

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
September 18, 2019

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on September 18, 2019 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.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Sandra Gayk, Jim Vivian, Del Rajala, Don Piche.

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

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the August 21, 2019 regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to adopt resolution # 19-5 in honor of Robert "Bob" Mikesch's 55 years of service to Keweenaw County as the auditor and then as a consultant. Bob was a mentor and a leader assisting the County in moving forward with technology and with keeping the County in compliance each year. His knowledge and sound financial advice will be missed.

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

David Flaspohler, Joseph Youngman and Phil Quenzi were present at the meeting from the Copper Country Audubon Society requesting that they be able to put up a radio tracking system for certain migratory birds on Mount Horace Greeley. They had a site picked out that was basically on a wooden pole structure where they would install an antenna and small solar panel with batteries to support. Access would be required once or twice per year. This is part of a nationwide system that monitors the bird migration. Each bird has a tag that has a unique frequency signature that this tracking system would be able to follow.

Todd Holmstrom from the Economic Development Committee spoke to the Board about permission to send the Request for Information (RFI) for a rocket launch site to MAMA (Michigan Aerospace Manufacturing Association) for Mount Horace Greeley. This is only a request for information and does not require any commitment from the county at this time. The EDC voted unanimously that this come to the County Board for approval so that the RFI could be sent to MAMA by the deadline so that MHG might be on the list for consideration. Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow the commissioners time to look at the RFI that was prepared by Jeff Radcliffe and to let the clerk know by noon on Friday if each board member is in favor of sending the RFI to MAMA.

Charlie Hopper from Pasty.net was present and thanked the Board for new tower which allows a better signal than ever before for pasty.net users. Mr. Hopper requested that Pasty.net be allowed to install a webcam on the tower, either static or scanning, that would allow people to view the area here in Eagle River.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$198,757.73 Construction Codes Fund=\$5,945.34 911 Fund=\$1,629.31 Concealed Pistol Permit Fund=\$363.91 Child Care Fund=\$2,061.68 Veterans Affairs=\$702.33 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the bid from Dirtworks in the amount of \$4,250 for the fence that will surround the tower here on the Courthouse grounds.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the request from the Copper Country Audubon Society for putting up an antenna and supporting equipment at Mount Horace Greeley after a Release of Liability is received from the people who will be installing the equipment.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow Pasty.net to install a webcam near the top of the tower on the Courthouse grounds if the equipment passes the load study by OHM. For now, the webcam can be at or near the top but at some point, it may need to be lowered.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the addition of more gravel at the parking lot at the Gratiot River Park by Bjorn Excavating in the amount of \$3,222.50.

The Gratiot River Park dedication will be scheduled once the parking lot is completed.

Motion by Vivian supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the Professional Services Proposal in the amount of \$6,690 by OHM for the Sheriff Department Storage Garage.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the proposal from Seaton Appraisal in the amount of \$18,000 for the appraisal of Mount Horace Greeley. The appraisal is a two-phase project as required by the General Services Administration.

The Board decided to send a bill to Shorewaves for the time that they were on the tower at Mount Horace Greeley. The treasurer will send the bill certified mail, return receipt requested.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:

The Commissioners propose to adopt two new ordinances regulating the operation of off-road vehicles (ORVs) within Keweenaw County.

One of these proposed ordinances will authorize the operation of ORVs on all County Roads, as defined in the ordinance (County Road Ordinance). If the County Road Ordinance is adopted, it will replace Keweenaw County Ordinance 2008-1.

The other proposed ordinance will authorize the operation of ORVs on the section of State Hwy M26 extending between the Town of Copper Harbor and the eastern entrance to Brockway Mountain Drive (Connector Ordinance). The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) must authorize the Connector Ordinance before it can be adopted by the Commissioners.

Drafts of the proposed County Road Ordinance and Connector Ordinance are attached.

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners therefore resolve as follows:

The Keweenaw County Clerk shall schedule a public hearing on the proposed ordinances to be set on a date and at a time as she shall determine. Not less than 45 days before the public hearing on the proposed ordinances, the County Clerk shall send notice of the public hearing, by certified mail, to the Keweenaw County Road Commission, to the legislative body of each township and municipality located within Keweenaw County, to the Michigan Department of Transportation, and to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

After the public hearing has been held, the Commissioners may vote on the proposed County Road Ordinance or seek to have it amended pursuant to public comment. The Commissioners will also vote on whether to seek authorization from MDOT to adopt the Connector Ordinance.

If the Commissioners vote to seek authorization from MDOT to adopt the Connector Ordinance, the Keweenaw County Attorney shall prepare an application to MDOT to authorize the adoption of such an ordinance. The basis for the application shall be that use of this section of State Hwy M26 is needed for ORVs to access tourist attractions, food service establishments, fuel, motels, and other services. The application may be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners without further authorization by the Board of Commissioners. **(#19-6)**

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to authorize the chairman to sign the Emergency Management Performance Grant-October 2018 through September 2019 which provides for coverage of some of the salary/benefits for the Emergency Services Coordinator.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to hold a budget meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River.

Jim Vivian and the Treasurer will schedule a meeting with the sewage haulers who are using the ponds near Mount Horace Greeley to see if there is a better system to use than what is currently in place.

Jim Vivian will plan to attend the UPACC Fall Conference.

There being no further business, motion by Gayk to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk