

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
July 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on July 17, 2024, 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 Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with the following additions: l. Painting the elevator doors, m. Basement door entrances for Courthouse and Sheriff Department, New steps on back of Courthouse, n. Rental payments to Allouez Township for rescue garage.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the June 20, 2024 regular monthly meeting minutes and the June 28, 2024 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment.

Commissioners did report on committee meetings.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$223,722.58 Construction Codes Fund=\$820.52 911 Fund=\$11,120.77 FRF Fund=\$1,998.72 Veterans Affairs=\$2,849.95 Medical Care Fund=\$1,551.24 Child Care Fund=\$2,680.00 Kermit's Youth Fund=\$20.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to put the following Police Protection millage renewal proposal on the November ballot: Shall the previous voted increase in the 15 mill limitation on general ad valorem taxes within Keweenaw County be renewed at .4899 mill (\$.4899 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and increased by .0101 mill (\$.0101 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the years 2025 through 2029 inclusive for the purpose of police protection, which renewal will raise an estimated \$93,655 in the first year.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow the Keweenaw Community Foundation to move ahead with seeking grant funding from the EPA for the Keweenaw County Emergency Operations Center as a Community Resilience Hub. WUPPDR is willing to be the grant administrator for a fee which will come from the grant if successful.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve and sign the contract with OHM in the amount of \$47,204 for professional services for the proposed Keweenaw County Emergency Operations Center in Mohawk. This amount is being funded by a grant.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the following wording regarding the Sewage Lagoon Fund as presented by the Treasurer: The Sewage Lagoon Fund is created to receive all sewage dumping fee revenues, separate from all other funds. All sewage lagoon related revenues and prorated share of bank account interest earned, will be received only to this fund. All expenses incurred by the County to operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, administrate, insure, and license the lagoons will be paid from this Sewage Lagoon Fund. A minimum balance of \$300,000 shall be maintained in the Lagoon Fund. Amounts in excess of this may be moved to the General Fund for Capital Expenses by motion of the Board of Commissioners when opportunities arise.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the following wording as presented by the Treasurer: A Tower Lease Fund is created to receive all tower lease revenue, separate from all other funds. All tower-related revenues and a prorated share of bank account interest earned, will be received only to this fund. All expenses incurred by the County to operate, maintain, repair, upgrade, administrate, insure, license the towers will be paid from this Tower Lease Fund. A minimum balance of \$250,000 shall be maintained in the Tower Lease Fund. Amounts in excess of this may, by motion of the Board of Commissioners, be moved to the General Fund for Capital Expenses when opportunities arise.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to support the U.P. Area on Aging 2025 Annual Implementation Plan for Services to the Elderly provided by UPCAP. **(#24-3)**

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to support the Copper Country Mental Health resolution opposing MDHHS decisions to implement conflict free access and planning in Michigan. MDHHA announced its decision to require CMHSPs to separate service assessment and planning from service delivery, requiring beneficiaries to receive the assessment and planning services from one entity and ongoing direct services from another, separate entity by October 1, 2024.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to put the 2017 Ford Interceptor out on bids with a minimum bid of \$1,000. Sealed bids are due by August 21, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve amending the sheriff budget, revenues and expenditures by \$3,500. The expenditures will be divided between travel and training. MCOLES is requiring mandatory continuing education credits and there is a grant for \$3,500 to help to cover the cost.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to update the travel policy. A travel expense report for meals and lodging will be used. The report will have the employee name, description of expense, dates and times that they left for training and when they returned. Meals are reimbursable by a timetable and at a set rate so receipts would not have to be turned in. After being reviewed by the department head, the employee would get reimbursed immediately when they got back from training instead of waiting for Board approval. The travel rates will be updated yearly and will coincide with the State of Michigan rates. Department heads would be responsible for noting if conferences or meetings would provide meals, for which there would be no reimbursement to the employee.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Sara Heikkila as Zoning Administrator effective August 2, 2024.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold a public meeting on Wednesday, July 24th at 6:00 pm at the Horizons School in Mohawk, IF AVAILABLE, to hear the public comment on county zoning elimination.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to set a special meeting on Friday, July 26th at 9:00 a.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River for the purpose of the future of Keweenaw County zoning.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the quote for painting the elevator doors by Wuebben Construction.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to have Maintenance get a proposal together for new basement entrances for both the Courthouse and Sheriff Department buildings and for the removal of the concrete back steps of the Courthouse, being replaced with a wooden deck.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve paying rent to Allouez Township in the amount of \$300 per month for the garage that is being used by Keweenaw Search and Rescue. This was approved retroactively from when KSAR began using the garage.

Time was allowed for public comment.

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

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk