

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 18, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held November 18, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at the Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Randy Eckloff, Frank Stubenrauch, Don Keith, Carol Rose Fouts, Joe Langdon.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the agenda with the following addition and order of items on the agenda. Under Guests: add Megan Killian, Move budget from Unfinished Business to New Business following Union Contract and change the order of KML Terrain Park and KML Insurance Policy so that the insurance policy comes first.

The minutes of October 21, 2009 had the following correction: In the paragraph referring to the Keweenaw Trails Committee and the KML Terrain Park, this should have been stated, "COUNTY TREASURER STATED THAT GENERAL FUNDS COULD NOT BE USED". The minutes stood as corrected.

The Treasurer and Sheriff Department reports were received.

Joe Kezele was present representing UPPCO. They would like to look at the possibility of renting some tower space for two antennas at the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge. The Lodge has a radio tower that would be appropriate to help UPPCO with some of the poor radio and cell phone coverage that they experience in Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor. The Park trustees gave their support for allowing UPPCO to do this and this Board is in support but there are some questions that need to be answered first and Joe will talk to the EDC and others. The projected date for this would be in the Spring or Summer of 2010.

Megan Killian came to the Board to get support for a race that she is trying to coordinate on August 15, 2010. It would be a half distance triathlon that would take place in Lac La Belle. Megan was referred to other organizations and the Grant Township Board. This Board thought it was a great idea.

Motion by Fouts supported by Keith and unanimously carried to table the resolution for WUPPDR regarding the update of the annual Community Economic Development Strategy Report. The report needs to be updated by the townships and the EDC. It will be put on the agenda for December.

Motion by Fouts supported by Eckloff to appoint Becky Weeks to chair the county sesquicentennial committee and to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the 150th anniversary or sesquicentennial of the founding of Keweenaw County, Michigan in 1861 will take place in the year 2011, and

WHEREAS the 100th anniversary or centennial in 1961 was celebrated in a variety of ways, including recognition by Michigan's Governor, an official Historical Souvenir Program, and festivities in several Keweenaw locations, WHEREAS the Keweenaw County Board views the coming sesquicentennial as another major milestone in the county's history, and

WHEREAS it is fitting that the county board, the five township boards, and all organizations and individuals in the county and Copper Country who are interested in celebrating the sesquicentennial have an opportunity to do so in a coordinated fashion, and

WHEREAS the Keweenaw County Historical Society and Eagle Harbor Township have passed resolutions to petition this county board and the township boards to consider and begin planning for the celebrations of Keweenaw County's sesquicentennial year in 2011, now less than two years in the future,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Keweenaw County Board joins the Keweenaw County Historical Society and the Eagle Harbor Township Board to begin planning for celebrations of Keweenaw County's sesquicentennial year in 2011, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Keweenaw County Board will take overall leadership of the process by lending its formal support and by appointing one or more of its members or another county citizen to chair a county sesquicentennial committee.

Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried. (#09-11)

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$102,183.15 Construction Codes=\$25.85 911 Fund=\$3,159.38 EDC Fund=\$10,460.12 Law Library=\$0 Child Care Fund=\$536.02 Medical Care Fund=\$0 Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The proposed Snowmobile Ordinance was presented to the Board for review and the ordinance will be distributed to the five townships as well as Ahmeek Village. This will be added to the December agenda under unfinished business for further discussion.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Stubenrauch and unanimously carried to adopt the "Memorandum of Agreement" between the Keweenaw County Courthouse and the Western U.P. Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency for continued participation in the Employee Assistance Program.

Motion by Fouts supported by Keith to table the Keweenaw County Road Commissioner compensation plan, more specifically regarding health insurance. A letter from Donna Jaaskelainen was received regarding this issue. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts. Nays: Langdon. Motion carried. This will be placed on the December agenda.

Motion by Keith supported by Fouts to put the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge and Keweenaw County under one insurance policy effective November 19, 2009 with the Hannula Agency with no additional exposure for the County and in order to save \$6,000. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Motion carried.

The Keweenaw Mountain Lodge Terrain Park was already approved by the Park trustees so no further action was needed by this board.

Motion by Keith supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to pay mileage to the member that is on the U.P. Fair Authority which meets quarterly.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch to sign the tentative two year contract with the Sheriff's Union (WPPA). Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Keith, Fouts, Langdon. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Keith supported by Stubenrauch to schedule a public hearing on December 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the 2010 budgets. Motion withdrawn by Keith.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Langdon and unanimously carried to transmit any budget concerns to Eckloff and Langdon by December 4th.

Motion by Keith supported by Langdon and unanimously carried to schedule a public hearing on December 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. to receive public comment on the 2010 budgets.

Motion by Stubenrauch supported by Eckloff to write a letter of refusal regarding the Offer to Purchase the property owned by Keweenaw County near Gratiot Lake submitted by Raymond Davenport. The County is not interested. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, Stubenrauch, Langdon. Nays: Keith, Fouts. Motion carried.

Motion by Langdon supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Keweenaw County Economic Development Committee's Mission Statement which is; "To stimulate economic growth by assisting existing businesses as well as new entrepreneurs in developing viable and sustainable businesses through grants, non-profits, and other special programs while maintaining the uniqueness of Keweenaw County and preserving the quality of life for its citizens".

Motion by Keith to withdraw the County Board's support of the Gay Marina in Sherman Township until all relevant and required permits have been approved for the project. Motion dies for lack of support.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business motion by Eckloff to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Joseph Langdon, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk