

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
November 17, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held November 17, 2010, 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Frank Stubenrauch, Don Keith, Carol Rose Fouts, Joe Langdon.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following additions: Under New Business: g. Discuss letter from Jim Huovinen regarding a County Controller h. Payment of revenue bond.

The minutes from October 20, 2010 stood as presented.

The Treasurer, Sheriff and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Kim Stoker, Executive Director of WUPPDR, presented the Board with a newsletter and with a sheet stating the return on investment for Keweenaw County. It is estimated that for every \$1 invested in WUPPDR, they returned \$114.35 or 11,435% over the past five years. The return on investment does include the improvements at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge.

Mr. Stoker was also present to speak about a possible feasibility study for the stamp sands in Keweenaw, Houghton and Baraga Counties. Mr. Stoker presented the information to the EDC and the EDC was in support of the project. The feasibility study would cost \$50,000 in total but there would be a grant available for one half from the MEDC. The other counties were approached but did not choose to participate in matching funds. The Keweenaw County Road Commission was approached and said that they could not participate because of ACT 51. The MEDC will not fund a study that is focused on one particular county or business. The whole project is about the reuse of stamp sands in the area. There are possibilities of a processing plant and perhaps even a shingle factory. The sands in Gay are the main focus for the County. The study would provide the homework for developers and would assist them with development of a business plan to approach the bank with. The study would look at the permits that would be needed and give numbers for many options. The Keweenaw County Brownfield Authority also unanimously supported this entire project.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch to support the stamp sand reuse project in its entirety and to pay the matching amount of \$25,000 from the EDC Fund for the proposed Stamp Sand Reuse Feasibility Study. Board polled. Ayes: Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts. Nays: Eckloff, Langdon. Motion carried.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River to hear public comment on the proposed grant application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for the feasibility study regarding the reuse of stamp sand.

Ray Chase stated that the EDC is not in favor of appropriating EDC funds to the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. EDC members are worried that if the fund is too low and some of the projects that they are working on come into fruition, there will be no seed money available to start a project. The board discussed that if there was a viable project and the EDC Fund did not have enough money, it would only be right to take money from other funds such as the General Fund. If the project is worth putting money into, other funds could be available for economic development in our county, not only money from the EDC Fund.

Ron Lahti asked the Board to set up a public hearing for a grant application from Rural Development for a new patrol car.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$123,161.84 Construction Codes Fund=\$2,799.02 911 Fund=\$2,162.23 EDC=\$3,289.39 Law Library=\$ Child Care Fund=\$0 County Veterans Trust Fund=\$4,305.09 Register of Deeds Automation Fund=\$3,200.00. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Langdon supported by Eckloff to approve the Debt Elimination Plan for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge as presented to the Board. This plan states that there would be \$180,000 appropriated from the EDC Fund to the KML Park Fund with the remaining debt to be made up with a loan from the General Fund to the KML Park Fund equal to the December 31, 2010 cash deficit in the KML Park Fund. This motion was then amended by Langdon to the following: To approve the "Deficit Elimination Plan" to be submitted to the

Michigan Department of Treasury for the Keweenaw Park Fund. To comply with provisions of the plan, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners authorize a loan of \$180,000 from the County's Economic Development Fund to the Keweenaw Park Fund and a loan from the County's General Fund equal to the December 31, 2010 cash deficit in the Keweenaw Park Fund. Board polled on the amended motion. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: Keith. Motion carried.

Ray Chase and Donna Jaaskelainen will get together and try to gather the tower agreements with the goal being to make sure all of them are accounted for. This will be placed under Unfinished Business for Dec.

Langdon informed the Board that the privy vandalism at the Mouth of the Gratiot is not covered by the County insurance.

Motion by Keith to table the Employee Education Policy until January 2011. Motion died for lack of support.

Motion by Langdon supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to table the Employee Education Policy until December.

Motion by Keith supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the "Memorandum of Agreement" between the Keweenaw County Courthouse and the Western U.P. Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency for continued participation in the Employee Assistance Program.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to send a letter of support on behalf of WUPPDR for the continuation of MEDC technical assistance funding which assists Keweenaw County in bringing economic development into our community.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to agree with the proposed 911 contract and to allow Langdon to sign the contract.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to hold two public hearings on December 15, 2010 at the Courthouse in Eagle River. The first hearing will be at 6:00 p.m. and the purpose is to hear public comment on the grant application to Rural Development for a patrol car. The second hearing will follow at 6:10 p.m. and its purpose is to hear public comment on the Keweenaw County budgets including the General Fund Budget and all Special Funds Budgets.

The Draft Keweenaw County Recreation Plan 2011-2015 is available for the required 30 day public review through December 17, 2010. Comments will be accepted by WUPPDR until 5 p.m. on December 17, 2010. Copies of the plan are available at the Clerk's Office in the Courthouse or at WUPPDR. It is also available online at [www.wuppdr.org](http://www.wuppdr.org).

Jim Huovinen presented the Board with a packet of information regarding his ideas of the benefits of hiring a county controller.

Due to a conflict of meetings, the County Budget Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 1, 2010 has been moved to Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the County General Fund Budget and the Special Funds Budgets.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business motion by Stubenrauch to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

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Joseph Langdon, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, Clerk