

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
July 19, 2023

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on July 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the June 21, 2023, regular monthly meeting minutes and the July 12, 2023 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Curt Pennala from Karhu Cyber presented information regarding cybersecurity. He started his company in October 2021 and is in the process of setting up an office in Calumet. He has been taking care of Houghton County already and is looking to target smaller communities based on the smaller budgets. With the increase in cyberattacks and ransomware, everyone needs to be aware and try to mitigate the chance that something happens. Curt realized that Keweenaw County is small and stated that there are grants available to assist with monetary issues, at least for the first year.

Time was allowed for public comment. People did speak to the Board about the pasty.net upgrade. They wondered why it was being tabled each month for such a long time.

Time was allowed for committee meeting reports.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$176,832.78 Construction Codes Fund=\$6,797.15 911 Fund=\$2,093.87 Child Care Fund=\$2,884.33 Veterans Affairs Fund=\$145.31 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$161,500.00 Kermit's Fund = \$225.00 ARPA Fund = \$18,535.53 Automation Fund = \$4,150.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried for the following: Rajala contacted Elcom and Elcom is going to do the audit on the antennas on the tower, Elcom will then be able to know the footprint of what the County is needing for antenna space, and they will get back to Rajala. Rajala will then let Charlie from pasty.net know where he can move his antennas to in order to complete the pasty upgrade. Rajala will not wait until the meeting next month, he will let Charlie know as soon as he hears back from Elcom.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to purchase a 2024 Ram 2500 4x4 with 8' box, regular cab, 6.4 L V8, 8-speed Auto transmission, gray in color, heavy duty floor mats, sprayed in bedliner, roll-up tonneau cover, heavy duty hitch, power windows and locks, LT 245/70R17E all season tires, matching spare, AC, hands free Bluetooth phone connection with a 8'2" Boss v-plow in the amount of \$59,493 to be taken out of the FRF fund. This price may not include a v-plow that is a poly plow, the Board authorized more money to be spent for the poly v-plow.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried not to approve Change Order #1 for the Sheriff Storage Building and to put it out to bid. The amount was \$23,300 for additional parking and a water line to the building.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the payment of \$161,500 to Taivalkoski Excavating LLC for the Sheriff Storage Building.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Rich Probst to the 911 Committee. Rich will replace Ginny Schubert who has retired. Thank you to Ginny for her many years of faithful service to the 911 Committee and to Keweenaw County.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the combination of Equalization Departments with Houghton until more information is available.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to send a letter of support for the historic reform of revenue sharing with local governments. House Bills 4274-75 and Senate Bills 229-230 would create a separate "Revenue Sharing Trust Fund" to receive and hold dollars solely for the purpose

of fulfilling the state's promise to local governments on revenue sharing, to require that 8 percent of the revenue generated by 4 percentage points of the state's sales tax rate into the fund which would result in \$591 million in statutory revenue sharing for all local governments across Michigan.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to support the resolution of the U.P Association of County Commissioners opposition to House Bills 4479 and 4480 and Senate Bills 299 and 300 which would establish a Statewide Septic Code. Keweenaw County just approved a new Public Health Code in March of this year.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to join the U.P. Association of County Commissioners (UPACC) in opposition to House Bills 4526, 4527 and 4528 regarding local pre-emption for the siting and regulation of aggregate mines. If passed, these bills would eliminate local control over sand and gravel mining operations and place the regulating authority in the hands of the State.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the request of DHHS for Keweenaw County to host the tri-county board meeting for 2023. This meeting has lunch served and the county would be responsible for paying for the meals for 15-20 people at approximately \$15 per person with a 20% gratuity. Counties host the tri-county board meeting on a rotating basis.

Public comment was allowed, and people spoke about the pasty.net upgrade again.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Del Rajala, Vice Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk