in good standing in accordance with the lease terms and conditions.

Notable changes to lease:

- Addition of Building 112 at no additional cost - \$10,909 reduction. Van Damme is currently leasing the facility to house support equipment for the BWI test site.
- Improvement fund contribution increase from \$24,000 to \$50,000 annually. This fund currently allocates \$2,000 a month from the monthly rent payment and places those funds into an improvement fund used for approved repairs. This change will add an addition \$2,166.67 from the monthly lease payment into the fund. This fund remains an account with the County and will remain with the County if the lease expires or is not renewed.
- The previous lease agreement provided 100% funding of approved repairs from the improvement fund, the existing funds in that account (\$57,000) will be available for agreed on improvements at a 50% match.
- Annual Lease Rate:

	Current BWI	Proposed M.J. Van Damme
Basic Lease Rate-	\$224,212	\$224,212
Improvement Fund-	-\$ 24,000	-\$ 50,000
Van Damme Building 112-	\$ 10,909	-\$ 10,909
Total Revenue	\$211,121	\$163,303

Overall, these changes result in a reduction of \$47,818 in lease revenue, but considering BWI does not intend to renew their lease, Van Damme is a viable alternative with potential for growth. Van Damme's plans include potential new jobs, added value to the site, and helps promote our shared vision of Sawyer as a growing winter test site. M.J. Van Damme Inc. continues to provide good jobs for the area, they desire to improve and grow the operation. The new agreement provides a three-year lease to include potential improvements to the operation and facility.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the three (3) year lease and request the proposed lease be approved for signature by Chairperson Corkin and M.J. Van Damme. 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. MDOT Agreement for Grant (3-26-0153-4520) & Resolution

Duane DuRay, Director of Operation, was present to discuss the following: staff is presenting a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Sponsor Contract for approval relating to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grant 3-26-0153-4520. At the July 7th County Commissioners meeting, the County Board approved this FAA AIP grant, but at that time the MDOT sponsor contract was not available. Staff routinely presents both agreements from the FAA and MDOT for Airport Improvement grants together, but due to COVID, State staffing furloughs and reductions, the Sponsor contract between MDOT and Marquette was delayed until just recently.

The grant will provide funding for pavement crack sealing and marking on all of the taxiways and runways and the construction and placement of a liquid deicing agent storage tank. The MDOT agreement is a standard agreement between the County and the State regarding the management of the funds disbursements for the grant to the various vendors participating in the project grant; including our compliance requirements associated with acceptance of the federal and/or State funds.

This agreement does not obligate Marquette County to additional financial responsibility for any portion of the approved scope of work within the current FAA AIP grant 3-26-0153-4520. The FAA under the Cares Act legislation is providing 100% of the project funding, see below for the funding breakdown:

Project	Federal	State	Local	Total
Rehab Runway 1-19 Crack sealing and Marking	\$211,130	\$0	\$0	\$211,130
Deicing Chemical Storage	\$186,666	\$0	\$0	\$186,666
Rehab Taxiways A,B,C,D,E,F,G Crack Seal and Marking	\$ 76,998	\$0	\$0	\$ 76,998
Total Project Budget	\$474,793	\$0	\$0	\$474,793

RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF THE CONTRACT BY THE MARQUETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN, AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXECUTING CONTRACT NO. 2020-0835.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan:

Section I. That the Board of Commissioners of Marquette County, Michigan shall enter into a Contract for Rehab Runway 1-19 & Taxiways (Crack Sealing and Marking) and Deicing Chemical Storage Tank and that such Contract shall be as set forth hereinafter;

Section II. That Gerald O. Corkin, Chairperson of the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Contract on behalf of the County of Marquette, Michigan, and Linda Talsma, Marquette County Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to attest said execution;

Section III. That the Contract Agreement referred to herein shall be as attached.

Board action: Comm. DePetro moved to approve the MDOT Sponsor Contract to include the attached MDOT Resolution for Grant Agreement No: 3-26-0153-4520 and authorize Chairman Gerald Corkin to sign the Sponsor Contract. 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)

h. Contact Pre-Approval for Liquid De-Ice Storage Tank - WR Construction

Megan Murray, Assistant Airport Manager, was present to explain the following: Sawyer International Airport staff is requesting the Marquette County Board to pre-approve the contract, which is currently under contract review, to enter into an agreement with WR Construction, Inc for the construction portion of the Liquid De-Ice Storage Tank project. Sawyer International Airport was approved for an FAA Airport Improvement Grant on July 13th, 2020. Bids were received for this project through assistance with the Project Engineer, Mead and Hunt, and are detailed in the list below.

Contractor	Bid Amount
WR Construction	\$139,442.00
Arrow Constructors	\$150,750.00
Associated Constructors	\$165,400.00
Premeau Construction	\$171,120.00

The Liquid De-Ice Storage Tank project will allow for the airport to obtain bulk amounts of runway de-icing fluid at a reduced cost. The Liquid De-Icing chemicals will greatly increase the airport staff's ability to combat the winter conditions and re-dice runway closures.

Project cost: \$139,442.00

Due to the CARES Act, this project is fully funded by the FAA, requiring a 0% state or local share; the anticipated start time for this project is expected for August 2020.

Board action: Comm. Derocha moved to pre-approve the contract agreement for the Liquid De-Ice Storage Tank project with WR Construction amounting to \$139,442.00 financed by AIP grant funding. (Project#: 3-26-0153-045-2020). 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)

11. LATE ADDITIONS:

a. **Letter to Gov. Whitmer opposing the re-appointment of Victoria Enyart to the Tax Tribunal Chairperson Corkin** read the following letter: On behalf of the Board of Marquette County Commissioners, I would like to oppose the reappointment of Victoria Enyart to the Tax Tribunal. Her position has been an obstacle to the Dark Store Reform and has resulted in a financial loss of millions from local and state government due to flawed interpretation of state tax laws.

As Michigan attempts to move forward in these financially unsure times, closing this tax loophole will be critical for Michigan's future. We respectfully request you to rescind your decision to reappoint Ms. Enyart to the Tax Tribunal.

Board action: Comm. Alholm moved to send this letter to Gov. Whitmer, Rep. McBroom, Rep. Cambensy and the U.P. County Chairs. 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)

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

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. DePetro** commended the League of Women Voters of Marquette County – Kim Winokar, Director of Membership and Darlene Allen, President along with their staff for reestablishing the League. The League had set out to recruit 100 members back in 2017 and despite the COVID-19 has accomplished this goal. In November the League of Women Voters of the United States were recognized as their own independent league. Marquette County motorists will see over 100 signs from the League of Women Voters to vote in 2020. This year the League of Women Voters are celebrating their 100th Anniversary as well as the Centennial of women across the Country winning the right to vote, with the passage of the 19th amendment.
- **Chairperson Corkin** thanked Comm. DePetro and Comm. Derocha on their help with the Sugarloaf Berm Project, and their help in accomplishing the safety issue concerning Sugarloaf parking for visitors.
- **Comm. Nordeen** recognized the Health Department along with Dr. Piggott for all the good work and public information concerning our COVID-19 Pandemic. The Health Department has worked a great deal in keeping Marquette County informed of the safety requirements and helping create a Plan for Marquette County.

14. CLOSED SESSION:

a) **MCL 15.268(e) to conference with counsel to review litigation developments and determine strategy in the Empire Iron Mining Partnership and Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company matter pending in the Michigan Tax Tribunal.**

Board action: Comm. Nordeen moved to go into closed session as stated above. Second by Comm. Alholm. 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)

*** Commissioners came back into Open Session with no Board Action from the Closed Session.

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:26 p.m.

**Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk**

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