

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 21, 2023

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed increase of .3083 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2023. Proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by 5.34% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing. Piche opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. with all commissioners present. The Equalization Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:17 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on June 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Zoom was available.

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

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Del Rajala, Jim Vivian, Don Piche.

Motion by Vivian supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following amendments: add under New Business, item i) Short discussion on Nature Conservancy.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the May 17, 2023, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Mike Musiel was a guest at the meeting on behalf of Pasty.net. Pasty is requesting to be able to upgrade their equipment on the tower which would help their customers. The request has been ongoing for approximately one year.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Time was allowed for committee meeting reports.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$175,342.74 Construction Codes Fund=\$4,714.29 911 Fund=\$12,974.48 Child Care Fund=\$649.54 Medical Care Fund=\$4,503.60 Veterans Affairs Fund=\$3,029.98 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$8,336.05 Kermit's Fund = \$17.50 ARPA Fund = \$761.99 FRF Fund = \$2,880.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Piche. Nays: None. Abstain: Rajala. Motion carried.

Discussion on the Pasty.net upgrade was held. Rajala said that they are still waiting on Motorola before the upgrade for 911 can be done and that the county upgrade will come first. A marine radio will be added to the tower. Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Pasty.net upgrade until July.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to continue with the medical examiner office just as we are.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to adopt the levies as presented in the public hearing, therefore increasing the tax millage rate by .3083 mills for 2023, providing an increase in operating revenue from ad valorem property taxes by 5.34%.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to discontinue the use of Zoom for the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioner meetings.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to have Maintenance seek out prices for a pickup truck, both 2-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive, ½ and ¾ ton and bring the amounts back to the Board for a decision.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to move ahead with Option B that was submitted by OHM for a lift to be put into the Courthouse. This option will go on the side of the steps and will come up into a hallway that will be created by putting up a wall in the courtroom. This option will also allow for new steps to be put in for the attic.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of county maps with the Road Commission and the Historical Society also paying 1/3 of the cost. Updates are being made prior to ordering.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve a budget amendment from the sheriff department for a drone in the amount of \$7,316. This purchase will be split between the Portage Health Foundation and KORC. The motion also includes allowing two deputies to go to training to pilot the drone.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the new server needed by the Register of Deeds in the amount of \$3,441 and the purchase of 4 new monitors which will all come from ARPA funds.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the agreement between the County and the Michigan State Police for Negaunee Regional Communication Center as the Primary Public Safety Answering Point for Keweenaw County 911.

The Nature Conservancy is still working on what the governance will be on the Keweenaw Heartlands property. There will be more to come, and it will all take time.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Del Rajala, Vice Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk