

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 21, 2016

The Public Hearing was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River, MI for the purpose of giving citizens the opportunity to submit comments or to speak at the hearing regarding the completion of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge CDBG Planning Grant. The CDBG grant was used to assist in funding the development of a Best Use Study and Commercial Appraisal of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Bob DeMarois, Don Piche, Ray Chase, Del Rajala.

Jerry Wuorenmaa from WUPPDR was present at the hearing and said that he had heard that the appraisal had mistakes in it. One of the mistakes was that it listed KML having 11 cabins instead of 24. He contacted the appraiser and the appraiser said that he is willing to look into the problems and to correct them. At this time, it appears as though the grant will not be able to be closed out as there are too many unresolved issues.

People asked about when these documents became available and said that they read the minutes and these documents were never discussed or mentioned. There were questions regarding the comparisons used for the appraisal and that KML was worth more than the appraisal states.

The appraisal and Best Use Study will be posted on the county website after this meeting.

Someone asked if the Board had ever gone through any of the suggestions from the Best Use Study. Was there any discussion about it at a meeting? Has the Board taken any information and tried to implement anything?

Motion by Chase supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 21, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on December 21, 2016 beginning at 7:25 p.m. following the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge meeting, at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Bob DeMarois, Don Piche, Ray Chase, Del Rajala.

The meeting was posted in the Courthouse on the bulletin board and the agenda for the meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to accept the minutes from the November 16, 2016 regular monthly meeting and the December 6, 2016 special meeting as presented.

The Treasurer, Sheriff and Mine Inspector reports were received.

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=\$146,322.69 Construction Codes Fund=\$6,348.14 911 Fund=\$5,742.41 Law Library=\$347.99 Child Care Fund/Basic Grant=\$0 County Veterans Trust Fund=\$0 Medical Care Fund=\$3,719.64 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$0 Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to adopt the following budget amendments for 2016: Board of Commissioners-101-101-808 Contract Services=\$5,000, Board of Commissioners 101-101-965 Appropriation to the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge=\$90,000 and the Courthouse and Grounds 101-265-977 Capital Outlay for \$60,000. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint the following individuals to the following committees:

Planning Commission	John Parsons and Ned Huwatschek	12/31/2019
Zoning Board of Appeals	Mark Ahlborn and Steve Peters	12/31/2019
	Peter Mace-goes from alternate to full member	
Brownfield	Charles Bennetts, Mark Klemp, Mike Musiel	12/31/2019
Veterans Affairs	Ned Huwatschek	12/31/2019

Motion by Chase supported by Rajala to approve the following resolution opting out of PA 152 exempting Keweenaw County employees from paying 20% for health insurance:
WHEREAS, on September 27, 2011, P.A. 152 of 2011, an act to limit a public employer's expenditures for employee medical benefits plans, became immediately effective; and
WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the requirements of that Act; and
WHEREAS, in keeping with the County's established, long-range budgeting practices that actively balance the interests of taxpayers and County employees, and in keeping with the long established practice of Keweenaw County employees working with the County to defray escalating costs associated with employees' medical benefit plans and having made wage and salary concessions; and
WHEREAS, Section 8 of Act 152 authorizes a local unit of government, defined to include a county government, upon a 2/3 vote of the governing body, to exempt itself from the requirements of the Act for the next succeeding year; and
WHEREAS, by exempting itself under Section 8 of Act 152 for calendar year 2017, Keweenaw County is allowed prudent time to continue making changes over time that yield significant reductions in health care costs in a manner that is fair to both taxpayers and employees; and
WHEREAS, exempting Keweenaw County from Act 152 for calendar year 2017 is equitable considering that Keweenaw County's employees have already demonstrated by their actions a continuing willingness to fairly share in the burden of meeting the significant economic challenges associated with Michigan's long recession; and
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that acting pursuant to the authority granted a county under Section 8 of Act 152, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby exempts Keweenaw County government from the requirements of P.A. 152 of 2011 for calendar year 2017.
Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried. (#16-10)

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow the Clerk to do what needs to be done with the payroll so that hourly employees are not paid to date. Payroll will still be done on the 15th and the last day of the month but pay slips will be due approximately one week earlier. The County will cover the cost of this for this for current employees. Any new employees will be aware of this new pay system.

Motion by Chase supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the 2017 Survey and Remonumentation Grant Application

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow eligible employees to purchase service credit time through MERS. There is a new process beginning January 3, 2017 where employees will have to go through the employer to begin the process and MERS required a decision by the municipality before this date. If the county opted out of allowing the employees to buy time, we would have had to notify MERS. At this time, nothing further needs to be done.

Bids were opened for a 2017 SUV for the Sheriff Department. The following bids were received:

Copper Country Ford	2017 Ford Explorer	\$28,558.14
Northern Auto Inc	2017 Dodge Durango	\$35,526.98
Keweenaw Chevrolet	2017 Chevy Tahoe	\$38,517.76

Motion by Rajala supported by Chase to accept the bid from Copper Country Ford for the 2017 Ford Explorer/Police Interceptor in the amount of \$28,558.14 and any additional equipment needed to outfit the new SUV for use. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the following union agreements: AFSCME Local 226-Keweenaw County Courthouse-\$2,000 added to base wage effective 1/1/17 and a 2% raise effective 1/1/18. (A two year contract)

POAM-County Police-2% raise effective 12/1/16, \$.02 per year longevity, wording to be changed regarding sergeants (one on each shift) and shift hour wording to be changed (A one year contract)

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the 2017 mileage rate at \$.53.

Motion by Chase supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to authorize the County Clerk (as the County's Chief Financial Officer) to make budget transfers between accounts and between activities without increasing the total board authorized fund expenditures. The allowed transfers must be subsequently submitted to the County Board for approval. This is in accordance with the State's Uniform Budgeting Act.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow Chairman Piche to sign the contract with Bob Mikesch for the 2016 financials for the County as proposed.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow Chairman Piche to sign the contract with Bob Mikesch for assisting the newly elected treasurer with uniform accounting procedures for Michigan Counties and the computerized accounting system and procedures established for Keweenaw County.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint William Luokkanen to the UP 911 Authority Administrative Policy Board vacated by retiring Sheriff Ron Lahti.

Time was allowed for public comment. A thank you went out to Eckloff and Chase for their service on the Keweenaw County Board.

There being no further business, motion by Chase to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk