

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
August 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on August 16, 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, Don Piche. Absent: Jim Vivian.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the July 19, 2023 regular monthly meeting minutes and the July 28, 2023 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Todd King was present on behalf of Charlie Hopper from Pasty.NET. Todd read a letter from Charlie thanking the Board for approval of the upgrade as referenced in last month's minutes. Charlie also requested to extend the renewal agreement between the county and Pasty until November 17, 2030 which is the expiration date of Pasty's authorization with the FCC. The agreement between Pasty.NET and the county expires at the end of this year.

Time was allowed for public comment.

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=\$185,828.42 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,763.15 911 Fund=\$296.11 Child Care Fund=\$6,412.28 Veterans Affairs Fund=\$1,043.38 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$3,678.93 Kermits Fund = \$597.20 ARPA Fund = \$9,789.95 FRF Fund = \$2,880.00 Medical Care Fund=\$1,751.40 Indigent Defense Fund=\$3,992.24 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The issue with Pasty.NET wanting to upgrade and increase the number of antennas was brought up. ElCom has been to the tower and said that nothing can be higher than 72' and nothing can be installed on the ladder legs. However, Pasty was supposed to take care of an extension cord that runs from the tower, across the grass and into the window of the basement of the sheriff department. Until that is fixed, nothing will be decided. Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table as unfinished business until September.

Julia Peterson came to the Board to seek approval to submit a letter of intent to apply for a \$50,000 Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Rural Readiness Grant. If MDARD selects the project and invites the county to apply for the grant, the next step would be to write a more in-depth grant application which is due November 2, 2023. The letter of intent will: (1) Outline County and partners' intent to conduct a robust planning process for a physical location for the following: (a) law enforcement, fire, first responder, and search and rescue training, (b) storage of emergency equipment and vehicles; and (c) staging for response to large-scale emergencies such as public health crisis or mass power outage. (2) Demonstrate the need for this type of building and capability in the county, including description of current capacity and challenges related to emergency services. Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the submission of the letter of intent.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve a change order for the new storage building at the sheriff department. The changes include: (1) Adding a water line to the new garage at the price of \$4,610, (2) Extending the parking area, 40x25 with gravel at the cost of \$4,688.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to get prices for the following to include all labor and materials; (1) Bright white 29GA classic rib steel over 6 mil plastic (walls vertically installed) and (2) For the ceiling-sprayfoam 8" and for the walls-5" open cell. This motion also includes the approval of a gravel parking area 40' x 30'-gravel parking area (to back the boat in easier). This is south of the new storage building and includes removal of the topsoil, installing sand to achieve acceptable elevation and topped with 8" 22a gravel and to ensure proper drainage-restore, seed and mulch any disturbed area. This parking area will be completed at the cost of \$3,020.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow the sheriff department to put a 2006 Can-Am 800 ATV out to bid with a minimum bid of \$5,000. The ATV has 102 engine hours. The bids will be opened at the September 20, 2023 Board meeting.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of 8 new duty weapons totaling \$3,848 with a private donation of \$2,500 which leaves \$1,348 to come from the General Fund.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow the Clerk to attend the Michigan Association of County Clerks Conference in Muskegon, MI which will be held from August 20<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table the updating of the County Recreation Plan that will expire at year end. This will be added to unfinished business for the September meeting.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hire the Equalization Assistant for two days per week. She was hired at a special meeting held on July 28<sup>th</sup> but the motion did not specify how many days per week she would work.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow Sara Heikkila to continue doing the building code permits for the rest of the year.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the 2021 Auction Foreclosure Report given by the Treasurer.

Public comment was allowed.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Del Rajala, Vice Chairman

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Julie Carlson, Clerk