

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 19, 2010

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on May 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to hear public comment on the Rural Development grant that the Keweenaw County Road Commission is seeking to purchase a sander and service truck. The amount of the grant is about \$95,000 with the Road Commission also paying \$95,000. Gregg Patrick, the County Road Engineer was present to answer any questions.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Frank Stubenrauch, Don Keith, Carol Rose Fouts, Joe Langdon.

The public hearing closed at 6:34 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held May 19, 2010, 6:35 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Frank Stubenrauch, Don Keith, Carol Rose Fouts, Joe Langdon.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda with the following additions, deletions, and movement of items: Add under New Business: f) Pay scale/job descriptions g) Letter of Intent to Resign h) Water at Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and lagoons at Mt Hoarace Greeley i) County ballot proposal for Tax Allocation j) Scrap metal proposals from Mt. Horace Greeley k) Broadband letter of support. Under Guests: d) Remove Houghton Township and replace it with Ray Chase of the EDC.

The minutes from April 21, 2010 stood as presented.

The Treasurer, Sheriff and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Barb Maronen from RSVP (Retired & Senior Volunteer Program) was present asking for monetary support for the electronics recycling program. In the past, grants were available but this year the Health Department is looking to partner with the Counties to continue this recycling program. The collection is currently scheduled for July 10, 2010 at the Health Department in Hancock. Participants will be responsible for contributing to the cost of recycling also. Motion by Keith supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to contribute \$500 from the general fund to the program to help cover the trucking, forklift rental, shipping expenses etc.

Gerald Primeau came to the Board on behalf of Mercy EMS. There are first responders and EMT's in northern Keweenaw County who currently respond to emergencies. It would be very beneficial to have an ambulance in Grant Township that would be able to transport patients immediately instead of waiting for an ambulance to come from Houghton County. Mercy was looking for \$7,000 to make this possible. Grant Township will provide a spot in a heated garage for the ambulance. A question was raised as to whether the townships were approached with this proposal and they have not been approached.

Motion by Keith to support this ambulance program with \$5,000 from the general fund. Motion died for lack of support.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Keith to support this ambulance program with \$3,500 from the general fund. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Keith supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint Peggy Kauppi to fill the vacancy on the EDC with the term expiring on 12/31/2012.

Ray Chase stated that the County Trail System is one step closer to an official trail designation by the DNR.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Fouts and unanimously carried to support the EDC as they move forward with the biofuel facility idea and proposal at Mt. Horace Greeley.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$106,222.72 Construction Codes Fund=\$199.28 911 Fund=\$2,356.82 EDC=\$1,679.90 Law Library=\$740.61 Child Care Fund=\$691.88. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Keith was checking on getting any information online that would help the public from Courthouse/Sheriff Department. It was brought up that minutes from the County committee meetings should be available on line. Langdon will talk to Lisa Karrio to see if this is possible. This will be placed under Unfinished Business for June.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to have A-1 Toylets LLC put a port-a-john at the Mouth of the Gratiot as soon as possible through October with the amount not to exceed \$130 per month. Langdon will call in the morning.

Motion by Fouts supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint the following people to the Planning Commission; Steven Siira for the vacancy with term expiring 12/31/2012 and Ned Huwatschek with the term expiring 12/31/2013.

Motion by Fouts supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to name Joan Nelson as the Equalization Director as John Partanen's contract has expired at the beginning of May.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Fouts to increase the salary of the Equalization Director from \$36,000 to \$38,000 with the Zoning Administrator remaining at \$2,000 for a total salary of \$40,000. This increase is based on Nelson taking over the actual Director's position. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Fouts to concur with Joan Nelson not to hold a public hearing for Truth in Taxation. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried. This year's base tax rate is 5.7352 and the proposed allocated millage rate is 5.6839. Nelson stated that the base tax rate is more than the proposed allocated millage rate and when Nelson contacted the State, they said that the County would not have to hold a Truth in Taxation hearing if the County levies an operating millage rate that is our base tax rate or less.

The Board refused a room rate request for Joan Nelson to attend a conference where the rate was \$579.96 for three nights. Employees must get prior approval if the room rate exceeds \$80 per night.

Pay scales and job descriptions were brought up as nothing has been done on these matters. Job descriptions have been requested but employees have not participated. Langdon stated that for 2010, all employees were receiving a 2.5% raise and in 2011, all employees were receiving a 3.5% raise due to the decrease in health insurance costs that the employees agreed upon. Langdon and Eckloff will meet with the employees to clear up any confusion. This item will be placed under unfinished business for the June meeting.

Carol Rose Fouts submitted a letter of intent to resign as County Commissioner. However, Fouts will remain for the time being and will attend County Commissioner meetings and the other commissioners will take over her committee meetings.

Keith reported for Richard Harrer and stated that the drawdown at the Mt Horace Greeley lagoons will happen soon and there are no expected problems. Keith said that Harrer was concerned with the water supply at the Mountain Lodge. Eckloff will set up a meeting with Harrer and the manager at the Mountain Lodge to discuss the water supply. This item will also be placed under unfinished business for June and Eckloff will report to the Board about the water supply issue.

Motion by Langdon supported by Stubenrauch to place the following county proposal (10-01) before the electors on the August 3, 2010 primary ballot: Shall the separate tax limitation millage rates be established for a period of four years, 2011 through 2014 inclusive, or until altered by the voters of the County, for the County of Keweenaw and the Townships and the Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 15 mills, as follows: County of Keweenaw 6.25 mills, Allouez, Eagle Harbor, and Houghton Townships 1.30 mills, Grant Township 2.35 mills, Sherman Township 1.35 mills, Copper Country Intermediate School District .40 mill.

Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Stubenrauch placed an ad in the Daily Mining Gazette for scrap metal removal bids. Six contractors went to the walk-through but the County did not receive any bids. Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow Stubenrauch to talk to those contractors interested in removing the copper only and to negotiate with them for a reasonable rate of return for the County. Stubenrauch will then bring this proposal back before this Board for approval.

Motion by Keith supported by Langdon and unanimously carried to send an additional letter of support for the Copper Country ISD's public sector broadband initiative which would benefit the western Upper Peninsula.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business motion by Eckloff to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.