

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
September 19, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on September 19, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI and began with the pledge of allegiance. This meeting is now the combination of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge meeting and the regular Board meeting. The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge sale was completed on September 5, 2018.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Sandy Gayk, Jim Vivian, Del Rajala, Don Piche.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2018 regular monthly meeting and the August 15, 2018 Keweenaw Mountain Lodge meeting as written.

Harvey Desnick, Keweenaw Mountain Lodge coordinator gave the update for August. The sale of the Lodge was completed on 9/5/18 and it went smooth. August month fell short of last year in revenues and payroll was up. There will not be enough money left after everything is closed out to pay the County back all the money that was loaned to KML this year. Mr. Desnick said it should be a relief for the County and its' taxpayers that KML is sold and is now in private hands. Mr. Desnick thanked the Board for the support that he received over the last two seasons.

The Treasurer, Sheriff, and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$164,323.14 Construction Codes=\$6,894.78 911 Fund=\$1,950.07 Child Care Fund=\$609.43 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$1,161.24 Houghton County Medical Care Facility Fund=\$775.62 Loan to Keweenaw Mountain Lodge=\$0 Keweenaw Mountain Lodge Vendors=\$124,255.37 Payroll=\$83,471.85 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the forward progress of MasTec and Black & Veatch to do their upgrades and improvements to the tower at MHG.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the Professional Services Proposal for the Keweenaw County Communications Tower at the Sheriff's Office from OHM. This project proposal includes the Soil Boring and Request for Proposals for \$6,900.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to support the Land Swap between TRG and the State of Michigan. Eric Stier from TRG came to the Board in August to see if there was support for this swap. Members of the Board said that it would be a positive thing for the county for many reasons including that it would be State owned and therefore would remain open to the public.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to table the Gratiot Park Ordinance against camping until further information can be gathered.

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to put ads in the paper for sealed bids to sell the pickup truck and skid steer from the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. There will be a minimum bid of \$500 on the truck and of \$3,000 on the skid steer. The tractor will be kept at the Courthouse for snow removal.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the Amended Bill of Sale for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge which was amended to include the estimated value on the liquor and beer inventory that was transferred to Keweenaw Resort LLC on the day of closing of KML. The Amended Bill of Sale is required by the Liquor Control Commission for Keweenaw Resort LLC to apply for its' permanent liquor license. This document will be available to the new owner once the County Treasurer is satisfied with the documents and reports being turned over to the County.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to forward the last quarter of the payment from UPPCO to Keweenaw Resort LLC for the tower lease at KML. This \$2,400 payment is made annually and is paid in advance. The County will write a check for \$800 to Keweenaw Resort LLC for the last quarter of 2018.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department appropriation of \$30,263 for 2019.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to name October 18, 2018 as the Marshall Frederick Kipina Remembrance Day. The following was approved:

"Marshall Frederick Kipina, was a 1964 graduate of Calumet High School and soon after enlisted in the United States Army. On July 14, 1966, while serving as an observer/airborne sensor, his plane was lost over Laos and Staff Sgt. Kipina

was listed as missing in action. That status remained unchanged until April of this year when the Defense/POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that Sgt. Kipina's remains had been identified.

To honor Sgt. Kipina's sacrifice and service to his Country, and in conjunction with his interment at Arlington National Cemetery, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners proclaims Thursday, October 18, 2018 as Marshall Frederick Kipina Remembrance Day and requests that all flags in Keweenaw County be lowered to half-staff on that day."

A service will be held at Lakeview Cemetery at 9:00 a.m. which is the same time of the service at Arlington. Four junior cadets from Calumet High School's JROTC and an office will attend the service at Arlington National Cemetery.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the 2018 Emergency Management Performance Grant application which provides for a portion of the emergency program manager's salary and fringe benefits.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow Rajala to attend the UP Association of County Commissioners Fall Conference to be held on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Harris, MI.

Steve Currie, Executive Director of Michigan Association of Counties will be here on September 25, 2018 and would like to meet with Board members. Gayk, Piche and Vivian are able to meet.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to put the Pump House Building Repairs out to bid as soon as possible.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to stop using the building at Mount Horace Greeley for public storage and to use it for county property only. A letter will be sent by the County Treasurer to the two private parties that have things stored currently. They can keep their property there until Spring.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to follow the County Treasurer's recommendation to pay the first half installation for the County to Houghton County for the Tri-County Public Defender's Office for indigent defense. Keweenaw County's share is \$8,341 annually so our first installment will be \$4,175.50.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to look into security systems for the Courthouse and Sheriff's Building.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried have Baraga Telephone come to the Courthouse and clean up the phone system wiring and to label the active components.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to have Keweenaw Lite & Power look at the Courthouse box and ground and replace if necessary.

Piche and Gayk (Alternate Vivian) will come in to meet with departments on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for budgeting purposes. A formal budget meeting date will be set at the October meeting.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to change the November monthly meeting date from November 21<sup>st</sup> to Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Public comment was allowed. Charlie Hopper from Pasty.net was present and was glad that the Board decided to move forward and get some soil borings done for the Sheriff Department tower. Charlie repeated his offer to splint the current tower until there is a replacement. He would put a pipe above and below the slits in the tower and would also pay for the repairs. Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to allow Charlie Hopper/pasty.net to make temporary repairs to the current tower. The repairs are low enough climbing the tower is not necessary.

The owners of Sunset Beach Campground suggested that the County construct and open a campground at the Mouth of the Gratiot Park. They said that they turn away people daily who are looking to camp. These campers buy groceries, gas and eat at restaurants which boosts tourism. They said that pit toilets are allowed by the DNR and if you had campground hosts, there aren't problems like the County has now.

Nathan Miller from the Copper Harbor Trails Club stated his thanks for the County supporting the potential land swap between TRG and the State of Michigan. It could be a huge benefit to the Club for future trails.

There being no further business, motion by Gayk to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, Clerk