

*Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee*

***Meeting Minutes***

*March 2, 2011*

Meeting held at the Keweenaw County Courthouse was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Raymond Chase.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Richard Schaefer, Don Secor, Raymond Chase, John Sturos, Ned Huwatschek, Peg Kauppi, Shari Chase, David Sundberg, Darleen Huovinen

Excused: Don Piche

**AGENDA:** Motion by Shari Chase, supported by John Sturos, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

**MINUTES:** Motion by John Sturos, supported by Shari Chase to approve the February 2, 2011 EDC Minutes. Motion carried.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** **Eric Forsberg-Houghton County Controller: Topic: *Duties & Responsibilities of a County Controller/Manager***

Main responsibilities of a Controller/Manager: **Develop and manage the county budget.** Additional responsibilities include:

- Participate in labor (union) negotiations with non-elected employees. Develop job descriptions and employee training manuals
- Review and negotiate contracts and leases
- Review and negotiate benefits, insurance and salary schedules utilizing comparative analysis with other county wage and benefit wage/benefits scales
- Facilities maintenance: Review , make recommendations and recommend budget allocations
- Capital improvements: Budgets, purchases and depreciations
- Salary: Keweenaw County is one-fifth the size of Houghton County. Utilizing the services of a Controller/Manager would necessitate the need to explore a part-time employee

- Grant Writing: Could a KC Manager offset his/her salary by writing grants to benefit KC?
  - KC Issue: KC pays WUPPDR \$5000 year for services, but KC Commissioners don't have a direct link with WUPPDR. KC needs to assign a liaison to WUPPDR
  - EDC Issue: Pursuing grants in KC would be aimed at economic development not for operational expenses

Response: Typically, a controller would overview grants submitted for economic development. Grants for operational expenses would be submitted by a county controller/manager.

ACTION ITEM: EDC to explore job descriptions for a county manager, financial accountability in Keweenaw County and creating a liaison with WUPPDR to secure economic developments.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Keweenaw County Communications Infrastructure: Shari Chase – *Cellular Communications* - Verizon is investigating alternate sites for cellular towers in Keweenaw County.
- Bio-mass Technology: David Sundberg: *Energy Efficiency* - Attended a meeting on 3-3-11 at the MTU Keweenaw Research Center. Building is heated by mine water from the Baltic Mine. 11,000 square foot building is heated and cooled using geothermal technology/heat pumps. The technology is five times cheaper than utilizing electrical energy to heat/cool buildings.
- Bio-Mass Technology: Raymond Chase: *Bio Fuel Project*-Contact was made with Traxis Corporation. Bio fuel project in Keweenaw County remains under discussion. Major land owners have expressed interested in supplying raw material/wood waste for a bio mass plant. Converting coal fired power plants to bio mass facilities utilizing renewable energy is a major focus in the region.
- Keweenaw County Recreation Trails: Raymond Chase: *ATV Recreation Trails Map*- Initial printing of 7,500 maps completed. Maps will be distributed prior to the opening of the trails.
- KC Court House Renovation: Darleen Huovinen - Researching grant applications for renovation and restoration of historic structures is on-going.
- Manufacturing Facility Cost Analysis: Don Secor: Will contact MTU personnel to pursue technical information that could be utilized to develop a cost analysis to create a manufacturing facility in Keweenaw County.
- Keweenaw County Manager: Board Discussion – Tabled to April 6, 2011.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: David Sundberg - Land transfer of Louisiana Pacific property to Brownfield is progressing.
- Planning Commission: Ned Huwatschek – No report.
- Board of Commissioners: Don Piche – No report.
- Copper Harbor Trails Club: Peg Kauppi: *Silent Sports* – Club is pursuing options to generate financial support to purchase property for the trails.

MOTION, Dar Huovinen, supported by Ned Huwatschek, that the EDC write a letter of general support for the Copper Harbor Recreation Trails Club to pursue grants and funding for expansion of the silent trail systems in Keweenaw County. Motion passed without objection.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

***NEXT EDC MEETING: April 6, 2011, 6:30 P.M., Keweenaw County Courthouse***

Motion to adjourn was made by Peg Kauppi.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

*Darleen M. Huovinen*