

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on January 17, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the County website.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Del Rajala, Don Piche, Jim Vivian.

Chairman Piche opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman for 2024. DeMarois nominated Rajala for vice chairman which was supported by Eckloff. All were in favor of Rajala as vice chairman for 2024.

Motion by Piche supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to hold county board meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. except for November. The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Piche appointed commissioners to the following committees. Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to accept the following committee appointments.

Brownfield	Chase	NorthCare	Eckloff
Building & Grounds	Piche	Planning Commission	Vivian
Building Codes	Piche	Road Commission	Piche
Community Action	Piche	UPCAP	Eckloff
Finance & Budget	Piche	UP Fair Authority	Langdon
Freedom of Information	Carlson	Hoton/Kew Conservation	Vivian
Head Start BHK Program	Eckloff	UP Michigan Works	Eckloff/DeMarois
Western UP Health Dept	Rajala/DeMarois	Veteran Affairs	Rajala
Historic Highway/Byway	DeMarois	WUPPDR	Eckloff/DeMarois
Human Services	Piche	911 Committee	Rajala
KEDA	Ahlborn	Community Mental Health	Eckloff
KEDA Board	Vivian		
KORC Advisory	Piche/DeMarois		

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to designate the following as depositories for County funds: IncredibleBank, Range, Superior National and Huntington Banks.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the December 20, 2023, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment.

There were no committee meeting reports.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$220,602.49 Construction Codes Fund=\$672.10 911 Fund=\$41,625.58 Veterans Affairs=\$506.99 Medical Care Fund=\$1,709.70 FRF Fund=\$59,493.00 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$1,437.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to have Attorney Miller convey the following to Pasty.net regarding the antennas on the Sheriff tower: once either party moves forward with changes to the tower, whether it be the County adding their equipment or Pasty.net adding another antenna, at that time, Pasty.net will begin incurring charges at \$150 per antenna after 2 antennas which are free.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to reappoint the following people to the Planning Commission: AJ Kern, Barry Koljonen and Steve Siira.

Hayden Henderson came to the Board on behalf of NOAA regarding space on the railing of the tower at Mount Horace Greeley (MHG). NOAA maintains a series of critical weather measuring stations around the Great Lakes, including one at Stannard Rock. It is hoped that this antenna would establish a better means of communication with weather sensors in the lake if it could be mounted higher up on the tower and the handrail would provide this. Motion by Rajala supported by Vivan and unanimously carried to have Attorney Miller come up with an agreement between NOAA and the county granting them space on the handrail of the MHG tower for one antenna along with a solar powered battery. Rajala mentioned to Mr. Henderson that NOAA would need to be a good steward and make sure that there wasn't any interference with others currently on the tower.

Sheriff Pennala gave an update on the Keweenaw County Emergency Operations Center project. In conjunction with the Nature Conservancy and the Keweenaw Community Foundation, a \$50,000 MDARD grant was applied for and was successful. This grant will be used to conduct initial visioning and conceptual planning to develop a concept for a brick-and-mortar building known as the Keweenaw County Emergency Response Center. This building would serve three purposes: training for law enforcement personnel and emergency response volunteers, storage for search and rescue and law enforcement equipment and space to support large scale emergencies. Phase 1 is expected to take about 18 months with the organizations holding community engagement and stakeholder meetings to inform, design and ultimately put the project out to bids to engineering firms. A stakeholder group will be formed with hopes of having one or two commissioners on it. Commissioner Rajala was interested in being on this committee on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. Funding for the building as well as long term maintenance will be discussed at the meetings.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the new Zoning Permit Application approval to allow a Board member to talk to the Road Commission.

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint Harvey Desnick to the Planning Commission.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried (Rajala abstained) to appoint Arthur Lyons and Melissa Helppi as Medical Death Investigators for Keweenaw County.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried (Rajala abstained) to approve Lyons and Helppi to go to St Louis for training as Medical Death Investigators in March or June.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the additional services required for the elevator project. This request came from OHM in the amount of \$3,000 and is identified as Task #6-Limited Hazardous Materials Assessment which increases the amount of OHM's project cost from \$68,100 to \$71,100.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to pay the sheriff and undersheriff an additional \$1 per hour for hazard pay.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve email encryption for the county if it is the encryption meets LEIN standards. Undersheriff Mattila will look into email encryption.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk