

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 15, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on April 15, 2026, 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 as presented.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the March 18, 2026, Monthly Meeting minutes.

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

Guest Julia Petersen discussed background of Draft Articles of Incorporation.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$170,111.23, Construction Codes Fund=\$367.20, 911 Fund=\$4,597.96, Child Care Fund=\$782.25, Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,167.60, Veteran's Affairs=\$7.69, FRF Fund=\$64,598.85. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, LaMotte, Rajala, Eckloff, Piche. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the wording for Residency Guidelines for Canal View until County Attorney has more information.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Opposing Sale of Canal View until County Attorney has more information.

Motion by DeMarois supported Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the updates to the Current Draft Articles of Incorporation.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the Ballot Wording for Tax Allocation for the August Election.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to adopt the Equalization Report as presented by the Equalization Director Jaikob Djerf.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the 2026 Survey and Remonumentation Contract.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the Master Plan Quarterly Report to The Nature Conservancy and Keweenaw County.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Change order #3 for Courtroom Railing and Electrical. The new date of Substantial Completion will be May 1, 2026. Zane Hyrkas stated that the new date of completion would be May 6, 2026. The new contract sum including this change order will be \$293,226.64.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to pay Request #2 to Fenty Contracting for Courthouse Security Upgrades in the amount of \$64,598.85.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to send Eckloff to the UPACC Spring Conference in Harris, MI on May 14th and 15th.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of new computers for the Deputy Treasurer and Zoning Administrator. The total amount will be \$3,320.04. The County Treasurer will make the necessary Budget Amendments.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to adopt the Resolution Declaring International Compost Awareness Week, May 3 – May 9, 2026. (#26-3)

WHEREAS, composting is a way of returning organic resources to the soil and is a way of conserving water during extreme drought or flooding conditions, reducing water consumption and non-point pollution; and a proven method of decreasing the dependence on chemical fertilizers and decreasing erosion; and

WHEREAS, composting is an effective form of waste reduction, reuse and recycling; and since organic materials make up approximately 30% of the material going to landfills, composting is becoming one of the primary methods communities use to reach waste diversion goals; and

WHEREAS, materials such as yard trimmings, vegetable cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, when properly managed to protect public health and the environment, have all been composted and converted into a beneficial product known as compost; and

WHEREAS, communities, through their local governments, highway departments, soil conservation service and extension offices, and public works professionals, can have significant impact on clean water, soil, climate change, and landfill diversion by using compost for public works projects; and

WHEREAS, composting supports the MI Healthy Climate Plan to promote economic development, protect water and air quality, improve public health, and lessen reliance on landfills; and

WHEREAS, the Compost Research & Education Foundation, along with Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, and other countries have declared the first full week of May to the annual International Compost Awareness Week; and,

WHEREAS, this year's theme is Compost: Feed the Soil that Feeds Us. The 2026 theme was chosen with the goal of highlighting the benefits of composting in agriculture and food production, and its role in supporting healthy, nutritious food, and by extension, healthy people and communities. Beyond responsible waste management, composting recognizes the interconnectedness between every person who eats and the earth that provides all of our food, as well as our agency in feeding the earth that provides all of our food, as well as the agency in feeding the earth our scraps so that the soil may continue to provide for us abundantly. Compost grows healthy soil, healthy food, and a healthy Michigan. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby declares the week of May 3, 2026 through May 9, 2026 as International Compost Awareness Week, in recognition of the efforts of Keweenaw County households, businesses, farmers, landscapers, extension agents, recyclers, public workers, composters, watershed health advocates, and plant growers everywhere who contribute to the positive impacts of composting.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:11 P.M. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Roxanne Billing, Deputy Clerk