

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
May 20, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on May 20, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m., was held via Zoom (a virtual meeting platform where everyone signs in from home) due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the County website. The Zoom invitation was also posted on the County website so the public could attend.

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

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following changes: Correct the amount of \$ listed for the Medical Care Fund to \$1,034.16 and under new business add item l) Proposal for Crushed Mine Rock Parking Area on Side of Carriage House Garage, m) Proposal for Disposal of Garbage from Garage/Grounds.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the April 15, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes.

The following reports were available: Sheriff, Treasurer and Mine Inspector.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$192,795.66 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,513.08 911 Fund=\$1,039.42 Medical Care Fund=\$1,034.16 Indigent Defense Fund=\$4,267.36 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Tom Wierciak, the wastewater treatment operator, takes care of the sewer ponds near Mount Horace Greeley that are owned by the County. These ponds have aging infrastructure with basically no maintenance for several years. The following things need to be taken care of soon:

- Four valves that move water between the lagoons-the valves are no longer working and must be replaced. A contractor would need to be able to work in an enclosed space
- Vegetation control-There is excessive weed overgrowth in the lagoons. There are a few options. A labor force can go in and pull the weeds, heavy equipment can be used to take care of the vegetation, but this is not recommended as the liners can be damaged. Lastly, herbicides can be used but would need proper permits and a licensed company or person would have to be hired. The vegetation encourages critters which also causes damage to the ponds.
- Perimeter fence-There is a gate at the road to come into the sewer ponds but there is not a fence around the perimeter. Fencing is required and should be looked at.
- Age of the liners-The liners in the ponds are about 25 years old which is nearing the end of the life of a liner. Liner replacement is about \$750,000. USDA loans may be available.

For right now, the valves need to be replaced. Jim Vivian will contact Siler concerning the valves and will schedule a time to meet there with Tom. Vivian will also talk to a former employee who used to take care of the lagoons to ask about the herbicides. No action can take place without Board approval.

Five bids were received for the 2012 Chevy Impala that was advertised on social media and in the Daily Mining Gazette. The following bids were received:

David Anderson	\$867.00
Mike Immonen	\$886.88
Keweenaw Auto Body	\$751.50
Steven Evanoff	\$750.00
Ben Bjorn	\$750.00

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian to sell the car to Mike Immonen in the amount of \$886.88. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to set a public hearing on June 17, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. for Truth in Taxation. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois to enter Susan Sanford's Audit Engagement Letter for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 in the amount of \$10,100 per year. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to table the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Exemption Fee proposal. Ann Gasperich will bring information to the Board for June. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to support Sheriff Pennala's recommendation to use a part time desk person to fill the shifts of the deputies when they take vacation/sick time instead of calling in deputies on overtime. This will save the county some money as the part time person is also paid less. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala to approve the resolution for the application for a Risk Reduction Grant through the Michigan Township Participating Plan (Par Plan) to purchase a taser for the Sheriff Department. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried. **(#20-6)**

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to allow Sheriff Pennala to spend up to \$600 for the crushed mine rock on the side of the carriage house garage for a parking area to store some of the trailers and equipment that are now being parked on the grass near the sheriff department. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There was a proposal on the agenda for a dump truck for garbage disposal for the Courthouse and Sheriff's office and the garage. After discussion, it was decided that the enclosed trailer from the sheriff department could be used.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to approve a new blotter system to log incidents/complaints for the Sheriff Department. This system will be paid from the 911 Fund if it is possible and if not, it will come from the Sheriff Training Fund. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to approve the Keweenaw County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan as presented. The plan will be available on the county website at keweenawcountyonline.org. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Services Coordinator, updated the Board about what is happening in our area due to COVID 19. He did inform the Board that Isle Royale would be closed until further notice.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala to approve Bob Mikesch to come in to assist with financial matters for the county at the rate of \$30 per hour plus mileage. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Gogo Cellular had intended to upgrade their equipment two years ago and it never happened. They have now contacted the county and are interested in doing the upgrade again. There are some questions that have been raised and Ann Gasperich and Chuck Miller will address those and then the Board will be approached to approve an amendment to the Gogo Cellular contract.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to create a Safety Committee consisting of the Clerk, Treasurer, 911 Coordinator, Sheriff and a County Commissioner. This committee is being created to be able to apply for a grant from the Michigan Counties Workmen Comp Fund for some stand up desks. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Time was allowed for public comment. The Gratiot River Park restrooms will be opened as soon as everything is in place to be able to clean the restrooms. Most of the supplies have arrived but we are waiting on a vehicle. As soon as possible, the restrooms will be open and available for use. For now, the garbage is being taken care of.

There being no further business, motion by Gayk to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. For the record, the meeting went very well even though it was done remotely. Social distancing is required right now, and Board members and the public were still able to gather safely and take care of the county business. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk