

SPECIAL MEETING – THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 – 5:00 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 Joe Derocha at 5:00 p.m. – Room 231 Henry A. Skewis Annex, Marquette. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call. Present: Comm. Numinen, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Alholm, Comm. Nordeen and Chairperson Derocha. - Absent & Excused: None

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Board Action: Comm. Alholm moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Comm. Numinen. Motion adopted (5-0)

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

4. PROCLAMATION, PRESENTATIONS AND AWARDS

5. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Judge Griffin** requested the upgrade for HVAC in the Circuit Court rooms, the courtrooms become unbearable in the summer, which becomes hard on jury members along with litigates. The comfort level is important!
- **Margaret Brumm**, Marquette, reiterated the need for the HVAC system in the courtroom. Also stated that the applicants tonight are here for the District 3 Vacancy, this position held by Stephen Adamini and he will be hard to replace.
- **Craig Coccia**, Gwinn, spoke with concerns on the Aviation Fuel Supply Agreement, opposes Avfuel Corporation being the new Fuel Supply for the FBO.
- **Jesse Bell** spoke in opposition Avfuel Corp. being the new Fuel Supply for the FBO.
- **Eric Sibley** spoke in opposition Avfuel Corp. being the new Fuel Supply for the FBO.

6. REVIEW OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

7. PUBLIC HEARING

8. PRIVILEGED COMMENT:

The following five applicants have applied for the Commissioner District 3 Vacancy, each applicant has 5 minutes to introduce and explain their interest in the vacant position.

- **Fred Benzie** – *Not Present had a Pre-planned trip out of the Country*
- **William (Bill) Matson**
- **Randy Ritari**
- **Jenna Smith**
- **William Sullivan**

**Chairperson Derocha stated all applicants are uniquely qualified to serve as the next District 3 County Commissioner.*

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

10. ACTION ITEMS

a. Marquette County Commissioner –District 3 – Vote taken

- **Comm. LaLonde** voted for **William Sullivan**
- **Comm. Alholm** voted for **Jenna Smith**
- **Comm. Numinen** voted for **Fred Benzie**
- **Comm. Nordeen** voted for **Fred Benzie**
- **Chairperson Derocha** voted for **Fred Benzie**

**Fred Benzie will fill the vacancy of County Commissioner – District 3 until December 31, 2026.*

b. Authorization to Proceed on Aviation Fuel Agreement

Duane DuRay, Administrator updated the following information and answered questions: As part of the transition to a county-operated Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport, staff has evaluated aviation fuel supply options to support commercial airline service, general aviation activity, and anticipated operational growth. A reliable and cost-effective aviation fuel supply is essential to maintaining efficient and sustainable airport operations. Staff reviewed proposals from three aviation fuel suppliers:

- Avfuel Corporation
- Arrow Energy (Phillips 66 branded program)
- Titan Aviation Fuels

These proposals distributed to the Board of Commissioners for comprehensive review. Each submission outlines the products, services, and support necessary to establish and maintain a successful fuel supply partnership with the County of Marquette. Staff also provided a summary of the services offered in the proposals.

Board action: Comm. Numinen moved to authorize proceeding with the finalization of the fuel supply agreement with **Avfuel Corporation** to support aviation fueling operations at Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport. Second by Comm. Alholm. **Roll Call:** Ayes: Comm. Numinen, Comm. LaLonde, Comm. Nordeen, Comm., Alholm and Chairperson Derocha. Nays: None. Absent: None

11. LATE ADDITIONS

12. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Craig Coccia**, Gwinn concerned about the fuel prices for the FBO.
- **Jesse Bell**, Marquette questioned the relay of information could have been better for the public re: Fuel
- **Eric Sibley**, Negaunee questioned the price of fuel along with questioning the members on the Airport Advisory Board.
- **Randy Ritari** disappointed that no support for him on the vote tonight, but announced his candidacy in August and November.
- **Margaret Brumm**, Marquette remarked on the vibrant batch of candidates tonight. In addition, she requested facts/figures be shared with the public going forward regarding the fuel costs at Sawyer FBO.

13. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS, STAFF COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Comm. Nordeen** clarified the purchase of the fuel from Avfuel and the County will then put their own charge on the fuel. In addition thanked all for coming tonight and recognized it is hard to be a public official today, but nice to see the interest in this Commissioner position from very qualified applicants.
- **Comm. Alholm** qualifications were impressive by all applicants and thanked staff for their hard work on getting the information together on the Fuel discussion for tonight.
- **Comm. LaLonde** very happy with the information from staff, which made making a decision easier regarding the Fuel Agreement. In addition happy to see the amount of qualified applicants tonight and mentioned the ability to run for candidacy if you decide!
- **Comm. Numinen** told a parable regarding the controversy over the fuel agreement decision.
- **Chairperson Derocha** appreciated all the interest in the District 3 Position this evening along with the public comment tonight.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:14 p.m.



Linda K. Talsma
Marquette County Clerk

Joseph Derocha, Chairperson
Marquette County Board of Commissioners