

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on January 21, 2026, 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, Don Piche. Absent: Mike LaMotte.

Piche was elected as Chairman in 2025 for two years, 2025-2026. Chairman Piche opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman for 2026. DeMarois nominated Rajala for vice chairman which was supported by Eckloff and there being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Rajala as vice chairman for 2026.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to hold county board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to keep the following committee appointments as 2025.

Building & Grounds	Piche	Mental Health	Eckloff
Building Codes	Piche	NorthCare	Eckloff
Community Action	Piche	Planning Commission	DeMarois
Finance & Budget	Piche	Road Commission	Piche
Freedom of Information	Carlson	UPCAP	Eckloff
Head Start BHK Program	Eckloff	UP Fair Authority	Langdon
Western UP Health Dept	Rajala/DeMarois	Hoton/Kew Conservation	LaMotte
Historic Highway/Byway	DeMarois	UP Michigan Works	Eckloff/DeMarois
Human Services	Piche	Veteran Affairs	Rajala
KEDA Board	LaMotte	WUPPDR	DeMarois/LaMotte
KORC Advisory	Piche/DeMarois	911 Committee	Rajala

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to designate the following as depositories for County funds: IncredibleBank, Range, Superior National and Huntington Banks.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with two additions under New Business, j) Change Order for Security Project and k) Sharing GIS data with the Western UP Health Department.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve December 17, 2025, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment.

Commissioners did report on various committee meetings.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$242,281.01 Construction Codes Fund=\$771.40 911 Fund=\$5,221.77 Veterans Affairs=\$140.00 ARPA=\$5.90 Medical Care Fund=\$930.00 Probate Child Care Fund=\$1,251.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to increase the mileage to \$.72 per IRS guidelines.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to reappoint Carol Patrick (D) and LaVerne Kytta (R) as Keweenaw County Board of Canvassers.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to table the wording for residency guidelines for residents at Canal View. Attorney Miller will be consulted.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to develop a resolution opposing the sale of Canal View.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow the Sheriff Department to purchase a Chevy Tahoe, if a 2025 Tahoe is still available, that would be preferred but if not, a 2026 Tahoe is allowed. The 2026 Chevy Tahoe bid came in at \$56,988 plus the outfitting by Wilk Wiring in the amount of \$10,941.15 plus approximately \$1,000 for graphics.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to pay 911 members a per diem and mileage beginning in 2026. This expenditure will come from the General Fund.

The draft Articles of Incorporation for future Heartlands Recreational and Natural Resources Authority were mentioned at the meeting.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the Master Plan Quarterly Report as submitted.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow the Sheriff Department to apply for a Department of Treasury grant for a part time deputy to attend the training academy. The grant will pay wages and tuition for the academy.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve change order #1 for the Keweenaw County Courthouse Security Upgrades. This change includes the following: Substitution Request 01-Acoustical wall panels which saves \$17,300, Substitution Request #2-Eliminate wall paint in Judges Chambers and Jury Room which saves \$1,900, Bulletin 1-Item 1-Replacing storage door in Courtroom which adds \$3,612.40, and Bulletin 1-Item 2-Additional electrical outlets in vestibule walls which adds \$3,087.92 for a total savings of \$12,499.68.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve sharing the County's GIS data with the Western UP Health Department.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:09 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk