OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
September 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on September 16, 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 message board near the Courthouse and on the Website.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the August 19, 2026 regular monthly meeting minutes and the August 24, 2026 special meeting minutes as written.

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

Julia Petersen (Keweenaw Peninsula Project Manager, TNC) and Tori Irving (Public Land Specialist, DNR) updated the Board on the Keweenaw Point land sale. TNC purchased approximately 32,000 acres in 2022 with intent to hold the land until the state or local entities could take ownership, thereby protecting the land and keeping it public hands. Approximately 10,000 acres are ready to be transferred to the State DNR with closing expected between October and December 2026. As part of the transfer, TNC will pay a commercial forest withdrawal fee of $1,937,000 which will be distributed between the state, township, county, CCISD and Grant School according to formula.

Guest Ray Simonson and Pete Clevenstine asked the Board what would be required for the Agate Harbor Land Pool Inc to purchase a county owned parcel on North Point. The parcel is accessible only by water because land access would require crossing private property where trespassing is strictly enforced. The parcel is in Government Lot 2, Section 30, Township 59 North, Range 29 West.

Motion by LaMotte supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to engage an appraiser to determine the value of the North Point parcel. After receiving the appraisal, the Board will consider whether to sell the parcel and determine the required sales process.

The Board received public comments on agenda items.

Commissioners presented their committee meeting reports.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte to approve payment of the audited bills as presented: General Fund=$185,333.53; Construction Codes Fund=$1,461.34; 911 Fund=$470.96; Houghton County MCF Fund=$1,676.34; Veteran's Affairs=$1,020.76; FRF Fund=$4,733.94; Courthouse Improvement Fund=$51,525.00; ARPA Fund=$778.51; Probate Child Care Fund=$12,074.13; Kermits Youth Fund=$553.59. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Piche. Nayes: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Zoning Ordinance Update Proposal.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to allow Eckloff to attend the UP Association of County Commissioners Conference at the Island Resort and Casino on October 15-16.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to authorize a 4-yard dumpster from Waste Management at the cost of $113 per month for the county campus.

Motion by DeMarois supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to advertise for a Building Codes Clerk for two days per week.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to the Material Management Planning Grant agreement between Keweenaw County the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy. The amendment increases the grant budget by $79,046 bringing the grant total amount to $142,046.00.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to table the Zoning Administration fee schedule that was recommended by the Planning Commission.

The Board received public comment.

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

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Donald Piche, Chairman Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk

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