

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON WITH ZOOM AVAILABLE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
October 21, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on October 21, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in person with Zoom available 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 via Zoom.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois unanimously carried to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the September 16, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes as submitted.

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

Steve Currie, Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Counties appeared via Zoom. He had a Power Point presentation for the Board which went through what MAC is all about and some of the things that they are working on which assist the counties on many levels.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Vivian supported by Gayk to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$168,293.17 Construction Codes Fund=\$6,329.12 911 Fund=\$6,715.40 Medical Care Fund=\$775.62 Child Care Fund=\$998.04 Veterans Affairs Fund=\$9,643.53 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Piche, Rajala. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the 2020 Apportionment Report as presented.

The Equalization Director gave an update on the designated assessor situation. She said that most of the townships had agreed on a person and that she would be working with the attorney on an interlocal agreement that should be ready for the next Board meeting.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the grant award for the 2021 County Veteran Service Fund Grant in the amount of \$49,780. The new VSO for Keweenaw County, Derek Parkinen, was present via Zoom.

Tom Wierciak was on Zoom to give the Board his observations on the Mount Horace Greeley sewer ponds that the county owns. He said that there are operational and maintenance issues there that need to be addressed. The valving system is not working correctly and there is excessive weed growth. Those things along with the aging liners are some big concerns. The county should be thinking about either doing some major maintenance or looking to decommission the ponds. Piche will reach out to OHM to begin talking about the options.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to set the salary range for the Juvenile Officer/Probate Register position from \$30,000 to \$40,000 with full benefits. The Probate Judge can begin the hiring process.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried (Vivian and Gayk abstained as they voted at the Planning Commission level) to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to change the zoning at Mount Horace Greeley to Resort Service 2.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried not approving the draft of the zoning flyer to property owners. After extensive discussion, the Board will continue to explore the options of how to make zoning more streamlined and less confusing and perhaps allowing the townships to do their own zoning. It will go on the November agenda as Unfinished Business.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) Intergovernmental contract between NorthCare Network and the County.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Indigent Criminal Defense Contract between Houghton, Baraga, and Keweenaw Counties and the Tri-County Public Defenders, to approve moving the funds from the General Fund to the Indigent Defense Fund and also to pay half of the amount now.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow a subordination agreement to be drawn up for the homeowner at Lot 5 of Block 4 of the Supervisor's Plat of the Village of Mohawk. The county holds a 15-year lien on the property.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to continue with the same MERS Defined Benefit Plan as the county currently has for each of its three divisions and to approve the Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to hold a budget meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Courthouse doors will remain locked with the public coming in by appointment only or by ringing the doorbell.

The committee meetings will continue to be on hold due to COVID 19.

There being no further business, motion by Gayk to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk