



## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release

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For More Information:

**Marquette CFO Gary Simpson / 228-0415**

### **INNOVATION MARQUETTE FUNDING APPROVED, BOARD IN PLACE**

The State Treasurer has officially signed off on the 15-year funding plan for the new Innovation Marquette SmartZone. The approval, which came on June 18, was the final step after more than a year of work by the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) and the SmartZone Ad-Hoc Committee. The process of putting programs in place to support new technology ideas in Marquette can now begin.

The first meeting of the new Innovation Marquette Board of Directors was held May 26 and the following individuals were elected as officers: Fred Taccolini, president; Lee Francisco, vice president; Robert Niemi, treasurer; and Rosemary Smith, secretary. Additional board members include Brad Canale, Fritz Erickson, Steve Hicks, Mona Lang, Matthew Songer, Russ Tripp, Jeff Wallace and Rich VanderVeen. There will also be one non-voting member from the Houghton Hancock MTEC SmartZone and the Michigan Economic Development Corp in Lansing.

“This is great news for Marquette,” said president Fred Taccolini. “We look forward to working closely with all of the organizations in the county focused on bringing good jobs to the area. We also plan to communicate regularly with residents on our plans and progress.”

Rosemary Smith, Chair of the LDFA, agreed, stating: “The next steps are to formally adopt a budget, hire an executive director, secure office space, implement SmartStart entrepreneurial support services and help support events, such as SmartPrize.”

For additional details, please visit: <http://www.mqtcty.org/smartzone.php>.

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