

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 20, 2019

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on February 20, 2019 beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the addition of this item under New Business, j) Houghton Keweenaw Recreation Authority.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the January 16, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Doctor David Gilbert was recognized for his 42 years of service to Keweenaw County as the Medical Examiner. Doc Gilbert never took a penny from the county for his service at his request and the following resolution was dedicated to him by the Board.

WHEREAS, Doc Gilbert was appointed as Medical Examiner on January 11, 1977;

WHEREAS, He continuously conducted himself with the highest level of professionalism;

WHEREAS, He never let rain, sleet, snow, or dark of night impact his response to the call for service;

WHEREAS, lack of personal protection equipment wouldn't deter him from determining a preliminary cause of death;

WHEREAS, His friendly demeanor and dark humor had the ability to put everyone at ease;

WHEREAS, He Served the County without remuneration;

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to let Doc know how much Keweenaw County appreciates his years of service;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board hereby publicly acknowledges David Gilbert, MD as the longest standing Medical Examiner on public record for the County of Keweenaw. (#18-7)

Todd Holmstrom of the Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee was present at the meeting to say that the EDC supported the idea for Dan Jamison and Michigan Tech to create a research center at Mount Horace Greeley.

Dan Jamison from MTECH Smart Zone was present to do a presentation regarding the creation of a research center at Mount Horace Greeley. Mr. Jamison spoke to the potential use of Mt. Horace Greeley. He is currently in discussions with a Biomass company from Finland, MTU and UPPCO to create a testing facility. The facility would test and document the changes during the transferring a load from biomass to shore power. This discussion is in the initial states. There would not be a cash requirement on behalf of Keweenaw County.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$164,974.89 Construction Codes Fund=\$2,809.23 911 Fund=\$11,077.63 Law Library=\$311.17 Medical Care=\$1,401.12 K-9 Fund=\$1,150.56 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table Shorewaves until March.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried approve a new credit card company called GovPro to provide the service for customers to pay using a credit card for county services. This is at no cost to the county.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Professional Services Proposal for the Gratiot River Park-Restroom and ADA Parking in the amount of \$9,075. OHM will provide the engineering support to produce bidding and contract documents as well as providing construction administration services and grant administration during construction. The Gratiot River Park Restroom and ADA Parking project is a part of a Michigan Recreation Passport Grant that was awarded to Keweenaw County.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the Coleman Engineering Company agreement to provide 2019 Digital Mapping Services for Keweenaw County for \$1,500. Formerly this was done with TopComp who is no longer in business.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve ordering 5,000 more county maps with cost to be split three ways as the Road Commission and Historical Society are also taking part.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to appoint Bill Eddy as the Zoning Administrator for the replacement tower project at the Sheriff Department. Mr. Eddy will oversee the zoning permit process, and anything related to the new tower.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the Hourly Retainer Agreement to hire Roger Zappa from Bensinger, Cotant & Menkes, P.C. to represent Keweenaw County in litigation filed by Gogebic County arising from underfunding of pensions for certain employees of the disbanded Western Upper Peninsula Manpower Consortium. Mr. Zappa is also representing Houghton County in this matter and may also be representing Baraga County. If Baraga County hires Mr. Zappa, the litigation costs could be shared among the defendants.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold off on the installation of a new generator as part of the electrical upgrade to the Courthouse and Sheriff Department that will be bid out next month. The generator will be looked at later when the County seeks funding for an elevator.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve bid opening for the Electrical Upgrade Project on March 14th at 1:00 p.m. and for the Tower Replacement on March 14th at 1:15 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to support the closeout documents provided by OHM for the Sheriff Department Exterior Project.

The Houghton Keweenaw Recreation Authority was created in 2013 and it appears that there is some new life that wants to make the Authority active again. There may be grant money available and permanent right of ways are still a focus of DNR funding.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Ann Gasperich, Acting Clerk