

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 18, 2025

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed increase of .1834 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2025. Proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by 3.10% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing. Piche opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. with all commissioners present. The Equalization Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:15 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 2025

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on June 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m., at the Courthouse in Eagle River, MI and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Mike LaMotte, Del Rajala and Don Piche

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda with Rajala adding two items: Under New Business p) GOGO Communication and q) Inventory on Mount Horace Greeley.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the May 21, 2025, Monthly Meeting minutes.

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

There were no guests.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$182,727.17, Construction Codes Fund=\$1,559.35, 911 Fund=\$1,328.21, Child Care Fund=\$424.30, Houghton County MCF Fund=\$900.72, Veteran's Affairs=\$1,863.51, FRF Fund=\$2,580.00, ROD Automation Fund=\$4,150.00, Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$6,800.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, LaMotte, Rajala, Eckloff, Piche. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve and sign the letter to UP Health-Portage regarding Insurance Related Issues for Keweenaw County Employees. Also, Motion was to approve getting someone to come in to assist with getting the insurance issues figured out.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the proposed increase of 0.1834 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2025.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint Margaret Loewy Kirby to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the FY26 Liquor Tax Funds Request in the amount of \$2,080.00 to NorthCare Network.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the New Zoning Forms.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Quote from Core Technology for Electronic Daily for Sheriff Officers. Ayes: DeMarois, LaMotte, Rajala, Eckloff, Piche. Nays: None.

Motion by LaMotte supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table the Project Proposal for the Exterior Stairs for the Sheriff's Office and the Courthouse. There was a size difference between bids. Need to Rebid.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to hire Ronald Hyrkas Contracting to do the Basement Entryways for Sheriff's Office and the Courthouse for \$5,600.00. The other estimate was from Taivalkoski Excavating in the amount of \$12,110.00.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the Preliminary Design/Proposed Probable Cost for Security Upgrades for the Courthouse in the amount of \$294,907.80.

Rajala spoke about the status of violations from EGLE regarding Neuvokas. EGLE also wanted to convey to the public that they can still report complaints, and they would investigate, but for now, Neuvokas is compliant.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarios and unanimously carried to honor Joseph A. Enrietti in commemoration of his 100th Birthday, in recognition of his legacy as the last World War II Veteran of Keweenaw County, and in appreciation for over 28 years of service as a Keweenaw County Jury Commissioner. A framed certificate will be given to him.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and passed by majority to appoint Gary Russell to the Zoning Board of Appeals Committee. LaMotte abstained.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to deny the FOIA Appeal from Gus Burns from MLive Media Group regarding the deaths of two individuals on Isle Royale. At this time, we do not have any information, so there is nothing we can provide.

Motion by LaMotte supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Community Survey questions regarding the Keweenaw County Master Plan.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Karpel Agreements for Prosecutor software.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Resolution for U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2026 Annual Plan for Services for the Elderly.
WHEREAS, UPCAP, which serves as the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, is responsible for developing the 2026 Annual Implementation Plan for fiscal year 2026, which outlines the funding, coordination, and delivery of services to older adults throughout the Upper Peninsula; and
WHEREAS, in accordance with state and federal requirements, the planning process for the Annual Implementation Plan included one public hearing and the solicitation of input from service providers, older adults, county officials, human service agencies, and other community stakeholders; and
WHEREAS, each of the 15 counties in the Upper Peninsula is represented by a designated county official serving on the UPCAP Board of Commissioners, ensuring that local perspectives and needs are considered in the planning process; and
WHEREAS, the UPCAP Board of Directors has unanimously reviewed and approved the proposed 2026 Annual Implementation Plan as a continuation of the FY2023-2026 Multi-Year Area Plan for services to the elderly; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners acknowledges receipt of and hereby supports the U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2026 Annual Implementation Plan for Services for the Elderly; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be submitted to UPCAP and placed on file for record-keeping and compliance purposes. **(#25-3)**

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the GOGO Communications Contract discussion regarding updates and changes.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to hire someone to do an inventory audit on the Tower on Mount Horace Greeley.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:20 P.M. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Roxanne Billing, Deputy Clerk