

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 15, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on August 15, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, immediately following the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge meeting.

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

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 approve the minutes from the July 18, 2018 regular monthly meeting as written.

The Treasurer, Sheriff, and Mine Inspector reports were received.

Eric Stier of American Forest Management (AFM) was at the meeting to ask the Board if there was support for trying to start the process of attempting to swap land that belongs to TRG, formerly GMO with property owned by the State of Michigan. Mr. Stier had a map showing the land that TRG owns in Keweenaw County which is a significant amount. It's no secret that this land will be sold eventually and instead of TRG selling it piecemeal to private parties, there is a thought to try to swap some of the land in Keweenaw County owned by TRG with land in other areas that the State owns. This type of land swap would allow public access to the land that would otherwise be privately owned. This swap could also assist future trails, motorized and non-motorized and hunting and fishing access. The State has not been approached on the matter and Mr. Stier came to the Board to see if there was interest by the County Board and the citizens that they represent before TRG approaches the State. The State does pay PILT money on the land that they own, PILT standing for Payment in Lieu of Taxes so it would not be a loss of revenue for the townships or for the county. The matter will be tabled until next month so that the Board can gain public views on the matter.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$177,011.54 Construction Codes=\$6,105.34 911 Fund=\$928.54 Child Care Fund=\$895.16 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$949.57 Law Library=\$486.00 Veterans Affairs=\$93.20 Houghton County Medical Care Facility Fund=\$1,050.84 Loan to Keweenaw Mountain Lodge=\$0 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to table the EDGE Consulting Engineers Inc proposal for the new tower at the Sheriff's Office and improvements to the tower at MHG. Also, being tabled are the proposed upgrades to the MHG tower that MasTec and Black & Veatch would like to do.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to join the PILT Class Action Lawsuit which could result in a class action settlement. There is no down side to this as it does not cost the County any money.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to nominate Ron Lahti as a candidate for the Oreste Chiantello Public Service Award. Gayk will write up the letter of nomination for Lahti.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to move the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge closing date up from September 10, 2018 to September 5, 2018 at the request of the buyer, Keweenaw Resorts, LLC.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to convey the two road signs that advertise the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge to the buyer in the Bill of Sale. The first sign is located at the county line in Allouez and the second sign is on the corner of M-26 and US 41 in Copper Harbor. The new owner will have to maintain the signs and the grounds around the signs.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the Bill of Sale for Liquor Licenses Only in the amount of \$70,000 which is needed to start the process of transferring the liquor licenses held at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge to the new owner. Since the County is not a taxable entity, the purchase agreement did not allocate a number for personal property and a number is needed for the transfer of the liquor license.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala to talk to the Building Inspector about coming up with plans to repair the buildings where the wells sit that supply MHG and to retain Siirtola Well & Pump to cap the wells for future use.

Motion by Gayk supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to change the Board of Commissioner meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. With the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge being sold, the meeting that usually begins at 6:15 p.m. will no longer be required. Any Keweenaw Mountain Lodge business after September 5, 2018 will be taken care of at the regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 6:30 p.m. An ad will be placed in the Daily Mining Gazette and it will be posted on the County website and on the door and bulletin board of the Courthouse.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to table the land swap until September.

There was a long discussion about what to do about the Gratiot River Park that the County owns. The Sheriff's Department has taken numerous complaints about the park including sanitation issues. After much discussion, motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to purchase signs stating, "No Camping" and to have Vivian investigate whether portable toilets can be placed out there again and to start the process of a county ordinance to govern the park.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk