

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 18, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on July 18, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, immediately following the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge meeting.

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

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2018 regular monthly meeting as written.

The Treasurer, Sheriff, and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$160,646.10 Construction Codes=\$2,782.61 911 Fund=\$45,671.20 Child Care Fund=\$1,299.37 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$36,450.00 Law Library=\$1,055.46 Veterans Affairs=\$93.20 CPL Fund=\$19.30 Loan to Keweenaw Mountain Lodge=\$30,000.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

EDGE Consulting Engineers Inc. did an analysis of the Mount Horace Greeley tower and the Sheriff Department tower. It was found that the Sheriff tower has splits near the bottom and that it is no longer safe to climb. The MHG tower needs some maintenance but otherwise is structurally sound. After much discussion, motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to contact EDGE to see if they will provide specs for a new freestanding tower to replace the Sheriff tower.

The wells at Mount Horace Greeley on the Lizzadro property were tested and the tests came back negative for coliforms and E. coli and lead results were within acceptable levels. Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to provide a letter to the Lizzadro's stating that the County has not abandoned the easements merely by non-use of the water wells and once the water tested fine for potable water, the county will cap the wells to preserve them for future use and will bring the buildings where the well heads sit up to standards according to the County Building Inspector. The County will request that the Lizzadro's provide a written withdrawal of their intention to cap the wells and demolish the well buildings.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the resolution supporting the U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2018 Annual Implementation Plan for services to Older Adults. **(#18-4)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution approving the Deficit Elimination Plan to be filed pursuant to Section 21(2) of the Glenn Steil State Revenue Sharing Act of 1971 because of the County's proprietary Keweenaw Mountain Lodge fund having a \$439,491 deficit in its unrestricted net position at December 31, 2017. This plan is different for the first time as the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge will be sold at an auction on 7/26/18 with no minimum bid. The net proceeds will be shared by Rural Development and EDA; the remaining amounts due on the revenue bonds and the debt will be cancelled by Rural Development and the County's obligation to repay the 2007 grant to EDA will be deemed satisfied once they receive their portion of the sale. After KML is sold and any liabilities are paid, any surplus or deficit will transfer into the County's general fund and the KML fund will cease to exist. **(#18-5)**

Gayk updated the Board on the successful submission of grants. The County will receive \$3,500 from the Portage Health Foundation for the Gratiot River Park updates if a successful DNR Passport grant is received. Gayk stated that the DNR is considering the Gratiot River Park as a possibility. WUPPDR has also awarded \$3,500 to the County for a website upgrade.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint Jim LaMotte to the Planning Commission with term ending 12/31/2018.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to send a letter to the Portage Health Foundation for supporting the rebuilding of ATV and snowmobile trails that have been damaged by the June 17, 2018 flood. The economy of Keweenaw County is largely dependent upon tourism and the trails are vitally important.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to request that NorthCare Network approve the funding request from Treatment Court for the use of Soberlinks. NorthCare Network receives one half of the County's Liquor Tax funds (PA2 funds) and administers the use of that money for prevention and treatment services provided to county residents.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve three change orders for the exterior of the sheriff department. The change orders are in the following amounts: \$1,575, \$7,700 and \$5,950.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution concerning the sale of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge which authorizes the Chairman, Donald Piche, to execute all documents necessary for the sale. **(#18-6)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to leave \$10,000 in the K-9 fund for any emergencies that may occur. The remainder of the fund will be transferred to the General Fund to cover a portion of the costs for the new patrol vehicle and equipment necessary for the K-9.

Budgets were reviewed by the Budget Administrator and the Board. At mid-year 2018, things seem to be in line.

Time was allowed for public comment. Charlie Hopper appreciates what the Board has done concerning the Sheriff tower but has concerns about the statement that no one can climb the tower. Though he doesn't anticipate the need to climb, he is also worried about any incidents that would require a climb where Pasty internet would go out leaving many customers without service. Charlie wanted to do a tower leg reinforcement at his own expense. It was stated that not only is the tower unsafe to climb but further damage to the tower could be caused by a climb. It was decided that a lift bucket or bucket truck would be used in the case of an emergency.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk