

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
February 19, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on February 19, 2020 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, Sandy Gayk, Jim Vivian, Don Piche, Del Rajala.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following additions under: New Business f) Application for Veterans Grant g) Appoint Dan Jamison to Brownfield to fill Mark Klemp's Unexpired Term: Also add \$27,192 to the General Fund Bills.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the January 15, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes with a correction to the spelling name of Justin Kasieta (The January minutes refer to Justin Kasite).

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

There were no guests present at the meeting although the agenda listed a guest.

Time was allowed for public comment. Harvey Desnick requested that the Board act on the resolution regarding the Great Lake shoreline being designated as a state of emergency because of the high-water levels. This will be put on the agenda for March.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$265,085.89 Construction Codes Fund=\$2,777.74 911 Fund=\$10,749.30 Pistol Permit Fund-\$101.76 Child Care Fund-\$55.00 Veterans Affairs=\$79.80 Medical Care Fund=\$1,034.16 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to approve the following joint resolution as written:

Joint Resolution of the Counties of Gogebic, Houghton, Iron,  
Baraga, Ontonagon, and Keweenaw

Whereas, since 1974, and up until October 1, 2015, the above-named Western Upper Peninsula Counties provided job training services to their residents through several agencies which were almost exclusively funded by the State of Michigan, and

Whereas, the Western Upper Peninsula Manpower Consortium was disbanded in 2015, along with two other Upper Peninsula Employment and Training providers, all of which were consolidated into the UPWARD Talent Council, pursuant to the Governor's directive, and,

Whereas, the State of Michigan and the affected Western Upper Peninsula Counties were all aware of the shortfall in the pension fund created for the employees of the Manpower Consortium, and the State of Michigan paid for an audit to determine the extent of the potential shortfall, and,

Whereas, the initial Manpower Consortium pension shortfall was \$300,924.00, which the State of Michigan promised to address after the actuarial report, and,

Whereas, the unfunded liability has grown to \$970,165.00, and will continue to grow until funded, as the State of Michigan has yet to fund this known liability, and,

Whereas, there was a shortfall as it concerned the pension benefits owed the former employees of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Employment and Training Consortium and that shortfall was corrected by subsequent legislative action, and,

Whereas, the failure of the State to fund the Manpower Consortium pension shortfall, as it did for the similarly situated Eastern Upper Peninsula Employment and Training Consortium, creates an unfunded pension liability that adversely affects some of the most vulnerable counties in Michigan.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the six Counties of the Western Upper Peninsula urge and demand that the Legislature correct the shortfall that exists in the pension fund for the seven employees who have retired from the Western Upper Peninsula Alliance Board, all of whom fulfilled their obligation to the State of Michigan by devoting years of hard work to the economic well-being of the State of Michigan.

Roll call vote: Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried. (#20-2)

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve Danielle Hamlin as a Medical Examiner Investigator as requested by the Medical Examiner Jan Heikenen.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies for the State of Michigan. The resolution is required by MDOT for purposes of issuing to a municipal utility an Annual Application and Permit for Miscellaneous Operations within the State Highway Right of Way. **(#20-3)**

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to put a cushion in the District Court Checking Account in the amount of \$500 to prevent the account from being overdrawn. The account will balance down to the \$500 each month.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously supported to table the posting of agendas until March. The Clerk will investigate what other counties do.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow the Chairman to sign the grant application in the amount of \$45,094.50 for the Veteran Service Fund Grant.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to appoint Dan Jamison to the Brownfield Committee to fill the unexpired term (12/31/2022) of Mark Klemp who resigned.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie Carlson, Clerk