

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2021

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on February 17, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the County website.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois and Randy Eckloff in person, Jim Vivian/Central, Del Rajala/Mohawk, Don Piche/Lac La Belle.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the agenda as submitted.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the January 20, 2021 regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Dale Sulak of Captured Lightning was a guest at the meeting. Mr. Sulak has been interested in purchasing Mount Horace Greeley, all parcels including the access parcel. Mr. Sulak is ready to begin negotiations right away and has done due diligence and knows what he is getting at MHG. Mr. Sulak wants to relocate and expand his business and wants the lines of communication to remain open. Members of the Board stated that going to public auction would open the opportunity up to everyone who may be interested.

Eric Stier of TRG came to the Board asking for the County to submit a nomination form to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for Land Acquisition for approximately 15,400+ acres of privately owned forestland on the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula near Copper Harbor. This land is important to the way of life that people have grown accustomed to, being able to fish, hunt, ATV, snowmobile, bike ride, and hike on this land. This property is important for recreation and with Keweenaw County's economy being based on tourism, this area is a crucial piece that will be coming up for sale and it would be in the county's best interest to have the State of Michigan as the new owner.

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$139,475.95 Construction Codes Fund=\$3,525.86 911 Fund=\$10,860.34 Veterans Affairs=\$3,086.59 Medical Care Fund=\$1,034.16 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported and DeMarois and unanimously carried to table the zoning issue until March as the Board waits to hear from two townships.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table item b and c under Unfinished Business, which are; Proposed Sale of Trail Property near KML and Approval of DNR Application to Remove Restriction on Trail Property until all easements are complete and a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners can be set.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to authorize Chairman Piche to sign the Fifth Amendment to Site Lease between Keweenaw County and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (at&t) which increases rent by \$450 per month for the additional three antennas. The lease will go to the at&t legal team and will be sent to the county and if the county attorney is satisfied, Chairman Piche will sign the amendment at that time.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to sponsor and sign the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Nomination for Land Acquisition for the 15,400+ acres of land near the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint Rajala as the alternate to WUPPDR.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to have Piche, Rajala and the Building Codes Clerk meet to select the next electrical inspector from the applicants that applied.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to enter into the agreement for extension services between Keweenaw County and the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University on behalf of Michigan State University Extension for 2021.

County Attorney Miller updated the Board on the steps that will be taken to clear title to the property at Mount Horace Greeley. There are documents that are not ready to be voted on tonight but should be reviewed.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the auction contract with Maas Companies Inc for the sale of the property at Mount Horace Greeley. Maas has worked with the county in the past with the auction of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

Zane Hyrkas from OHM was present at the meeting to discuss options for the Mount Horace Greeley sewage lagoons. They were installed in 1997 and will be nearing the end of their liner life which is approximately 30 years. The county wants to begin looking at what it will take to decommission the lagoons. Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to have Mr. Hyrkas look into the cost of testing the materials which would assist in then knowing what could be done to decommission the lagoons. The motion also covered allowing the sewage ponds to be used this year.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to extend the State of Emergency for the county through March 31, 2021.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to continue with the current procedure of having the doors of the Courthouse locked unless you have an appointment during the pandemic.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk