

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on May 15, 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, Sandra Gayk, Jim Vivian, Del Rajala, Don Piche.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following change: Add \$10,122.00 to the General Fund bills which will now total \$146,828.24.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the April 17, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes, the April 19, 2019 bid opening minutes and the May 7, 2019 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Daryl St. John from the Keweenaw ATV Club came to share some information about what their club has been doing. The club was formed in 2004 and most of their budget is spent in Keweenaw County. All their work is completed by volunteers unless there is heavy machine work needed in which they will hire that out. The club would like to make sure that ATV's will still have access to Brockway Mountain, and they would like to address the County board prior to the Board making a final decision.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appropriate \$1,000 to the Keweenaw ATV Club for 2019.

Bill Hyrkas also addressed the Board concerning the wait time for plumbing/mechanical inspections. Currently, the inspector (Mike Shaltz) is available every third week which makes it difficult for contractors and homeowners. Some inspections are done by pictures which could be an issue with liability. Currently, the relationship between Mr. Hyrkas and Mr. Shaltz has deteriorated and is making it difficult for Hyrkas Plumbing & Heating to function. Commissioner Piche wants to set up a meeting with Mr. Hyrkas, Mr. Shaltz, the Building Codes Clerk, and two commissioners to try to find a resolution. The Building Codes Clerk will set a meeting up. After much discussion with the realization that the County should be focused on customer service, it was decided to still hold the meeting as soon as possible and the following motion was made: Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to pursue Houghton County's plumbing/mechanical inspector to see if he is willing to fill in during the time when Mr. Shaltz is not available. The Building Codes Clerk will work on this and is authorized to hire at the same rate of the current plumbing/mechanical inspector. Mr. Hyrkas also brought up that a Building Board of Appeals is required by the State and Keweenaw County does not have one. See below under Public Comment.

Time was allowed for public comment.

The County Building Inspector, Eric Bjorn said that the County did have a Building Board of Appeals years back and it is required. He thinks the Board was inactive as there was never an appeal and it was forgotten about. Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to set up a Building Board of Appeals. Eric Bjorn will assist in the creation of this Board.

Rajala reported that the Veterans Affairs Committee is hosting a meet and greet on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 1-4 p.m. at the Legion Hall in Mohawk. Coffee, soda and snacks will be provided. This is being held so that county veterans can meet their county representatives and each other and so that veterans can see what assistance might be available to them.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$146,828.24 Construction Codes Fund=\$4,478.73 911 Fund=\$949.05 Medical Care Fund=\$1,809.78 Veterans Affairs=\$153.40 Law Library Fund=\$2,480.24 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan 2019-2025 with two small corrections to be made by Ann Gasperich. This plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission.

After a long discussion about the Shorewaves contract, motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the timeline from Shorewaves for equipment removal from the tower on the last day of the month of May after contract terms could not be negotiated.

Gayk gave an update on the Gratiot River Park. Friends of the Gratiot River Park have met twice and have been discussing different facets of the park including stewardship as improvements begin. It looks like it might be July before the bathroom will go in. A third meeting will be scheduled for the Friends of the Gratiot River Park. The group will identify and suggest spots for picnic tables and firepits that are all a part of the improvement plan.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint Vivian as the Designated Planning Agent contact for Solid Waste for the County.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint the Supervisor from Allouez Township, Mark Aho for the 2nd seat on the WUPPDR Board. Vivian is still the alternate for Gayk if she cannot attend the meeting. This 2nd seat is an addition to the WUPPDR Board.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to table the Pasty.net contract until June.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to set a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 19th at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular Board meeting.

Commissioners declined attending the UPACC Spring Conference in Harris, MI on June 6th and 7th.

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to contact local contractor Mike Guy to make repairs to the gate at the main entrance of Mount Horace Greeley with expenses not to exceed \$500. DeMarois will contact Mr. Guy.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to allow Piche to sign the Gift of Life Michigan agreement which is the state's organ and tissue donation program.

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to award the bid to Huffcutt in the amount of \$32,861 for the Gratiot River Park ADA Restroom Building after recommendation from OHM Advisors.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk