

PUBLIC HEARING via Zoom due to COVID 19
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 17, 2020

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing via Zoom on the proposed increase of .1156 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2020. Proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by \$18,167.51 over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing. Piche opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, and Piche were present with Rajala being absent. The Equalization Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
June 17, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on June 17, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held via Zoom (a virtual meeting platform where everyone signs in from home) due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Commissioners were present at the meeting while the public attended via Zoom.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the County website. The Zoom invitation was also posted on the County website so the public could attend.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following changes: Under new business add item n) Kermit's Fund Budget Adoption and remove item a) Veterans Death Benefit-Eliminate Asset Limit-this will be taken up at a later date.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the May 20, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes and the June 2, 2020 special meeting minutes as submitted.

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

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=\$157,117.14 Construction Codes Fund=\$5,569.26 911 Fund=\$3,117.26 Medical Care Fund=\$1,080.80 Child Care Fund=\$270.00 Kermit's Fund=\$1,500.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

In May, the soil and sedimentation permit exemption fee was tabled. Ann Gasperich came back to the Board and said that by state law, there are only a couple of reasons for exemptions and basically everyone within 500 feet of a river or lake would need a permit so nothing needs to be done at this time.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to allow Piche to sign the grant agreement between the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and Keweenaw County. The grant amount is \$48,652.98 and the grant period ends on September 30, 2020. Barry Koljonen and Ned Huwatschek zoomed in for the meeting and answered many questions and also thanked Sandy Gayk for her efforts in applying for the grant.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the levies as presented in the public hearing, therefore increasing the tax millage rate by .1156 mills for 2020, providing additional operating revenue from ad valorem property taxes by \$18,167.51.

The Equalization Director spoke to the Board about the requirement to appoint a designated assessor by year end. More information will be available in August.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to accept option #2 in the letter to the County from the General Services Administration dated June 11, 2020 wherein the County will divest itself one of the three parcels acquired from the United States in 2002 (being the parcel known as Parcel A-100-1) subject to an easement across Horace Greeley Road in favor of the County and its successors and assigns, and the United States will remove the use restrictions on the easements and two other parcels acquired from the United States in 2002 for a payment of \$0.00; the County Attorney is authorized to negotiate, draft, and finalize any documentation needed to divest the County of ownership of Parcel A-100-1 and remove the use restrictions from the easements and the other two

parcels; and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign the documentation on behalf of the County.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried for the Keweenaw County and Eagle Harbor Township re-zoning applications for Mount Horace Greeley are approved for submission to the Keweenaw County and Eagle Harbor Township zoning administrators for processing, review, and determination by the appropriate authorities pursuant to the zoning amendment procedures set forth in Articles XX of the Keweenaw County and Eagle Harbor Township zoning ordinances; and the Keweenaw County Attorney and the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners are directed and authorized to do those things necessary to further the review and processing of the applications.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to correct the minutes from June 19, 2019 regarding the late fees when applying for permits for the Construction Codes Department. The minutes from 2019 read as follows: "Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to charge permit penalties to anyone who does not apply for required permits through the Construction Codes Department. The charges will be 50% of the permits costs and anyone in violation will be charged effective on July 1, 2019. An ad will be put in the paper stating this". The correction is as follows: An administrative late fee of \$150 will be charged as a penalty for anyone who does not apply for the required permits for Construction Codes. The permit of \$160 plus the late fee of \$150 would be a total of \$310.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Temporary Modification to Benefit Provisions for MERS. This adjustment is temporary due to reduced hours of employees (furloughed employees) due to COVID 19 and will go through year end. With this modification, a furloughed employee will receive full service credit for the months where their hours are reduced due to COVID 19.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to keep the Courthouse doors closed to the public except by appointment.

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Services Coordinator, gave an update on COVID 19 in our area.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold the July Board meeting at the Courthouse recommending to the public that they attend via zoom if possible. Chairs will be separated to make it possible to keep social distance.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to allow the Veterans Committee to meet as needed because there is work to be done on the grant that will be submitted. All other committees should not be meeting unless there is something that is vitally important. Committee meetings will be added to the July agenda to see if anything has changed.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to raise the dumping rate at the sewer ponds to \$75 per 1,000 gallons of sewage effective immediately.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to allow DeMarois to find someone to work on the tractor not to exceed \$2,800.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow the following expenditures which are over the \$250 limit: Atlas Outfitters ATR in the amount of \$285 through the Marine grant and for the purchase of 2 Garmin GPS and Maps in the amount of \$1,369.88 from the Stonegarden grant.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to adopt the budget for the Kermit's Fund that was inadvertently forgotten for 2020.

There being no further business, motion by Gayk to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk