

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
April 15, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on April 15, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m., was held via Zoom (a virtual meeting platform where everyone signs in from home) due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

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, Del Rajala.

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

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the February 19, 2020 and March 18, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes and the March 13, 2020 and March 20, 2020 special meeting minutes as presented.

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

Joe Foster from Crampton Surveying was a guest at the meeting speaking about the County Survey and Remonumentation program. The state is requiring a revised plan that needs to be adopted by the County. The revised plan requires that each corner in the county be identified and corners need to be recounted. The corners on Isle Royale will not be resurveyed since it is a National Park but the corners on the mainland are about 53% complete.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$136,536.51 Construction Codes Fund=\$996.19 911 Fund=\$13,072.85 Child Care Fund=\$854.00 Medical Care Fund=\$967.44 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Paul Putnam from the MSU Extension attended the meeting as the Board had questions regarding what the Extension is doing for Keweenaw County. The county is experiencing some financial hardship and is looking to cut spending and the MSU Extension Agreement was tabled for more information at an earlier meeting. Paul shared some of the things that the Extension is helping with which included assisting people with coupons to buy fresh produce at farmers markets, the 4-H program, educational meetings about finance, tourism, and zoning and they have many other programs. After discussion, motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois to approve the agreement with the MSU Extension for 2020. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala and Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Services Coordinator, was present at the meeting to update the Board on what is happening in our area due to the coronavirus. Chris recommended that the county extend the Declaration of a Local "State of Emergency" which would expire in 28 days knowing that if something changes, the county can always cancel the declaration. Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to extend the Declaration of a Local "State of Emergency" which was first voted on during the March 18, 2020 regular monthly meeting. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk to approve the following resolution for the Survey and Remonumentation revised plan for Keweenaw County:

WHEREAS, the responsibility for land corner monumentation preservation resides in the State of Michigan, and;

WHEREAS, the Revised County Plan will continue to provide for the location, monumentation, and/or remonumentation of corners, a history of all corners, a repository of all records, a perpetual maintenance program, and preservation of public land survey corners, and;

WHEREAS, the county is required to adopt a revised county plan to become eligible for grant monies to implement PA 345 of 1990, as amended, MCL 54.261-279, and;

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County has a plan in place as approved on October 20, 1992, and;

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners understands that the existing plan shall be amended as provided in this Revised County Plan,

NOW, AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Keweenaw County does hereby adopt the Revised County Plan for Survey and Remonumentation as provided. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried. **(#20-4)**

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala to approve the 2020 Keweenaw County Remonumentation Program and the listing for the individual contracts for Clearwater Surveying and CHN Surveying. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Anderson, Equalization Director for Keweenaw County presented the report for County Equalization. Overall, the county's equalized value went up 5.38%. The CEV (County Equalized Value) went from \$225,325,039 to \$238,139,593. The following rates were adopted as presented: Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to set the commercial CEV at \$12,604,783. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to set the industrial CEV at \$202,176. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to set the residential CEV at \$216,775,538. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to set the timber cut over at \$2,933,813. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to set the personal CEV at \$5,623,283. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to adopt the following resolution asking for the Great Lakes shoreline to be declared a disaster:

WHEREAS, record high water levels in the Great Lakes have contributed to ongoing shoreline erosion across the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County has 95 miles of Lake Superior shoreline and Lake Superior water levels have caused severe damage to public and private infrastructure in Keweenaw County, and

WHEREAS, Lake Superior water levels have costed the Road Commission approximately \$75,000 already and estimated costs for future problems is around \$2,000,000, and

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County recognizes the effects of storms, high water, and wind driven waves that is causing severe erosion to the shorelines, infrastructure, and private property along Lake Superior, and

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County as well as other shoreline communities in the State of Michigan are desperately in need of additional resources to combat shoreline erosion and protection of natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor of the State of Michigan along with the State Legislature declare the Shoreline of the Great Lakes in the State of Michigan a disaster area, and that the Governor and State Legislature seek assistance from Congress and the President of the United States of America for this devastating situation which has impact statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be sent to Governor Whitmer, Senator McBroom, Representative Markkanen, Congressman Jack Bergman, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Senator Gary Peters. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried. **(#20-5)**

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to put the following ballot proposals on the August ballot:
COURTHOUSE/JAIL BUILDING AND GROUNDS MILLAGE

Shall the expired previous voted increase in the fifteen mill tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within the County of Keweenaw, Michigan be renewed at .5 mill (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the years 2020 through 2023 inclusive for the Courthouse/Jail buildings and grounds improvements which will raise an estimated \$78,579 in the first year?

COUNTYWIDE ROAD MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will permit the County to levy 2 mills for the purpose of providing funds for the maintenance and repair of roads within the County in the years 2020-2024, inclusive.

Shall tax limitation upon the total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property for all purposes in any one year under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 be increased in the County of Keweenaw Michigan by a new 2.00 mills (which is equal to \$2.00 per \$1,000.00 of taxable value of all such property) for a period of 5 years, 2020 through

2024 inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds exclusively for highway, road and street purposes and the maintenance and repair of roads in accord with MCL 224.20b within the townships and village of the County of Keweenaw, and shall the County of Keweenaw be authorized to levy such millage for these purposes? The amount of revenue the County of Keweenaw will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the County is estimated to be \$314,316.00 in the first calendar year.

Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There was no board action on the KEDA membership invoice or on the UP Resource Conservation & Development Council membership.

Sheriff Luokkanen was tasked with making cuts to the department budget in the amount of \$85,000. There were two meetings where these talks occurred which took place on March 13th and March 20th. Sheriff Luokkanen spoke about these cuts and the following two motions came as a result of the budgetary constraints.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk to amend the Sheriff Budget by a total of \$97,000. The first \$85,000 would be through attrition as Sheriff Luokkanen announced his retirement effective 5/15/2020. One position at the Sheriff department will not be filled after this retirement. The next \$12,000 is made up of the following cuts to the current budget:

Sheriff Budget

Postage	200.00	Gas/Oil	500.00	Other	1,000.00
Membership	500.00	Health Services	500.00	Travel	400.00
Equipment	1,000.00	Vehicle Rpr	1,000.00	Training	3,000.00

Animal Control 200.00

Jail Budget

Temp Hire	1,000.00	Other Supply	500.00	Janitor Supply	200.00
Inmate Meals	200.00	Maintenance	400.00	Fixture Rpr	300.00

K-9 Budget

Vehicle Rpr 1,000.00

Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to accept the letter of retirement from Sheriff Bill Luokkanen. Each Board member thanked Bill for his years of service to the county and wished him well in his retirement. Bill thanked the Board for their dedication to the County as well as their cooperation with the Sheriff's office during his tenure. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala to put the 2012 Chevrolet Impala out to bids as the Tahoe is now on the road. The Impala has been stripped and an ad will be put in the Daily Mining Gazette for bids that will be opened at the May Board meeting. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

After much discussion, motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to have the Clerk, Commissioner Gayk and the Emergency Services Coordinator draft a letter to the Secretary of the Interior stating that the Board will support the decision made by the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior on whether or not to open Isle Royale this season. With the COVID 19 pandemic, there is some concern about not even when to open, but if it should open at all since Isle Royale is so remote. A letter will be drafted stating that the Board does support any decision made. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. For the record, the meeting went very well even though it was done remotely. Social distancing is required right now, and Board members and the public were still able to gather safely and take care of the county business. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk