

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on October 16, 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 DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the September 20, 2024 regular monthly meeting minutes (originally scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2024 but a quorum was not present) and the September 24, 2024 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment.

Commissioners did not have any committee meeting reports.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$172,267.66 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,118.59 911 Fund=\$39,366.37 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$5,000.00 Concealed Carry Fund=\$326.96 FRF Fund=\$46,095.39 Veterans Affairs=\$4,579.89 Medical Care Fund=\$1,551.24 Child Care Fund=\$9,354.96 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow the Equalization Director Jaikob Djerf to move forward with the process of opting out of having a designated assessor. This requires three of the five townships to agree to the opt out provision.

Bob Pokorski from the Planning Commission was present to give an update on the TNC Master Plan Grant Timeline. He mentioned that this grant is a reimbursement grant, therefore all the terms would need to be met for reimbursement to occur. There are some revisions that were requested, and the Planning Commission will look at grant after revisions in their October meeting and if satisfactory, will bring it back to the Board of Commissioners at the November meeting.

John Parsons from the Planning Commission was present to talk about the issue of the placement of large-scale alternative energy facilities. There are three options for the County to consider: 1) do nothing and the State would take care of any large-scale alternative energy facilities that could take place in Keweenaw County, 2) develop our own ordinance or 3) pass a compatible renewable energy ordinance that MAC supports that can be amended locally if needed. The Planning Commission recommends going with option 3 but this would require a public hearing. Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow the Planning Commission to hold a public hearing regarding option 3.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the apportionment report as presented by Equalization Director Jaikob Djerf.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala, motion carried, (Eckloff abstained) to allow County Attorney Chuck Miller to write a letter to EGLE, cc'ing Senator McBroom and Representative Markkanen, regarding the ongoing odor issue by Neuvokas in Ahmeek and to request a timeline for the issue to be resolved.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the proposal for professional services for the Keweenaw County Courthouse Security Upgrades from OHM in the amount of \$23,900 which includes the preliminary design, final design/construction documents, bidding, contract administration from the office and at the site.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of the 14 people listed to the Western U.P. Materials Management Planning Committee as WUPPDR recommends: Carl Nykanen-Ontonagon County Board, Mike Rebholz-Ontonagon Village Council, Chris Ann Bressette-Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority, Clayton Hella-K&W Landfill, Waste Management Inc, Curtis Judson-Houghton County Transfer Station, Jonathon Nagel-Copper Country Recycling Initiative, Andy Bourdeau-Koppers, Tim Palosaari-Ed's Salvage, Josh Wales-Marquette Solid Waste Management Authority (Recycle 906), Rachael Pressley-WUPPDR, Craig Kent-Baraga County Board, Gretchen Janssen-Houghton County Board, Mark Stauber-Iron County Board, Bob DeMarois-Keweenaw County Board.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the request from 97th/98th District Court to NorthCare Network for regional drug court efforts in the amount of \$5,943. Keweenaw County PA 2 funding goes to NorthCare Network and their board distributes the funding to those that request money for substance abuse purposes.

Employee concerns about health insurance were added to the agenda. Rates are just coming in and this will be reviewed and brought to the Board for a decision once ready. There was no action on the item.

A budget meeting(s) should be scheduled soon. There was no action on this item.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to move forward with the quote from Superiorland Electronics for the building alarms in the amount of \$575 per building.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:01 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk