

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
August 19, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on August 19, 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.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Mike LaMotte, Del Rajala and Don Piche.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda as amended by moving item d. Zoning Ordinance Update Proposals after item h. County Zoning/Budget Constraints.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the July 22, 2026 monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment for agenda items only. The Board did receive public comment.

Commissioners did their committee meeting reports.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to approve payment of the audited bills as presented: General Fund=\$216,093.26, Construction Codes Fund=\$1,472.40, 911 Fund=\$18,909.44, Child Care Fund=\$12,119.82, Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,501.20, Veteran's Affairs=\$3,282.06, FRF Fund=\$52,189.24, Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$328.00 ARPA Fund=\$778.51, Kermits Youth Fund=\$683.63 Indigent Defense Fund=\$3,980.61 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Piche. Nays: None. Abstain: Rajala. Motion carried.

Two bids were received for the generator replacement. Keweenaw Power and Lite was \$45,250.00 (they would take \$1,600 off the bid if we used the old transfer switch) and Copper County Electric was \$52,997.00. Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the bid from Keweenaw Power and Lite in the amount of \$45,250 which includes the new transfer switch.

The following bids were received for four boilers, two in the sheriff building and two in the Courthouse: Mark of the Z Heating=\$86,906 and \$118,402; William Hyrkas Plumbing and Heating=\$57,800, Northern Heating and Plumbing=\$60,525.50, Patrick's Plumbing and Heating=\$57,060.00, RC Mechanical=\$73,445. Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried set a special meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. to further discuss the boiler bids that were received. The bids will be scanned and emailed to the Board.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the budget allocation that was presented by Brendan Presnell regarding the MMP Round 2 funding in the following amounts: \$56,000 to WUPPDR and \$23,000 for equipment. These amounts will be reimbursed by EGLE.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve Amanda Baril as a Medical Death Investigator. She also will be working with Houghton County so training costs can be split.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to purchase a Dell computer for the front desk at the Sheriff Department for \$3,713. The current computer is failing and a bigger computer is needed with new security coming.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to add an additional call line for emergencies. This line is located outside of the Sheriff Office in the yellow box. The cost should be approximately \$30 per month.

Motion by LaMotte supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set a public hearing on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the Horizons School in Mohawk (if available) to seek public input about the future of zoning in Keweenaw County and to discuss the steps that would need to be taken if county zoning were to cease. This topic has been raised for financial reasons. There is ARPA funding that is paying for a full-time sheriff deputy which will run out in 2027. Funding a sheriff deputy and a zoning department is not affordable for the county for the future. Revenues must exceed expenses and the Treasurer said that the only way that happened in 2025 was because of unexpected big increases in public safety grants and court grants. If we don't change the way things are being done, there will have to be cuts in 2027.

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to table the zoning ordinance update proposal until after the public hearing that will be held on September 14, 2026.

Time was allowed for public comment and the Board did receive public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Eckloff to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk

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