

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 18, 2009

The Board met March 18, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, Michigan.

PURPOSE: To hear public comment on Keweenaw County's grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for acquisition of approximately 13 acres to preserve non-motorized trail connections between Copper Harbor and the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

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

Commissioners absent: Don Keith

Approximately six people were in attendance for the hearing. Questions were raised about horses being able to use this land for trails and also how disabled people would benefit from non-motorized trails. Two letters were received prior to the hearing, one in favor of the acquisition and one that was not in favor of the County acquiring more land to take off of the tax rolls.

The public hearing closed at 6:40 p.m.

Joseph Langdon, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 18, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held March 18, 2009, 6:40 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

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

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Fouts and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

The minutes from March 18, 2009 were accepted as presented.

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

Sam Raymond was a guest at the meeting and he informed the Board that approximately 10K of ski trails were groomed this winter and Steve Rowe has flagged an additional 2K for new trails. The board had approved \$4,500 from the EDC for the grooming and Sam figured that there would be about \$1,000 to \$1,500 remaining. They would like the balance to pay for the wages for constructing the new trails.

Motion by Fouts to allow the balance of the \$4,500 to be given to the Copper Harbor Trails Club for the creation of new trails on existing County property. Motion died for lack of support.

Motion by Fouts supported by Stubenrauch to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners is dedicated to improving the recreation facilities and opportunities in the County; and

WHEREAS, the non-motorized trail system in the Copper Harbor Area has proven to be a positive economic impact for the County; and

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners wishes to acquire approximately 13 acres to continue efforts that permanently protect the non-motorized trail system; and

WHEREAS, this property is a vital link connecting the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge to Copper Harbor; and

WHEREAS, there are grant monies available from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) to support such a project; and

WHEREAS, the Copper Harbor Trails Club fundraising efforts have secured monies for a portion of the required 25% match;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Keweenaw County Board approves applying to the MNRTF for the proposed acquisition. Keweenaw County is committed to providing up to \$10,000 in match for the project if grant funds are awarded.

Board polled: Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried. (#09-3)

Motion by Fouts supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the western five (5) counties of the Upper Peninsula have an estimated 4,200 uninsured residents in need of health care services and prescription medications, and
WHEREAS, more than eight (8) out of ten (10) of the nation's uninsured come from working families, and
WHEREAS, the experience of the Western U.P. Healthcare Access Coalition in leveraging and coordinating health care and prescription drugs for the uninsured from medical providers, health care centers, pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies has addressed the needs of 754 uninsured in the five (5) county region since 2000 and
WHEREAS, the Western U.P. Healthcare Access Coalition's goal of 100% access to health care with dignity will result in healthier communities and citizens, and
WHEREAS, March 22nd through March 28th, 2009 has been declared National Cover the Uninsured Week to raise awareness of the growing need to find ways to cover the health care needs of the uninsured citizens;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners declares March 22nd through March 28th, 2009 as COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK to recognize medical providers and volunteers support of the ongoing work for the WESTERN U.P. HEALTHCARE ACCESS COALITION on behalf of our uninsured families, friends and neighbors. (#09-4)

Stubenrauch announced that there will be money available for weatherization and fuel assistance from Community Action and the public should watch the newspaper for more information. Also, Community Action will be operating the Welcome Center on Rinne's corner in Ahmeek again this summer.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch to pay the approved and audited bill in the following amounts: General Fund=\$100,258.90 Construction Codes=\$1,993.90 911 Fund=\$12,345.96 EDC Fund=\$1,944.99 Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

EDC appointments and lengths of terms will be placed under unfinished business for the next meeting.

The Board will table the appointment of Nancy Baroni to the EDC until the next meeting.

Motion by Langdon supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to appoint Deneen Connel of Sherman Township to the Planning Commission for the remainder of Jay Paquette's term. (Term expires 12/31/2010)

The Board tabled the appointment of Staci Gibson to the Planning Commission until the next meeting.

Quotes for neck loops and an infrared system were received but Fouts will bring back more information for the next meeting so this will be placed on the agenda under unfinished business.

Fouts will talk to Don Keith regarding the final project agreement concerning the Gratiot River Park Addition and this will be placed under unfinished business.

Political party meetings at the Courthouse was tabled until more information is available.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch to spend up to \$3,500 from the EDC Fund to erect a public restroom/changing station on the Eagle River Beach. This project is in conjunction with the Keweenaw County Road Commission and Houghton Township, all will be contributing 1/3 of the costs. Board polled: Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Langdon supported by Stubenrauch that the Keweenaw County Veteran's representative attends meetings at the Houghton County Airport and should be reimbursed for his mileage. If Houghton County does not agree to pay his mileage, Keweenaw County will deduct that amount from the extra voted millage that we turn over to Houghton County. Board polled: Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Fouts and unanimously carried to allow Northern Consultants Inc. to prepare and submit a grant application for Keweenaw County for the Rental Rehabilitation Program to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). The grant application will be in the amount of \$250,000. There are three proposed rehabilitation projects currently interested.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to hold a public hearing on April 15, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse to accept public comment on the grant application for Keweenaw County for the Rental Rehabilitation Program to MSHDA to be administered by Northern Consultants Inc.

There being no further business motion by Eckloff to adjourn. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Joseph Langdon, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk