

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 16, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on August 16, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m. following the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge meeting, at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI.

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

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 DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the minutes from the July 19, 2017 regular monthly board meeting and the July 26, 2017 special meeting as presented.

The Treasurer, Sheriff and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Joe Finch spoke to the Board about the Operating Agreement between Houghton and Keweenaw Counties regarding the Veterans Service Office. A new agreement was drafted and Keweenaw will pay Houghton County once a year based on a three year average of the percentage of Keweenaw County Veterans vs. Houghton County Veterans using the office. The new Veterans Service Officer is Joe Battisfore and new hours will go into effect on September 1st.

Tess Ahlborn addressed the Board about an internet initiative in Keweenaw County. There are many places in the county where internet options are very poor. There are many challenges but also many solutions to help with this problem and it would help economic development if better internet was available throughout the county. Could there be incentives from the county for internet providers, either cash to help with new equipment or giving breaks if county owned towers are used? The MEDC does have some grants available for assistance. There are some options but Ms. Ahlborn asked if the Board would think about what can be done to make this possible.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$157,345.59 Construction Codes Fund=\$5,144.81 911 Fund=\$663.06 Law Library=\$1,396.77 Child Care Fund/Basic Grant=\$1,165.68 County Veterans Trust Fund=\$0 Medical Care Fund=\$2,343.54 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$24,840.00 General Fund Transfer to Keweenaw Mountain Lodge=\$0. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the contractual agreement between WUPPDR and Keweenaw County with regard to the Keweenaw County Recreation Plan. WUPPDR will update and edit the previous five year recreation plan for \$3,000.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the operating agreement with Houghton County for the Veterans Service Office that is at the Houghton County Airport. Keweenaw County will pay based on the three year percentage of veterans using the office.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian to approve payment request #3 for Robert Johnson Contracting in the amount of \$24,840 for the Sheriff Office renovation. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to pay the following additions to the Sheriff Office renovations from the General Fund not to exceed \$7,000; \$3,405 for the landing in front of the office with three sets of steps off of the landing and for removal of a pipe in the office; \$1,756 for a new kitchen floor to match the porch flooring; fix the leak near the chimney and to put a new steel door in the booking area for security purposes.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to request that NorthCare Network approve the funding request from Treatment Court for the use of Soberlinks. NorthCare Network receives one half of the County's Liquor Tax funds (PA2 funds) and administers the use of that money for prevention and treatment services provided to county residents.

at&t is planning to upgrade some of their equipment on the tower at Mt Horace Greeley in the near future. They have been working with the Zoning Administrator.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business motion by Rajala to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk