

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 17, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held December 17, 2014, 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Bob DeMarois, Ray Chase, Del Rajala, Don Piche.

The meeting was posted in the Courthouse on the bulletin board and the agenda for the meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse.

Motion by Rajala supported by Chase and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Chase supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the minutes as presented from the November 19, 2014 regular monthly board meeting and the December 2, 2014 special meeting.

The Treasurer, Sheriff and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Kim Stoker, Executive Director of WUPPDR, Caroline Penny from Michigan Works, Jeff Ratcliffe from KEDA, and Laura Mahronic from the Small Business Development Center were present to update the Board on the Regional Prosperity Initiative that the six western UP counties are involved in. The initiative was created to have agencies work together to find ways to collaborate services. The Regional Prosperity Initiative plan will be turned over to the State at the end of December and it has been worked on for almost a year. This initiative will create a system of organization between partners.

Rob Strittmatter, manager of Fort Wilkins informed the Board that the property between Fort Wilkins and Copper Harbor is being sold and it is a critical piece of land as the hiking/biking trails that join Fort Wilkins and Copper Harbor are on this parcel. This would be an addition to Fort Wilkins and the trail connection between the two places is important to keep pedestrians and bikers off of US 41. A Trust Fund Grant was submitted to acquire this parcel. Grant Township gave a letter of support and the Board of Commissioners did not seem opposed to the matter.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$185,669.14, Construction Codes-\$930.79, 911 Fund-\$945.31, Child Care Fund=\$0, Veterans Affairs=\$0, Law Library=\$129.83, Register of Deeds Automation Fund=\$0. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to enter into the agreement with the Houghton County Medical Care Facility. This agreement explains the responsibilities and guidelines between the Medical Care Facility and Keweenaw County. This agreement is an update to the prior agreement dated December 28, 1970.

Motion by Chase supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve trading the 2011 Crown Victoria that was damaged due to hitting a deer to Gasoline Alley in lieu of the labor to get the newer Impala on the road.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Chase and unanimously carried to approve the 2015 Survey and Remonumentation Grant Application in the amount of \$39,057.

Motion by Chase supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the TopComp Digital Mapping Contract in the amount of \$1,250 for 2015.

The Repeater Association and Pasty had asked about the responsibility of paying the UPPCO bill at the tower at Mt. Horace Greeley. The Road Commission was paying it until a space heater was inadvertently left on last winter causing a \$1,200 overrun. At that time, the bill then went into the Repeater Assoc. name and they can't afford it. The equipment there is used daily but it is also used for Superior Search and Rescue, the Copper Dog and the Copperman. It was thought that the Repeater Assoc and Pasty would each pay half but Pasty thought that the County was responsible. Upon looking at the contract between Pasty and the County, it appeared that the licensee which is Pasty, is responsible for utilities and the County does not have responsibility.

Motion by Chase supported by Eckloff to approve the ad for the plat book in the amount of \$600. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Chase supported by Rajala to adopt a resolution for Keweenaw County to opt out of P.A. 152 of 2011 that reads:

WHEREAS, on September 27, 2011, P.A. 152 of 2011, an act to limit a public employer's expenditures for employee medical benefits plans, became immediately effective; and
 WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the requirements of that Act; and
 WHEREAS, in keeping with the County's established, long-range budgeting practices that actively balance the interests of taxpayers and County employees, and in keeping with the long established practice of Keweenaw County employees working with the County to defray escalating costs associated with employees' medical benefit plans and having made wage and salary concessions; and
 WHEREAS, Section 8 of Act 152 authorizes a local unit of government, defined to include a county government, upon a 2/3 vote of the governing body, to exempt itself from the requirements of the Act for the next succeeding year; and
 WHEREAS, by exempting itself under Section 8 of Act 152 for calendar year 2015, Keweenaw County is allowed prudent time to continue making changes over time that yield significant reductions in health care costs in a manner that is fair to both taxpayers and employees; and
 WHEREAS, exempting Keweenaw County from Act 152 for calendar year 2015 is equitable considering that Keweenaw County's employees have already demonstrated by their actions a continuing willingness to fairly share in the burden of meeting the significant economic challenges associated with Michigan's long recession; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that acting pursuant to the authority granted a county under Section 8 of Act 152, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby exempts Keweenaw County government from the requirements of P.A. 152 of 2011 for calendar year 2015. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried. (#14-10)

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint the following people to the following committees:

Brownfield	William Griffin	Term expiring 12/31/2017
Planning and Zoning	Jon Soper	Term expiring 12/31/2017
Dept of Human Services	Debbie Talvensaari	Term expiring 10/31/2017
Veterans Affairs	Wesley Aho	Term expiring 12/31/2017
EDC	Sam Raymond (replacing Gina Nicholas)	Term expiring 12/31/2017

Motion by Chase supported by Rajala to pay the budget administrator \$500 for 2014. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Chase, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Chase supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to sign the Union contract with the custodian for a two year period with a 3% raise in 2015 and a 2% raise in 2016.

Motion by Chase supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to adopt the following budget amendments for 2014:

General Fund		
Income		
	Unanticipated Revenue	110,404
Expenses		
Audit	101-223	615
Register of Deeds	101-268	290
Other Gen Govnt	101-290	5,592
District Health Dept	101-601-965	61
Substance Abuse Agency	101-631-999	3,438
Dept of Human Services	101-670	248
Economic Development	101-725	(1,400)
Brownfield	101-727	1,400
	Total Amend excluding PS	10,244
Sheriff	101-301	29,646
Marine Safety	101-331	144
Snowmobile Enforcement	101-332	945
Secondary Road	101-333	(37,190)
Sheriff ORV	101-334	975
Jail	101-351	7,738
	Total Amend to PS	2,258

All Special funds have a fund balance—there is no action required

Motion by Rajala supported by Chase and unanimously carried to authorize the County Clerk (as the County's Chief Financial Officer) to make budget transfers between accounts and between activities without increasing the total board authorized fund expenditures. The allowed transfers must be subsequently submitted to the County Board for approval. This is in accordance with the State's Uniform Budgeting Act.

The administration of COBRA will be brought up in the future when the insurance agent provides more information.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow the Probate Judge to purchase dental insurance through the county via payroll deduction for the full amount of the premium.

Motion by Chase supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution (#14-11) regarding the amendment and restatement of the Health Reimbursement Account due to changing insurance carriers.

Motion by Chase supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Health Reimbursement Account Adoption Agreement. The original effective date of the plan was August 15, 2008 and is being restated on December 1, 2014.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and motion carried by majority (Rajala opposed) to have two members of the Board of Commissioners and one Park Trustee negotiate the contract with the General Manager for the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge with the final approval to come before the full Board.

Control of the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge was tabled until January.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business motion by Eckloff to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk