

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
November 20, 2019

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

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the October 16, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes and the November 13, 2019 public hearing minutes as written.

Time was allowed for public comment. Paul Putnam from the MSU Extension was present at the meeting to give some updates.

Commissioners reported on their committee meetings.

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

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$196,127.87 Construction Codes Fund=\$9,643.61 911 Fund=\$13,320.84 Child Care Fund=\$87.04 Medical Care Fund=\$1,000.80 Veterans Affairs=\$228.76 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow the Equalization Director to contract with Eagle Harbor Township to assist with AMAR (Audit of Minimum Assessment Requirements) issues, working on her own time with the township assessor.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to appropriate \$500 to the Christmas lights program in Copper Harbor.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to authorize the County Zoning Administrator and the County Attorney to meet with Eagle Harbor Township to discuss changing the existing zoning classification of Mount Horace Greeley. Currently, MHG is zoned as conservancy.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to set a public hearing for all 2020 County budgets on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the proposal from 44 North regarding Blue Cross Blue Shield, Delta Dental and the county Health Reimbursement Account. Overall, the increase is about 8.04% for 2020 with a couple of small changes to the HRA to keep the premium increase down. Next year, the Board will look at increasing the employee paid portion of the Blue Cross premium for 2021.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve and endorse the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Mini Grant proposal that was completed by Meg North. Ms. North is a teacher at Horizons School, and she will now submit the grant which will allow Horizons students to serve as stewards of the Gratiot River Park. There will be a Geology based Scavenger Hunt and a Virtual Tour of the park. Both will be added to the websites of the county, the school and the Geoheritage website. Flyers will be made with QR codes for visitors and a small sign with the QR code will be placed on site as well. This will all be done at no cost to the County but needed to be approved because the County does own the Gratiot River Park.

Motion by Vivian supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to have Rajala and Piche represent the Board on the interview committee along with the Sheriff for the Custodian/Maintenance position. There were 51 applicants. Each Board member should come to the Courthouse and look over the applications in the next couple of days and let Rajala and Piche know their choices for applicants to be interviewed. The interviews will then be scheduled. All applicants should be asked the same questions and interviewers can take notes. A special meeting will be set once the interviews have taken place and the committee will bring their recommendation to the Board to make the final decision on the new hire.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to appropriate the annual amount of \$8,534.72 into the Indigent Defense Fund.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Indigent Criminal Defense Contract between Houghton, Baraga and Keweenaw Counties and the Tri-County Public Defenders.

Time was allowed for public comment. Randy Eckloff told the Board that he attended the North Care meeting, and everything is going well. Keweenaw County is getting our share of the money and then some. The Board appreciates that Randy attends these meetings as Board members already have so many committee meetings to attend.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, Clerk