

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on April 16, 2025, 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, Mike LaMotte, Don Piche. Absent: Del Rajala.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the March 19, 2025, regular monthly meeting minutes and the April 1, 2025 Public Hearing minutes as written.

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

Paul Putnam, Anthony Johnson and Will Cronin were present at the meeting from MSU Extension. They each gave some updates about what is happening in our area. Johnson is the Community Nutrition Instructor and provides SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) education to people to make health a priority through instruction. Will Cronin is a Community Development Educator, and he provided the Board with a handout called First Impressions Tourism Assessment from Copper Harbor. Paul Putnam, District 1 Director for MSU Extension, spoke last and thanked the Board for their support.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Commissioners did report on committee meetings.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$ 172,122.32 Construction Codes Fund=\$347.90 911 Fund=\$60,886.79 Veterans Affairs=\$2,072.77 Probate Child Care Fund=\$432.00 Medical Care Fund=\$ 1,167.60 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Jaikob Djerf, Equalization Director for Keweenaw County presented the report for County Equalization. Overall, the County's equalized value went up 10.34%. The CEV (County Equalized Value) went from \$319,583,660 to \$356,425,408. The following values were adopted as presented:

Commercial CEV at \$16,572,256.

Industrial CEV at \$374,267.

Residential CEV at \$322,477,573.

Timber cut over at \$4,006,541.

Personal CEV at \$12,994,771.

The county's equalized value for 2025 is \$356,425,408 and the taxable value is \$221,401,626. Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the equalization report as presented.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the 2025 Survey and Remonumentation individual contracts with Clearwater Surveying PLLC and CHN Surveying.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to allow Eckloff to attend the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners Spring Conference to be held on May 8-9th in Harris, MI.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to appoint Eckloff to the Snowbelt Committee that has been created to bring the railroads back to the Upper Peninsula.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve Probate Judge DeForge's request to raise the hourly rate of court appointed attorneys from \$55 an hour to \$100 an hour to come in line with other counties in the area. This increase will help to stay competitive and to ensure that there is representation for the residents.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to add the following extension fees: Zoning Extension Fee=\$50, Electrical Mechanical, Plumbing Permit Extension Fee=\$50,

Building Permit Extension/Late fee=50% of initial permit fee, Soil Erosion Permits=50% of permit fee for residential, commercial, industrial and utility permits.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried not to move forward with an attorney general's opinion since the county attorney and outside counsel came to the same opinion that the vote at the public hearing held regarding removing AJ Kern from the Planning Commission did not carry.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte, motion carried, Eckloff voted no, to add renewal of the defeated motion from the April 1, 2025 public hearing that was held regarding removal of AJ Kern from the Planning Commission to the May agenda.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to seek legal assistance with nonpayment of employee health insurance claims.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by LaMotte to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk

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