

PUBLIC HEARING  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECMEBER 20, 2023

The Public Hearing was held for the 2024 budgets at 6:00 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River, MI. The public hearing began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing for comments on the 2024 County budgets including the General Fund and all Special Funds. There was no public comment.

Motion by DeMarois to close the public hearing at 6:03 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 20, 2023

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on December 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., at the Courthouse in Eagle River, MI opened. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited prior to the public hearing above.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the Website.

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Jim Vivian, Don Piche. Absent: Del Rajala.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda as submitted.

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the November 13, 2023 regular monthly meeting minutes, the December 8, 2023 budget meeting minutes and the December 15, 2023 special meeting minutes as written.

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

The following guests were present at the meeting to give information about their organizations.

Mike Bach, Director of Copper Country Mental Health came to give a report about the year and to thank the commissioners for their support. CCMH's mission is to support independence in the community. CCMH has many facets in what they do, from hospitalization to the nine houses that they run throughout the counties. They do prevention and training in schools, outpatient, and community-based programs where they go to see people. CCMH is funded to help those with severe forms of mental illness. Mike gave statistics about how long patients had to sit in emergency rooms when there were no beds available at the psychiatric hospitals.

Lisa McKenzie from WUPPDR came to give information about the Materials Management Planning Preparation. This is in anticipation of EGLE's requiring plans for each county. Once a date is set by EGLE, we will have 180 days to submit a notice of intent and to make some important decisions. There will be grant money available depending on what decisions are made. Lisa also spoke about the Regional Housing Partnership that WUPPDR is a part of. Committees have been meeting and action plans are being made. In 2024, there will be money available to split from the State, with over a million dollars to be shared amongst the western U.P.

Will Cronin from MSU Extension came to the Board to talk about what the extension has been doing in 2023. He has been working with Eagle Harbor Township with concerns of tourism pressure and issues which include speed limits and trespassing.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$156,962.55, Construction Codes Fund=\$1,684.76 911 Fund=\$9,560.52, Reg of Deeds Automation Fund=\$430.47 Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,551.24, FRF Fund=\$5,760.00 Kermits Fund=\$85.00. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Pasty.net upgrade until January.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the following budgets for 2024: General Fund, Friend of the Court, Courthouse Improvements, Building Codes, Register of Deeds Automation, Indigent Defense Fund, 911 Fund, Concealed Pistol Licensing, Sheriffs Training, Drug Law Enforcement Fund, Opioid Settlement Fund, Medical Care

Facility, Probate Child Care and Juvenile Fund, Veterans Affairs/Veterans Affairs Grant Fund, Kermit's Youth Fund, FRF Fund, and the ARPA Fund, Lagoon Fund, Tower Fund.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the following budget amendments for year end 2023:

**Amendments by Board of Commissioners for December**

<b><u>Expense Amendments</u></b>			<b><u>General Fund</u></b>		
	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>	<b><u>Account</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
Board	2,500	4,000	<b>1,500</b>	101-860	More travel for Board
Board	0	475	<b>475</b>	101-957	MAC Conference, County Conference
Equalization	600	3,000	<b>2,400</b>	257-860	Additional mileage/staff changes
Courthouse	6,000	7,000	<b>1,000</b>	265-716	Change in Insurance Status
Courthouse	0	870	<b>870</b>	265-935	Repairs to 2001 Tahoe for Grounds
Probate	1,400	4,000	<b>2,600</b>	294-808	Mental Health Expenses
Sheriff	6,200	13,300	<b>7,100</b>	301-935	Vehicle Damage/Brakes for Pickup
Sheriff	3,800	5,800	<b>2,000</b>	301-977	Diving Training/Certification
Stonegarden	0	75,000	<b>75,000</b>	328-977	Speed trailer, Tahoe, Sea Runner, Outfitting
Stonegarden	49,500	61,000	<b>11,500</b>	333-978	Can Am SxS
Snowmobile	2,200	6,800	<b>4,600</b>	332-934	Track Kit for Can Am
Rescue	3,000	9,500	<b>6,500</b>	336-934	Rescue Sled, Garmin Setup
Jail	10,000	20,000	<b>10,000</b>	351-810	Additional Prisoner Housing in Other Counties
Clerk	600	1,700	<b>1,100</b>	215-727	Monitors, Hardware, Accommodate BS&A
Treasurer	700	1,200	<b>500</b>	253-727	
Equalization	100	650	<b>550</b>	257-727	
Equalization	1,000	1,400	<b>400</b>	257-900	Gazette Publication
Elections	0	2,400	<b>2,400</b>	262-934	Update of Election Equipment
Courthouse	400	3,500	<b>3,100</b>	265-755	Courthouse Equipment
Courthouse	850	1,700	<b>850</b>	265-776	Additional Janitor/Grounds Activity
Courthouse	3,500	8,500	<b>5,000</b>	265-932	Courthouse Windows
Courthouse	500	4,800	<b>4,300</b>	265-933	Electrical Junction/Countertops
Other	40,000	55,000	<b>15,000</b>	268-808	BS&A, Fidler Conversion (Grant Reimbursed)
District Crt	600	1,200	<b>600</b>	286-860	No Zoom, Increased Court Activity
Med Exam	0	6,100	<b>6,100</b>	648-934	Radios denied as 911 Expense-moved to Gen
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>165,445</b>		

<b><u>Expense Amendments</u></b>			<b><u>All Other Funds</u></b>		
	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>	<b><u>Account</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
ROD Auto	0	4,300	<b>4,300</b>	256-808	Fidler Conversion (Grant Reimbursed)
CCW	0	3,600	<b>3,600</b>	263-957	Printer Upgrade, Clerk Conference
Med Care	10,000	18,000	<b>8,000</b>	291-808	More Residents/Activity than anticipated
Chile Care	15,000	45,000	<b>30,000</b>	292-840	Additional Basic Grant Available
Crthse Imp	220,000	370,000	<b>150,000</b>	248-975	Grounds/Equipment/Utilities Upgrades Garage
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>195,900</b>		

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff 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 2024, 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 2024 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 2024. (#23-4)

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to authorize the County Treasurer to make budget transfers between accounts and between activities without increasing the total board authorized fund expenditures. This is in accordance with the State's Uniform Budgeting Act.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the 2024 Survey and Remonumentation grant application to the State presented by Joe Foster.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table reappointments to the Planning Commission until January.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to reappoint Wesley Aho to the Veterans Affairs Committee, term ending 12/31/2027.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to reappoint Ron Lahti to the Jury Commission, term ending 4/30/2028.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the union agreement with POAM for the sheriff department deputies with the following changes:

- Shift differential goes from \$.40 to \$1.00 per hour
- Employer will pay for 4 personal leave days that will not come out of employees sick bank
- Hazard pay will increase from \$.50 per hour to \$1.00 per hour for full time employees
- ME TOO-if the Courthouse employees, undersheriff and sheriff get more than a 2% increase, the union would also qualify for additional increase above 2% for year two of the contract
- In year two, beginning 12/1/2024, the union will meet with employer to discuss health insurance changes
- Longevity will increase from \$41.60 per year to \$50.00 per year
- This is a two year contract with a 2% increase in 2023 and 2024

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the mileage rate at \$.67 for 2024.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk