

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
August 21, 2019

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on August 21, 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 Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the July 17, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes, and the special meeting minutes from July 24, 2019 and July 30, 2019.

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

Sylvia Wentela was present from the Great Lakes Recovery Center-Offender Success Program. Ms. Wentela is doing community outreach for the program which assists parolees with reintegrating into the community by helping with housing, food expenses, transportation and jobs. Ms. Wentela stated that what they don't want to see is parolees coming to the community and just being dropped off by a bus, the Recovery Center helps to try to make the transition easier and assists with starting off again and helping with second chances.

Baraga Telephone/up.net and PFN were present to ask the County Board for support for grant funding. John French, Project Manager Engineer spoke and had a map showing where they would like fiber optic cable to be run. They are applying for two different grants so there were two phases of projects shown.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$222,279.52 Construction Codes Fund=\$6,939.36 911 Fund=\$1,386.82 Child Care Fund=\$2,958.57 Medical Care Fund=\$2,351.88 Veterans Affairs=\$106.53 Law Library Fund=\$286.44 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to table Change Order #1 for the Keweenaw County Communications Tower project to install a 6-foot-tall galvanized chain link security fence around the tower. More information is still required.

Chuck Miller, County Attorney, spoke about title issues to the former Calumet Air Force Station (CAFS) or what is referred to as Mount Horace Greeley. The County outright owns the CAFS but there are three properties that have a reversion clause stating that if these properties weren't being used as a correctional facility, they would revert to the US. Two of the properties, which are former housing, have been destroyed by vandals and have little or no value. One of these destroyed parcels does have easement to the sewage lagoon. However, one of the properties lies between CAFS and the Gratiot Lake Road and it has one building on it and may have timber value. Mr. Miller has been working with the General Services Administration (GSA) to get these title issues resolved. Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow county staff to prepare a request for proposal for an appraisal of these three pieces. The appraiser must be acceptable to GSA and the county reserves the right to reject any proposal.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to provide a letter of support for Baraga Telephone/up.net application for the Connecting Michigan Communities Grant. If Baraga Telephone is successful in its grant, this would be a huge benefit to county residents.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution rescinding resolution #99-14 which allowed the State of Michigan to foreclose property forfeited to the county-the county now elects for foreclose on forfeited property to the county treasurer:

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on November 9, 1999, in accordance with Section 78(3) of Act 206 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1893 (as amended), the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners elected to have the State of Michigan foreclose properties that are forfeited to the Keweenaw County Treasurer for failure to pay taxes;

WHEREAS, MCL 211.78(5) provides that a county board of commissioners may rescind a resolution electing to have forfeited properties foreclosed by the State of Michigan by adopting a subsequent

resolution at a meeting held in compliance with the Open Meeting Act and obtaining the written concurrence of the county treasurer;

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners believes it is in the best interest of Keweenaw County to rescind the November 9, 1999 resolution that elected to have the State of Michigan foreclose properties that are forfeited to the Keweenaw County Treasurer for failure to pay taxes; and

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Treasurer has indicated his support for rescinding the November 9, 1999 resolution and his willingness to sign a written concurrence to rescission of the resolution;

NOW THEREFORE, in accordance with MCL 211.78(5), it is hereby resolved at a public meeting held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as follows:

Keweenaw County rescinds the resolution adopted at its regular meeting on November 9, 1999 in which it elected to have the State of Michigan foreclose properties that are forfeited to the Keweenaw County Treasurer for failure to pay taxes.

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners shall forward a copy of this resolution and a copy of the written concurrence of the Keweenaw County Treasurer to the Michigan Department of Treasury not later than November 30, 2019.

Keweenaw County shall act as the foreclosing governmental unit for all property forfeited to the Keweenaw County Treasurer after February 1, 2020. **(#19-4)**

Todd Holmstrom addressed the Board regarding Mount Horace Greeley (MHG). Mr. Holmstrom is Chairman of the EDC and was asking if the Board would endorse a public forum for ideas for MHG. The EDC would like to present a range of possibilities that they have come up with at the forum as well as asking the public for any ideas. The Board discussed the proposed forum and felt that this was a little premature as the title to the property is still being worked out. Dan Jamison from the Michigan Tech Smart Zone addressed the Board and said that they will continue to seek out opportunities for MHG and he will also continue to work with the EDC.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve Carol Patrick (D) and LaVerne Kytta (R) as Keweenaw County Board of Canvassers with terms ending 10/31/2025.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve Change Order #1 for the Gratiot River Park Project in the amount of \$1,985.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to allow the homeowners at Lot 10, Block E of Ahmeek Village to add their children's names to the deed on their house but not to remove their own names subject to MSHDA approval. The homeowners have a housing grant lien on their property which would become due at the time of transfer, sale or if the property was conveyed or if it fails to be the homeowner's principal residence.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the proposed name of Whiskey Cove on the NW coast of Manitou Island in Lake Superior. This is an approximately 1-acre unnamed bay. This decision will be returned on a form provided by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

There being no further business, motion by Gayk to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, Clerk