

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING CONDUCTED IN PERSON WITH ZOOM AVAILABLE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
August 19, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on August 19, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was held in person with Zoom available 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 via Zoom.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the July 15, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes and the July 23, 2020 special meeting minutes as submitted.

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

John Mueller and Mariah Summers were guests at the meeting. They came on behalf of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge Snow Terrain Park that they would like to see up and running again. Mr. Mueller is asking the county for an easement as the terrain park would end on county property. The park would be open to resort guests as well as the public during certain hours which will be determined later. There was discussion of insurance and giving a license vs an easement for use of the property. After much discussion, motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to have the county attorney check with the DNR to see if it is possible to transfer ownership of the approximate half acre that is needed for the terrain park. This property that was deeded to the county by the DNR for public use.

Kate Beer from the Western UP Health Department appeared before the Board to discuss the 2021 allocation amount. The Health Department is looking an increasing allocations for the 5 county area due to decreased funding and MERS legacy costs that have gone up for 2021. The Health Department does realize that the counties are unsure of funding too, but they are asking for an increase of either \$25,000 or \$50,000 between the five counties. The Health Department board will vote on the requests and then each county will be asked for that allocation.

Time was allowed for public comment.

During the Committee meeting reports, the 2021 Veterans Affairs grant was brought up. Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to press forward and allow Chairman Piche to sign the grant application for 2021.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$157,386.51 Construction Codes Fund=\$6,821.40 911 Fund=\$1,028.82 Medical Care Fund=\$750.60 Child Care Fund=\$4,687.95 Kermit's Fund=\$605.06 Veterans Affairs Fund=\$4,183.98 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Piche. Nays: None. Abstain: Rajala. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to check with Bjorn Excavating to get a price on digging a ditch near the Mount Horace Greeley sewer ponds to help with the rain and the snow runoff. The ditch will prevent the runoff from going into the ponds.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to have the Road Commission make improvements to the road to the sewer ponds at Mount Horace Greeley in the amount of \$455.58 which includes two loads of crushed mine rock with a third load to be allowed if necessary.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve earnest money in the amount of \$530 for a new patrol boat. A grant was secured for \$87,750 through the Stonegarden grant.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to amend the ORV budget by \$750 due to a donation that was received. This money will be spent on emergency equipment for the ATV.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Joe Finch from the Veterans Affairs Committee and as the liaison officer to the Houghton County Veterans Affairs. A letter will be sent to Mr. Finch thanking him for his service.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to have the Courthouse doors remain locked with the public coming in by appointment only or by ringing the doorbell.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to keep the committee meetings on hold due to COVID 19.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:57 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk