

**Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency
Public Hearing**

4:00 to 6:00 p.m. • Monday, August 3, 2009
Northern Michigan University
Charcoal Room • 2nd Floor • Don H. Bottum University Center
Kaye Avenue • Marquette, Michigan

Members Present:

James Curran, Co-Chair
Michel Sussman

I. Call to Order

Co-Chair Curran called the public hearing to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Public Participation

Eleven members of the public turned in participation request cards.

Gerald R. Peterson, LLC
840 Orianna Drive
Marquette, MI 49855
City of Negaunee, MML
(906) 869-2769

-generally agrees with overarching principles
-know impact of correction changes on local communities
-is not particularly opposed to earmarking some revenue, but is concerned if new mandates in record-keeping process
-major structural and fairness problems with Proposal A

Kathleen Godec
14 W. Sandwood Drive
Marquette, MI 49855
UAW Local 2178 – NMU

-opposed to elimination of Promise grant
-keep health benefits for public university school employees and collective bargaining

Jim Cihak
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
District 1
234 W. Baraga Avenue
Marquette, MI 49855
(906) 225-8151
UAW Local 6000

-concerned with transferring MPI Program to contractors & prison closings
-need reduction in state mandates
-concerned with reducing funding to community mental health
-agrees with reinstating the Michigan Sentencing Guidelines Commission

Alan Kilar
DHS - State Employee

-no more studies needed/need to monitor contracts
-leave health care benefits in collective bargaining

Randall E. Girard
161 Co. Rd. 492
Marquette, MI 49855
Marquette Charter Township
(906) 228-6220 Ext. 103

-be cautious as to how to structure constitutional and statutory revenue sharing
-remove barriers for local cooperation
-more taxing authority requires vote of people
-SEE ATTACHED WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR MORE DETAILS

Scott Dianda
President
Michigan State Employees Assoc. – AFSCME
Lansing, MI
(517) 394-5900

-need to monitor state contracts and eliminate if necessary
-opposed to closing Mount Pleasant Center

Jason Morgan
913 Lee Street
Marquette, MI 49855
Associated Students of NMU (student gov.)
(989) 751-6287

-opposed to elimination of Promise grant and reduction to higher ed funding

Gail Hall
Rapid River, MI 49878
Pathways Community Mental Health NCare PIHP
(906) 225-7201

-against reduction in non-medicaid dollars to community mental health

Donna Kitrick
200 W. Spring St.
Marquette, MI 49855
NorthCare PIHP
226-0044

-efficiencies can be made by combining coordinating agencies
-pay providers the costs they incur

Tony Tollefson
1210 Logan
Marquette, MI
UAW-NMU

-wait for national health care plan
-leave health care benefits in collective bargaining
-concerned with unfunded mandates

David O. Schultz
E4040 Hwy M35
Bark River, MI 49807
Delta Co. & Pathways
(906) 786-3932

-need to address impact of funding cuts and remove politics
from issues

Charter Township of Marquette

MARQUETTE COUNTY — 161 Co. Rd. 492, Marquette MI 49855 — (906) 228-6220—FAX (906) 228-7337

August 3, 2009

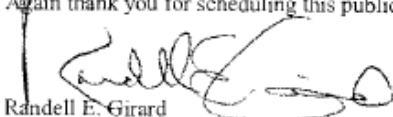
Legislative Commission on Government Efficiency
Public Hearing conducted at Northern Michigan University
Marquette, MI 49855

Commission Members:

My name is Randy Girard and I thank you for conducting this public hearing in Marquette. I am here before you today as Township Manager representing the Charter Township of Marquette. With respect to your charge and issued list of potential reforms; I have five general questions related to revenue sharing for local units of government. My questions are as follow:

- What does the commission intend related to providing revenue sharing for specific or restricted purposes? Does this mean fire protection, EMS, parks? Having flexibility allows local governments to target revenue sharing to where it is needed most. Has the commission calculated the significant cuts made to revenue sharing in the last 6-8 years related to this recommendation?
- Since the commission is recommending incentives for sharing services, has it conducted a baseline study to better understand how much cooperation is currently taking place amongst local governments in Michigan? In other words, how would the commission institute such incentives and are there certain services that it is looking for that local governments are supposed to be doing in a shared manner?
- Does the commission understand that cooperative services do not always result in reduced costs?
- Does the commission understand that in many rural areas there are limited opportunities for shared local services?
- Has the commission taken into consideration that more than 600 townships in Michigan currently provided fire services jointly with another local unit of government?

Again thank you for scheduling this public hearing.


Randell E. Girard
Township Manager

