

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 2022

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on April 20, 2022, 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.

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Don Piche, Jim Vivian, Del Rajala.

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

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the March 16, 2022, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Zach Garner from Open Skies was present at the meeting to talk about the sewage lagoons at Mt Horace Greeley. Open Skies is the group that purchased the property at Mt Horace Greeley. Zach has been talking to many people about the lagoons, researching about them and seeing if there is any possibility of grants. At this time, Open Skies is not interested in owning the lagoons, but they will work with the county to bring the lagoons into compliance. There are three current issues: the cattail overgrowth, fencing and valves. There will be an inspection by the State in the spring and Zach was sure that the lagoons would be out of compliance. In the fall of 2023, the county will have to reapply for the permit for the lagoons and these three issues would need to be taken care of. Zach suggested to start working on valve replacement because there may be problems with availability. He also suggested that the county put the revenue that comes in for the lagoons into its own fund so that money will build up to pay for expenses and possibly for grant matches in the future. Open Skies will have someone up at the property full time in May and they are willing to get licensed and Tom Wierciak will assist them with operating the lagoon system. They would do this in exchange for the county allowing them to discharge their sewage. Open Skies will take care of the cattails and put up the fencing. The county would have to put an RFP out for valve replacement which could be anywhere from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

Time was allowed for public comment. Tom Wierciak spoke up and said that the lagoons haven't been managed well and they are in a bad spot. He was only in charge of the discharge flow and monitoring that. Tom felt that this would be a win-win for the county and Open Skies if they are willing to step up, get licensed and maintain the lagoons.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$160,639.20 Construction Codes Fund=\$3,285.25 911 Fund=\$8,578.59 ARPA Fund = \$470.85 Houghton County MCF=\$934.08 Veterans Affairs=\$1,563.71 Child Care Fund = \$468.00 Indigent Defense Fund = \$3,922.47 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, 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 5.83%. The CEV (County Equalized Value) went from \$243,294,223 to \$258,361,616. The following values were adopted as presented:

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the commercial CEV at \$13,412,157.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to set the industrial CEV at \$167,159.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the residential CEV at \$234,866,118.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the timber cut over at \$3,003,700.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the personal CEV at \$6,912,482.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to set a Truth in Taxation Public Hearing for June 15, 2022 at 6:15 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to get a better idea on a price to decommission the lagoons, to obtain a RFP for replacing the valves, and Vivian will reach out to Siler to see about the price that he was given a couple of years ago on used valves.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to create a separate account for revenue from the Mt Horace sewer lagoons so that the money can be used for maintenance.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the union contract with the sheriff department with the following monetary details: 3% for the first year, 2% for the following year, \$.50 per hour for Hazard pay, and then a one-time payment of \$2,500 for Covid Response to be paid from the ARPA fund.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the resolution to allow WUPPDR to apply for a Material Management County Engagement Grant. The resolution is as follows:
WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has issued a Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant opportunity, to help counties:

- Create partnerships within regions and counties
- Understand current materials management gaps and challenges
- Highlight future changes to the planning process
- Outline steps that can occur now at the county/regional level to assist with the development of future materials management programs and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a county is eligible to receive grant funds in the amount of \$10,000 when acting independently of other counties or \$12,000 when collaborating with other counties, with neither amount requiring a local matching share; and

WHEREAS, EGLE is strongly encouraging a regional approach to materials management; and

WHEREAS, Keweenaw County has engaged in discussions about multi-county regional collaboration and will proceed in collaboration with other counties in the Western Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, any county in Michigan may apply and serve as awardee of a MMCE grant; and

WHEREAS, a county's Designated Planning Agency (DPA) will act as the responsible party for completing the activities of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Keweenaw Board of Commissioners authorizes the application to EGLE for a MMCE Grant in the amount of \$12,000, and agrees to all assurances stipulated in the Grant Application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WUPPDR is authorized to act as the DPA for the purpose of the MMCE grant, with Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, the point of contact and authorized signatory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds from the MMCE grant shall be payable to WUPPDR for services, under a separate agreement if necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Donald Piche, Chairman of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners, shall be the authorized representative and signatory for Keweenaw County for the purpose of the MMCE grant. **(#22-3)**

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the following millage proposal for Allocation for the August Primary:

Shall separate tax limitation millage rates be established for a period of 4 years, 2023 through 2026 inclusive, or until altered by the voters of the County, for the County of Keweenaw and the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 15 mills, as follows:

	MILLS
County of Keweenaw	6.25
Townships: Allouez	1.30
Eagle Harbor	1.30
Houghton	1.30
Grant	2.35
Sherman	1.35
Copper Country Intermediate School District	.40

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to change the county representative on the BHK Board from DeMarois to Eckloff.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to appoint DeMarois and Piche to a local government committee to work with the Nature Conservancy/State of Michigan regarding the 33,000 acres for sale from the Keweenaw point to Lac La Belle owned by TRG.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to get an actual quote and approve the repairs of the tractor and to have Mark Niemela as the person responsible for the maintenance of the tractor.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk