

PUBLIC HEARING
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
June 20, 2024

The Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on the proposed increase of .3000 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2024. Proposed additional millage will increase operating revenues from ad valorem property taxes by 5.11% 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 Eckloff and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:21 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on June 20, 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, Jim Vivian, Don Piche.

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

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the May 22, 2024 regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

The guest, AJ Kern, was not present at the meeting.

Time was allowed for public comment. Six people spoke, all in opposition to the zoning ordinance amendments. Some of the concerns were regarding the amount of people allowed to stay in a house, how this affects the environment with septic systems, opposition to what is defined as a family, allowing accessory structures to be built on a property without a primary structure, wanting neighbors vs strangers living next to you, trailers being parked and people living in them, the zoning ordinance isn't being enforced now and questions regarding how this all came about.

Commissioners did report on committee meetings.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$184,961.66 Construction Codes Fund=\$996.94 911 Fund=\$9,831.69 FRF Fund=\$28,963.50 Veterans Affairs=\$3,450.09 Medical Care Fund=\$1,501.20 Child Care Fund=\$406.74 Kermit's Youth Fund=\$4,214.07 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

After a long discussion regarding the zoning amendments, motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve all the zoning amendments without any changes. See attached amendments.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the water system upgrade for both buildings which includes: new kitchen cabinet, countertop, sink, faucet and strainer for breakroom, installation of plumbing and drain lines and permit, and a whole system water softener, and two reverse osmosis filtering systems for the buildings. This upgrade will come from the FRF fund.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to table the Courtroom doors until July.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to table the security wall in the Clerk's office.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to adopt the levies as presented in the public hearing, therefore increasing the tax millage rate by .3000 mills for 2024, providing an increase in operating revenue from ad valorem property taxes by 5.11%.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to enter into the Interlocal Agreement Creating a Multicounty Materials Management Plan, Designate a Planning Agency and Establish a Materials Management Planning Committee. Materials management planning encompasses planning for solid waste disposal, recycling, handling of organics, and other similar and related processes; management of the same; and compliance reporting to applicable State of Michigan agencies. This is a joint agreement between WUPPDR, Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Ontonagon and Keweenaw Counties.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the application and certificate for payment #3 for Wuebben Construction in the amount of \$27,913.50.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to select OHM as the engineering firm for the proposal for professional services for the Keweenaw County Emergency Operations Center. There were two bids, UP Engineers & Architects was \$47,000 with \$7,000 of in-kind work and OHM which was \$47,204 with \$1,704 of in-kind work. A committee used a scoring rubric which included qualifications, experience, knowledge of locality and project, and mass timber experience and their recommendation was to hire OHM who scored the highest.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to purchase a patrol vehicle which will be Chevrolet work pickup in the amount of \$43,972. It will be outfitted with equipment from the vehicle that has over 200,000, costing roughly \$5,000 instead of \$15,000. The Board approved moving ahead with the purchase but wanted a cage added into the truck. This will come out of the General Fund.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Visit Keweenaw interpretive sign grant in the amount of \$1,795 for installation of new informational signs to support the emergency trail locator signs that were put up. These signs will go at the trail heads informing people about emergency response and responsible recreation.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table hiring a full-time equalization assistant/building codes clerk until July.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to hire an attorney to defend the Claim of Appeal against the Zoning Board of Appeals. County Attorney Chuck Miller will seek an attorney to assist the county.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a new computer for the sheriff.

Time was allowed for public comment. There were comments made in opposition to the zoning amendments that were approved. Some of the comments were about homeowners lying about the number of bedrooms in a house, whether seasonal people could vote or run for office and how long the commissioner terms were and when was the last day to file.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk