

PUBLIC HEARING-CONDUCTED via ZOOM DUE TO COVID 19
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
December 16, 2020

The Public Hearing was held for the 2021 budgets at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom due to COVID 19.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Sandy Gayk, Del Rajala via Zoom, Don Piche by phone, Jim Vivian absent.

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing for comments on the 2021 County budgets including the General Fund and all Special Funds. There was no public comment.

Motion by Rajala to close the public hearing at 6:04 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING CONDUCTED via ZOOM DUE TO CORONAVIRUS
December 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on December 16, 2020 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the extended guidelines that stayed in effect from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the County website. The Zoom invitation was also posted on the County website.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Sandy Gayk, Jim Vivian, Don Piche, Del Rajala all appearing by Zoom.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion by Gayk supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the November 18, 2020 regular monthly meeting minutes as submitted.

The following reports were available: Sheriff, Treasurer and Mine Inspector.

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=\$157,279.58 Construction Codes Fund=\$5,065.28 911 Fund=\$579.40 Medical Care Fund=\$1,034.16 Automation Fund=\$3,755.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Gayk, Vivian, Piche, Rajala. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to table zoning until January.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the following budgets for 2021: General Fund, Friend of the Court, Courthouse Improvements, Building Codes, Register of Deeds Automation, Indigent Defense Fund, 911 Fund, Concealed Pistol Licensing, Sheriffs Training, Medical Care Facility, Probate Child Care and Juvenile Fund, Veterans Affairs/Veterans Affairs Grant Fund, Kermit's Youth Fund.

Motion by Rajala approved by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the following budget amendments:

Revenue Amendments			<u>General Fund</u>	
From	To	Change	Account	Description
0	13,759	13,759	101-428	CFR W/D fee paid in 2020
11,300	16,881	5,581	101-448	All Fees paid in 2020 w/DTRF creation
69,412	157,162	87,750	101-507	Stonegarden purchase of new Patrol Boat
0	63,978	63,978	101-528	CARES Grant revenues in 2020
2,000	7,930	5,930	101-548	Increase in Diverted Felons payments
14,000	18,000	4,000	101-614	Increase in Land Transfer Tax rev for 2020
0	5,851	5,851	101-675	KORC contribution to Gratiot River Park
0	750	750	101-675	Kew ATV Club contribution to Sheriff ATV
0	3,630	3,630	101-675	MCWCF Grant for standup Office Equip
TOTAL		191,229		

Expense Amendments			General Fund	
From	To	Change	Account	Description
0	3,755	3,755	101-756	Gratiot River Park expenses in 2020
2,500	17,569	15,069	727-808	Maint.,Appraisal,Rezone at MHG
65,245	76,323	11,078	301-703	Adjusts for Sheriff wage 2020, office change
234,000	284,000	50,000	301-704	Adjusts for wages in sheriff office 2020
30,000	20,000	-10,000	301-705	Adjust for lower PT wages at Sheriff 2020
60,387	68,487	8,100	301-718	Adjust for MERS , layoff was 5 mo. Into 2020
38,000	125,250	87,250	328-978	Stonegarden Boat purchase
	TOTAL	165,252		

Building Codes Fund 249 , Amendments for 2020

Expense Amendments				
From	To	Change	Account	Description
27,000	37,300	10,300	249-704	Increased Inspector Activity in 2020
5,000	8,200	3,200	249-860	Inspector mileage increased after budget
	TOTAL	13,500		

Revenue Amendments			Building Codes	
From	To	Change	Account	Description
16,000	18,200	2,200	249-480	Increase in Inspector activity for 2020
17,000	21,700	4,700	249-486	Increase in Inspector activity for 2020
12,000	21,000	9,000	249-487	Increase in Inspector activity for 2020
1,205	4,200	2,995	249-489	Increase in Inspector activity for 2020
	TOTAL	18,895		

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution opting out of PA 152:

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 2021, 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 2021 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; and

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 2021. **(#20-11)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the following reappointments/appointments/thanks for years of service:

PLANNING COMMISSION

Reappoint Barry Koljonen-term ending 12/31/2023

Reappoint Dan Steck-term ending 12/31/2023

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Reappoint Leslie DuTemple-term ending 12/31/2024

Mel Jones resigned effective 12/9/2020

EDC

Reappoint Tess Ahlborn-term ending 12/31/2023

Reappoint Peg Kauppi-term ending 12/31/2023

BROWNFIELD

Reappoint William Griffin-term ending 12/31/2023

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Reappoint Wes Aho-term ending 12/31/2023

U.P. STATE FAIR AUTHORITY

Reappoint Joe Langdon-term ending 12/31/2022

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Reappoint Debbie Talvensaari-term ending 10/31/2023

JURY COMMISSION

Reappoint Joe Enrietti-term ending 4/30/2024

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian 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.

Motion by Vivian supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to approve the union agreement with AFSCME as it reads.

Motion by Gayk supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to follow the Veterans Affairs Committee's recommendation to appoint Pete Halley as the alternate on the Keweenaw County Veterans Committee.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Keweenaw County to approve the Designated Assessor for the period of 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2026.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the resolution honoring Kathy Harri-McEvers years of service to Keweenaw County:

WHEREAS, Kathy Harri-McEvers, will retire after twenty four years of outstanding service to Keweenaw County; and

WHEREAS, Kathy walked through the doors of the Keweenaw County Courthouse on November 4, 1996 as she began her career as the County Juvenile Officer and Probate Register; and

WHEREAS, Kathy has demonstrated excellent skills, professionalism and commitment to the people and youth of Keweenaw County as she led the Kermit's Keweenaw Kids program, scheduling and leading all activities and supervising many Keweenaw County youth over the last 24 years, allowing parents to feel comforted knowing that their children were in capable hands; and

WHEREAS, Kathy led the Kermit's program with enthusiasm, holding the annual Kermit's Halloween party, dressing up as Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz, a nurse, a witch and many more costumes. Kathy was a large part of the golf tournament fundraiser, raising funds for scholarships and other things for Keweenaw County youth; and

WHEREAS, Kathy held herself to a professional standard while in the office, committing herself to confidentiality at all times in all parts of her job, and throughout her years of service, Kathy has served the youth and the people of Keweenaw County with fairness and dedication;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners do hereby extend our sincere and grateful appreciation for her dedicated service to Keweenaw County, our congratulations on her well-earned retirement, our best wishes for happiness and good health in the years to come. **(#20-12)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to accept the resignation/retirement of Dennis Lasanen as the Keweenaw County Electrical Inspector and to thank him for serving in that capacity since May 23, 1996 and to table the hiring a new electrical inspector until advertising can be done. Rajala will spearhead the advertising for a new inspector.

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to hold a special meeting on December 30, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the proposed sale of the Keweenaw County property near the Keweenaw Mountain Lodge to Keweenaw Resort.

Motion by Rajala supported by Gayk and unanimously carried to follow Families First Coronavirus Response Act which allows employees two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay where an employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution declaring a local state of emergency;

Whereas, as of December 16, 2020, according to the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, Keweenaw County had 65 positive COVID-19 cases, 15 probable COVID-19 cases, and one COVID-19 death; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic continues and may worsen before wide-spread vaccination is available; and

Whereas, as a local State of Emergency was declared for Keweenaw County on April 15, 2020 with an unspecified expiration date; and

Whereas, it is necessary to redeclare and extend the Declaration of the State of Emergency through January 31, 2021.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners, in accordance with Section 10 of 1976 PA 390, as amended, hereby declares that a “state of emergency” exists within Keweenaw County; and

Be it further resolved, that this Declaration of State of Emergency shall continue in effect until January 31, 2021 unless extended or earlier terminated. **(#20-13)**

The Courthouse doors will remain locked with the public coming in by appointment only or by ringing the doorbell.

The committee meetings will continue to be on hold due to COVID 19.

Time was allowed for public comment. Piche thanked Sandy Gayk for her four years of service to Keweenaw County as a commissioner. Sandy was very successful as a grant writer for the county where she was able to assist with many grants but the two biggest were the Mouth of the Gratiot grant and the Veterans grant. Sandy was well spoken as a board member and she was not afraid to ask questions. Sandy will be missed as a very involved board member.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk