

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
April 18, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held April 18, 2012, 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Frank Stubenrauch, Ernie Mooney, Don Piche, Del Rajala.

The meeting was posted in the Courthouse on the bulletin board and the agenda for the meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse prior to the meeting.

Motion by Piche supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business for informational purposes only: The addition is the possible changing of Board of Commissioner by laws.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Piche and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as presented from the March 21, 2012 regular monthly board meeting and the April 2, 2012 special meeting.

The Treasurer, Sheriff and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Alliance Global Conservation representatives made a presentation regarding conversion technologies. The company objective is to keep solid waste from going into landfills and use waste-to-energy technology. The process is called pyrolysis gasification and uses solid waste, vehicle tires, used lubricating oils, sewage sludge, car shredder residue, non recyclable plastics and paper and wood products to produce gas, crude oil and carbon ash. The waste is reduced by approximately 90 to 95 percent in volume. Motion by Piche supported by Rajala to support the project as it is environmentally sound, profitable and reduces the cost of disposal plus would create jobs in the Upper Peninsula. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Rajala, Piche, Mooney. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Lori Hauswirth from WUPPDR was present to talk about the possibility of creating a recreation authority for Houghton and Keweenaw County. She explained the powers, goals, steps for establishing the authority and sustaining the authority. The main goal is to bring governments and trail groups together to work toward common goals and to have a trail coordinator so that each group isn't working on the same issue. Motion by Piche supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to pursue and support the creation of a recreational authority and to appoint Don Piche as the Keweenaw County commissioner on the authority.

Rajala mentioned that Keweenaw County does have funds available to assist Keweenaw County veterans and to contact Jim Klutts if a veteran needs assistance.

Time was allowed for public comment but there was none.

Motion by supported by to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund-\$129,829.40 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,707.25 911 Fund=\$12,912.95 EDC Fund=\$1,210.93 Law Library=\$0 Child Care Fund=\$700.00 County Veterans Fund=\$3,302.77 Register of Deeds Automation Fund=\$0 Medical Care Fund=\$0 Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Rajala, Piche, Mooney. Nays: None. Motion carried.

OHM's Project Understanding and Scope of Services dealing with construction documents and bidding after receiving the \$40,000 Americana grant was tabled until May.

Motion by Rajala supported by Piche to place a millage on the August Primary ballot asking for .5 mill for four years for the Courthouse/Jail buildings and grounds improvements which would raise \$64,633.10 in the first year. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Piche, Rajala, Mooney. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Piche and unanimously carried to adopt the new policy for employees as presented.

Tom Novascone, Equalization Director for Keweenaw County, presented his report for County Equalization. Overall, the county's equalized value went down by 8%. The County's taxable value went from \$127,830,539 to \$129,266,296. The following were adopted:

Motion by Piche supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to set the agricultural CEV at \$28,006.

Motion by Rajala supported by Piche and unanimously carried to set the commercial CEV at \$8,642,184.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the residential CEV at \$184,523,794.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Piche and unanimously carried to set the timber cut over CEV at \$1,617,895.

Motion by Rajala supported by Piche and unanimously carried to set the personal CEV at \$3,295,365.

(CEV stands for County Equalized Value)

Motion by Rajala supported by Piche and unanimously carried to enter into the copier maintenance agreement with Sayen's Business Equipment Inc. This agreement covers the Kyocera TASKalfa 221 and the KM2050 at the Courthouse in the amount of \$1,092 from April 4, 2012 to April 3, 2013.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to enter into agreements with Hein Surveying and Crampton Surveying for 2012 for land corner surveys for County Remonumentation.

Motion by Piche supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appropriate \$550 as requested by RSVP which helps to cover the cost of the e-waste collection that they hold each year. This contribution goes toward a recycling collection for Houghton and Keweenaw residents and assists with collection expenses such as trucking, forklift rental and advertising expenses.

Stubenrauch will work with Donna Jaaskelainen to come up with an agreement for a contractor to demolish a tower building that has been vandalized at Mt. Horace Greeley. The agreement would specify what is expected for clean up and any liability issues. Stubenrauch will bring the issue back to the Board in May.

Motion by Rajala supported by Piche and unanimously carried to enter into a Memo of Understanding between Copper Country Preservation Inc. and Keweenaw County. The purpose of the memo is to release the grant money received from the Americana Foundation from Copper Country Preservation Inc. (a nonprofit arm of the Keweenaw National Historic Park Advisory Commission) to Keweenaw County.

Motion by Piche supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to approve the Capital Asset and Contributed Capital Determination Policy for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve and pay expenses for Stubenrauch to attend the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners Spring Conference in Harris, MI on May 18-19.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Ernest Mooney, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk