OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on October 21, 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, 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 Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the September 14, 2026 Public Hearing minutes, the September 16, 2026 regular monthly meeting minutes and the October 6, 2026 special meeting minutes as written.

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

The Board received public comments on agenda items. Three people spoke in opposition to the elimination of zoning. Teri Smalley asked for enforcement of the county's zoning ordinance and to vote for removal of the sign on her property.

Commissioners presented their committee meeting reports.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte to approve payment of the audited bills as presented: General Fund=$191,052.16; Construction Codes Fund=$4,620.69; 911 Fund=$4,258.04; Houghton County MCF Fund=$3,686.28; Veteran's Affairs=$2,929.16; Courthouse Improvement Fund=$119.78; ARPA Fund=$778.51; Probate Child Care Fund=$2,111.43; Kermits Youth Fund=$85.00. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Piche. Nayes: None. Abstain: Rajala. Motion carried.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow Susan Hockings to take on the Building Codes Clerk position on Tuesdays and Thursdays, two days per week. Susan currently serves full-time Zoning Administrator. The Building Codes Clerk position may be posted before building season when permit activity increases.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to have Susan Hockings take the Building Codes Clerk position with no additional pay. Susan is full-time; two days will be charged to Building Codes and three days to Zoning. Susan stated that she is salaried and that Building Codes can help offset the cost of Zoning.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to accept the new Zoning Administration Fee Schedule as recommended by the Planning Commission. The fee schedule was based on actual costs.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to put the Zoning Administration Fee Schedule effective as of 11/1/2026.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the appraiser for the county owned property in the Agate Harbor Land Pool until further information is available.

Jamie Cirrencione from Gogo addressed the Board about the Gogo Business Aviation amendment, which she has been developing with the county attorney. Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to follow the county attorney's recommendation to move ahead with the Fourth Amendment to Rooftop License Agreement. Under the amendment, Gogo's payment will decrease by $400 per month once Gogo removes its 6 old antennas from the tower at Mt Horace Greeley. Removal is expected in the spring once the tower is accessible.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the apportionment report as presented by Equalization Director Jaikob Djerf. There was a 3.22% increase in taxable value in the last year.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold a budget meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 10:00 am at the Courthouse in Eagle River.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:
By resolution of its Governing Body, at its meeting on 10/21/2026, as provided by the MERS Plan Document, and in accordance with the employer's policy, the employer hereby authorizes the participant (Curt Pennala) to make a service credit purchase from MERS of 10 months. The employer understands this is an estimated cost, calculated using actuarial assumptions approved by the Retirement Board and the information provided by the employer and participant, including

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the termination date, which information the employer represents to MERS as accurate. Any difference between the assumptions and actuarial experience, including termination date, will affect the true cost of the additional service to the employer. The calculation assumptions are outlined above and the employer understands and agrees it is accountable and solely responsible for any difference between estimated and actual costs. The employer agrees to hold MERS harmless for any increased unfunded liability, damages or costs resulting from the purchase of this service credit. **(#26-7)**

Motion by Rajala supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the MERS Health Care Savings Plan Participation Agreement substitution and amendment of a current plan. This agreement will cover sheriff non-union and maintenance with a contribution structure of 5% of gross. It also requires mandatory leave conversion: 100% of sick and vacation time will be paid to the plan at retirement.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Zoning Amendment Application Repeal as submitted by the county attorney, with repeal is not to take effect until October 5, 2027.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to take legal steps to enforce the zoning ordinance for the sign violation on the Smalley property. The steps are to contact the prosecuting attorney and, if he takes no action, refer the sign violation to Steve Tinti who works with Keweenaw County Zoning.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to authorize the sale of a 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe with 195,000 miles with a minimum bid of $4,000. Sealed bids are due by Monday, November 16, 2026.

The Board received public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

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Donald Piche, Chairman Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk

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