

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 17, 2026

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed increase of .1584 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2026. Proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by 2.71% over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing. Piche opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. with all commissioners present. The Equalization Director was present to answer any questions. Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on June 17, 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 with Rajala adding an item: Under New Business i) start the process for purchasing a generator and boilers and to get a dumpster to do clean up in the carriage house.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the May 20, 2026 monthly meeting minutes and the June 1, 2026 special meeting minutes.

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

There were no guests. Phil Truran was supposed to give a broadband update but he was not present.

Time was allowed for public comment.

Commissioners did their committee meeting reports.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$200,018.34, Construction Codes Fund=\$861.12, 911 Fund=\$7,345.76, Child Care Fund=\$99.60, Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,251.00, Veteran's Affairs=\$2,490.62, FRF Fund=\$4,845.75, ROD Automation Fund=\$4,150.00, Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$1,325.00 ARPA Fund=\$5.90 Kermits Youth Fund=\$932.25 Sewage Lagoon Fund=\$159.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to support the resolution by Copper Country Mental Health to protect rural access to behavioral health services by adopting proposed FY 2027 boilerplate language:
Whereas it is critical to ensure that rural communities are treated consistently, thoughtfully, and proactively in state policy decisions that affect access to behavioral health services; and,
Whereas varying definitions of rural across MDHHS programs create instability for providers and counties and can impact funding eligibility, disrupt service planning, and ultimately affect access to care; and,
Whereas rural stakeholders are often engaged late in the policymaking process, limiting the ability to address practical challenges before implementation; and
Whereas the attached boilerplate language addresses the above issues by establishing a single, consistent definition of rural, partially rural, and frontier areas across all department programs, and by creating formal Rural Consultation Caucus to ensure rural perspectives are incorporated before major policy decisions are finalized.
Now, therefore be it Resolved that the Copper Country Community Mental Health Board urges the Michigan Legislature to include the attached boilerplate language in the FY 2027 state budget.
And be it further resolved to send a copy of this resolution to Senator Ed McBroom and Representative Greg Markkanen.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve new residency guidelines for Canal View. The guidelines are as follows:

1. The patient must have been a registered voter in Keweenaw County for more than 90 consecutive days immediately preceding admission to Canal View.
OR
2. Other proof of residency must be submitted to the County Clerk showing to the Clerk's satisfaction that the patient resided in Keweenaw County for more than 90 consecutive days immediately preceding admission to Canal View.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the resolution for Truth in Taxation:

WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish the number of operating mills to be levied within its authorized millage rate;
AND WHEREAS, the additional millage rate will increase revenue from Ad Valorem Property Taxes by \$35,912.00 over such revenues by levies permitted without holding a public hearing,
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the operating rate for the County of Keweenaw will increase by 0.1584 mills, yielding a total operating rate of 6.0081 mills in 2026 in accordance with Act 5 P.A., 1982, Act 2, P.A., 1986 and Act 264, P.A., 1987. Board polled. Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, LaMotte, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. **(#26-5)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to join the Marquette Regional Community Corrections program.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint Commissioner Rajala to the Marquette Regional Community Corrections program representing Keweenaw County.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the funding application for 2026 for the Marquette Regional Community Corrections program.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Liquor Tax Funds requests to NorthCare Network.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to purchase and install an outdoor message center for the front of the Courthouse for posting notices.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to dispose of old desks, chairs and other things that have collected in the carriage house. There are a couple of old ashtray stands that will be offered to the Keweenaw County Historical Society.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve Amendment 1 of the OHM Advisors Professional Services Agreement with the County for the design and contract administration. The amendment covers adding replacement of the security alarm system within the Courthouse for \$2,400 and for adding replacement of the storage room door and additional electrical outlets in vestibule walls, adding a railing system around the witness stand and relocating the court recorder desk and recording equipment wiring in the amount of \$2,225. The total additional amount is \$4,625.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to hire Chad Hammerstrom as the interim plumbing and mechanical inspector for Keweenaw County as of June 3, 2026.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to continue with the current lawn mower and to get new tires and a new seat.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to have maintenance and Piche to investigate into a generator and boilers and to come up to an internal request for proposal.

Time was allowed for public comment.

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

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk