

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on February 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was rescheduled from Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. due to a storm.

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.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business, h) Change Order #2 for Security Upgrades Project.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve January 21, 2026, 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 Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$221,111.59 Construction Codes Fund=\$110.88 911 Fund=\$8,956.45 Veterans Affairs=\$1,197.83 ARPA=\$1,489.46 Medical Care Fund=\$1,292.70 Federal Relief Fund=\$128,802.87 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table both items a) Wording for Residency Guidelines for Canal View and b) Resolution Opposing Sale of Canal View under Unfinished Business.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to have Piche and Mark Aho begin the process of replacing the furnaces in both buildings. The company that made the furnaces has gone out of business and the parts are hard to get.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the following resolution creating the tax allocation committee:  
WHEREAS, the separate tax limitation millage rates established for the County of Keweenaw and the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, approved by the elector of said County, expire in the year 2026; and  
WHEREAS, The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners would like to alter or extend within an existing 15 mill limitation existing separate tax limitations of the County, the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County;  
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the members of the County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee meet to prepare separate tax limitations for the County and the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County. **(#26-1)**

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint Gina Nicholas to the Tax Advisory Committee as the person at large who is not affiliated with the county or the townships.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and motion carried (Rajala voted no) to accept updating the GIS website to include owner's names, legal description and assessed/equalized values. This was suggested by the State of Michigan to help the local townships to be compliant with accessibility.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution regarding the Keweenaw County Emergency and Essential Operation Center:  
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. **(#26-2)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to form a Finance Committee with Piche and DeMarois to sit on the committee along with others such as department heads. The committee was suggested by the County Treasurer.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve payment #1 to Fenty Contracting Co, LLC in the amount of \$123,756.12 for the security upgrade project.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve change order #2 for the Keweenaw County Courthouse Security Upgrades. This change order includes removing and replacing door frames in the back of the courtroom for the office and the storage room. The additional cost is \$3,136. This change order also gives the contractor an additional two weeks for window installation as the pass thru windows aren't supposed to arrive until 3/27/26.

The generator is not operational right now and it will take 11 to 12 weeks for the parts to come in to fix it. DeMarois will talk to the Road Commission regarding the portable emergency generator on a trailer that is owned by the County. Also, Mark Aho will check with KPL to get an additional plug in for a back up generator.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 10:55 a.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, Clerk