

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
March 10, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on March 10, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. at the Keweenaw County Courthouse, Eagle River, MI, opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioners present: Robert DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Del Rajala, Mike LaMotte and Don Piche.

The Special Meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the Website.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

Time was allowed for Public Comment.

The meeting was held to support the Keweenaw County Emergency and Essential Operations Center Project Resolution.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Keweenaw County Emergency and Essential Operations Center Resolution. (#25-2)

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners, in cooperation with the Keweenaw County Board of Road Commissioners, supports the Keweenaw County Emergency and Essential Operations Center (KCEEOC) project; and

WHEREAS, for many years, Keweenaw County's leaders have been trying to address the growing need for emergency and rescue services in the county to meet the demands of the continual growth in tourism. In recent years, calls for services in the County have increased by 30 percent, which has increased the demand for improved infrastructure, emergency response, and multi-agency coordination. At the same time, the Road Commission's primary building, built in 1916, faces significant maintenance needs and is in severe structural decline.

Collaboration between the county and road commission on this building project offers an opportunity to cost-share while meeting several infrastructure and emergency operations needs within the county; and

WHEREAS, over the last year, through community feedback and local stakeholder meetings, the plans evolved to not only provide a space for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), search and rescue equipment storage, volunteer, police and fire department training opportunities, but to also include a much-needed maintenance service center, and office space for the Keweenaw County Road Commission.

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners supports the pursuit of possible federal, state, local and private grant funding opportunities to assist in the further planning, development, design, construction and construction administration of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners supports the pursuit of state and federal congressional funding or a special appropriation for the further planning, development, design, construction and construction administration of the project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners wholeheartedly supports the continued development of and the pursuit of grant funding for the Keweenaw County Emergency and Essential Operations Center (KCEEOC); and

FURTHERMORE, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners authorizes its Sheriff and Board Members to explore the operational cost-share agreement of the facility with the Keweenaw County Road Commission, explore possible tenant/lease opportunities and inform/engage the public and other governmental representatives about the project.

Approved at a special meeting held by the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners on March 10, 2025.

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Time was allowed for Public Comment.

There being no further business motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. Meeting adjourned sine die.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Roxanne Billing, Deputy Clerk

