

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on March 18, 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, Mike LaMotte, Del Rajala, Don Piche.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with one addition under New Business, h) Elevator Maintenance Contract.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve February 20, 2026, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Susan Hockings, Zoning Administrator, was present to speak about Buffalo Reef. The information shared was for informational purposes only. She had an application for a category 3 landfill regarding the stamp sands and had denied the application because the zoning ordinance does not deal with landfills. She had given the process to the applicant and just wanted the Board to know where things were at.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Commissioners did report on various committee meetings.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$178,734.47 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,987.40 911 Fund=\$824.90 Veterans Affairs=\$287.74 ARPA=\$744.73 Medical Care Fund=\$2,585.40 Federal Relief Fund=\$2,487.85 Probate Child Care Fund=\$724.01 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff 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 DeMarois and unanimously carried to appoint Steve Lanctot as a ME Investigator and to share the costs of training with Houghton County. Steve will serve both counties.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the proposed Keweenaw County Medical Death Investigator Training Agreement. The agreement addresses time records and submissions, mileage, payment for callouts, on-call, autopsies, on-call pay and holiday pay. The agreement also states that the County will cover training costs with the employee agreeing to a minimum of one year of employment. If the one year minimum is not reached, a certain percentage repayment of training costs would be required.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Extension Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University and Keweenaw County in the amount of \$5,551 for 2026.

Motion by LaMotte supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of an aluminum snowmobile trailer for the Keweenaw Search and Rescue up to \$7,000 which will be paid from the General Fund. The old trailer has reached the end of its life and KSAR is borrowing the Sheriff Department snowmobile trailer until one can be purchased.

The final draft of the revised Articles of Incorporation for future Heartlands Recreational and Natural Resources Authority were discussed by the Board. These articles were not voted on, they were for informational purposes only at this time.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to appoint Dr Bonnie Hafeman as the Keweenaw County Deputy Medical Examiner who would be called upon in the absence of Dr. Kotov.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve computer training for all employees. This training is over a period of three years and will cost about \$7,000.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the 3 year Commercial VPL Maintenance Contract with A4 Access for the elevator/lift at the Courthouse. The State of MI mandates that lifts in public use be serviced every 180 days. This contract is for 3 years at \$370 per visit.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk