

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 15, 2025

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on October 15, 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 Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda with one addition under New Business, i) Indigent Criminal Defense Contract.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the September 17, 2025 regular monthly meeting minutes and the September 26, 2025 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment. The following people spoke against the Black Bear Rezoning in Lac La Belle. Paul Campbell, Eric Campbell, John Kern, AJ Kern, Greg Dudek, Deb Shelonzek and Jim Jackovich.

Commissioners did report on various committee meetings.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$185,407.91, Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$15,600.00 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,709.30, 911 Fund=\$1,461.45, Child Care Fund=\$9,529.72, Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,551.24, Veteran's Affairs=\$235.78, FRF Fund=\$733.65. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, LaMotte, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Prior health insurance issues are still being dealt with. This will go on the agenda for November for another update.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to table the generator project until November.

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

Zane Hyrkas from OHM was present and gave an update on the Courthouse Security Project. The project was advertised and the pre-bid walkthrough is scheduled for October 29, 2025 at 10 am and bids are due on November 12, 2025 at 2 pm. This will go on the November agenda to award the bid.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to pay the Medical Examiner \$1,500 per month for both the ME duties and any autopsies that are done by the ME. Previously, these were separated into two-line items but now that Dr. Kotov is the Keweenaw County ME and he does the autopsies, one-line item can cover both.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to hold a budget meeting on Friday, October 24, 2025 at 10 am at the Courthouse in Eagle River.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to continue with the same health insurance for 2026 as we had in 2025. The insurance is Blue Cross Blue Shield through the Western Health Insurance Pool. The increase for 2026 is approximately 9.1%.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte to deny the rezoning request for Black Bear. The property is in Lac La Belle and the request was to go from Rural Residential to Resort Service. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, LaMotte, Piche. Nays: DeMarois, Rajala. Motion to deny the rezoning request carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to approve the rezoning request for Russ Bjorn for property in Allouez Township. This property will go from Manufacturing and Business to Agriculture. The property address is 3696 US 41, Mohawk. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, LaMotte, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the request from 97th/98th District Court to NorthCare Network for regional drug court efforts in the amount of \$2,080. Keweenaw County PA 2 funding goes to NorthCare Network and their board distributes the funding to those that request money for substance abuse purposes.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Indigent Criminal Defense Contract between Keweenaw, Houghton, and Baraga Counties and the Tri-County Public Defenders, a Michigan Non-Profit Corporation (10/1/2025-09/30/2027).

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:23 pm. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk

DRAFT