

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 15, 2022

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed increase of .1940 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2022. Proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by \$33,828.93 over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing. Piche opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. with all commissioners present. The Equalization Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 15, 2022

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on June 15, 2022, 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.

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Don Piche, Jim Vivian, Del Rajala.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following additions under Guests: d) Joe Foster and under New Business: m) Approve Survey and Remonumentation Plan for 2022, n) Increase mileage rate to \$.62 for last 6 months of 2022, o) Hazard Pay and Covid Bonus for Sheriff and Undersheriff.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the May 18, 2022, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Nick Daavettila, District Court Judge came to the Board to report that Paul Kroll was retiring as probation officer and that he hired Keith Anderson. Keith will be available every day for probationers from Keweenaw County, unlike before when the officer was only available on Tuesdays and every other Thursday. Judge Daavettila would like to see the Board increase the amount of the salary to \$500 per month.

Jay Parent attended the meeting to inform the Board about the plan that is being presented for cleaning up the stamp sand in Gay. Jay is the District Supervisor from EGLE Water Resources Division. There will be a public meeting on July 12th at 6:00 pm at Lake Linden High School to let the public know about the long-range plan which includes moving the stamp sand to a wooded area. That area will have a liner and the sand is placed there will be covered. The sand is full of copper which is toxic for aquatic life. The estimates show that the sands are eroding into Lake Superior at the rate of 26' per year. Eventually the plan would have a 200' jetty built to stop the sand from moving down the coast.

Patrick Geraghty came in front of the Board to present a proposal for upgrades/expansion on the tower at MHG for Gogo/Aircell. Patrick was working with Rajala prior to the meeting to go over the technical side of things and Rajala was satisfied with what was presented. Rajala said that the only thing he wanted to see was that a walk through would occur before construction begins.

Joe Foster from Crampton Surveying came to the Board to present the 2022 Survey and Remonumentation Plan. Keweenaw County received a little more money for 2022 which helps to get some more corners done. Currently, the county is approximately 50% complete, not including Isle Royale.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$173,446.80 Construction Codes Fund=\$6,730.86 911 Fund=\$570.20 Houghton County MCF=\$1,000.80 Veterans Affairs=\$125.00 Child Care Fund = \$84.09 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The sewer ponds were up for discussion. It sounds like the 10" valves are not available at this time, and they are not sure when they might be. There are 7 valves that need to be replaced which would cost about \$45,000. There are some valves that are completely seized. The entire process needs to move forward, however. The RFP process will continue to be worked on by Attorney Miller, Tom Wierciak and Zach Garner.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Sheriff union contract until July as more revisions were required.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the levies as presented in the public hearing, therefore increasing the tax millage rate by .1940 mills for 2022, providing additional operating revenue from ad valorem property taxes by \$33,828.93.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to increase the District Court budget by approximately \$2800 which will increase the probation officer's salary to \$6,000.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow Gogo to upgrade and expand on the tower at Mount Horace Greeley with a walk through to be scheduled prior to construction.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the 3rd amendment between the County and Gogo by increasing the rate by \$900 per month based on the extra 6 antennas that are being placed on the tower.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to authorize the Chairman to sign the easement between TRG and Keweenaw County for access to the tower at Mount Horace Greeley based on Attorney Miller's review.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County, Michigan has experienced disasters that have damaged commercial, residential, and public properties; displaced citizens and businesses, closed streets and bridges, and threatened the health and safety of the general public; and

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County has prepared a Hazard Mitigation Plan that outlines options to reduce overall damage and impact from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County has reviewed and updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan on the five-year cycle as required; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to review and comment on Hazard Mitigation Plan have been provided to the public, and local, state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2022, the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the Hazard Mitigation Plan pending adoption by Keweenaw County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The updated KEWEENAW COUNTY MITIGATION PLAN dated **2020-2025** is hereby adopted as an official plan of Keweenaw County, Michigan.

The Emergency Management Coordinator shall submit a written report to the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners when updates, revisions, or other actions are recommended or required, at a minimum once every five years. **(#22-4)**

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve adding Juneteenth (June 19th) to the list of holidays for county employees effective for 2022.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table the proposal for the Sheriff garage until July so that the plans can be revised to have a hip roof like the rest of the buildings here on the grounds. Also, the Board wanted to have in floor heating added into the plans.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve putting the 2017 Ford Interceptor out to bid.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to acknowledge the grant from the Portage Health Foundation in the amount of \$5,000 for the Keweenaw Search and Rescue project.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the grant from the Department of Treasury for the First Responder Training and Recruitment Grant program in the amount of \$82,172.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the proposal from BS&A Software for the Clerk and Treasurer's office in the approximate amount of \$31,990. Staff will check with Integris to make sure that our infrastructure can handle a new software program prior to commitment.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the 2022 Survey and Remonumentation Plan.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to increase the mileage rate to \$.62 per mile effective 7/1/22.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve paying the Sheriff and Undersheriff the \$2,500 Covid Response bonus from ARPA funds and \$.50 per hour based on 2,080 hours per year from the General Fund.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. Meeting adjourned.