

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 19, 2025

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on February 19, 2025, 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.

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Del Rajala, Mike LaMotte and Don Piche.

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

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the January 15, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting minutes as written.

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

Public Comment was allowed. Members of the public spoke regarding Planning Commission membership, possible improper appointments and reasons for removal.

Committee Meeting reports were shared by the commissioners.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$218,340.36, Construction Codes Fund=\$968.95, 911 Fund=\$9,236.10, Child Care Fund=\$25.76 Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,034.16, Veteran's Affairs=\$1,741.90, FRF Fund=\$2,612.99, Courthouse Imp Fund=\$3,821.97 ARPA Fund=\$1,896.12. Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Rajala, Eckloff, LaMotte, Piche. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to hold a joint special meeting of the Board of Commissioners and the Keweenaw County Road Commissioners on Thursday, February 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Courthouse in Eagle River regarding the Essential Operations Center.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the Agreement for the Provision of Professional Services with North of 45 to complete the 2025/26 Keweenaw County Master Plan in the amount of \$70,000.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold a special meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss and decide on the options for Courthouse security. OHM has preliminary plans, but the Board must decide how to move forward.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution:  
The Board of Commissioners' 2015 approval of the change to the Keweenaw County Planning Commission's Bylaws which provides that the Board of Commissioners will appoint members to the Planning Commission "following the recommendations of the Planning Commission" is rescinded.  
The Board will set a date and time for a future public hearing in which it will review whether the prior appointments of all currently serving members and alternate members of the Planning Commission should be ratified and whether they should serve the remainder of their previously established terms. **(#25-1)**

John Parsons, Chairman of the Planning Commission spoke to the Board regarding removal of AJ Kern from the Planning Commission. Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to set the deadline date of February 28, 2025, for any formal written charges to be filed with the Clerk regarding the removal of AJ Kern from the Planning Commission.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold a public hearing on Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:30 pm to review whether the prior appointments of all currently serving members and alternate members of the Planning Commission should be ratified and whether they should serve for the remainder of their previously established terms.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to allow the Sheriff Department to purchase 8 back up duty guns, Glock 26, Gen5, 9mm with Glock Night Sights, 5.5 lb Trigger with front serrations and 3 magazines at \$409 a piece totaling \$3,272.00.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to transfer \$105,000 from the Tower Fund into the Lagoon Fund per the Treasurer's request.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table the lagoon fencing bid award until March. There were three bids, but they were not all bidding on the same specifications. These three bidders will be contacted with more specific bid information so that they are all bidding on the same specifications.

Time was allowed for public comment. Members of the public spoke about the bylaws of the Planning Commission and who has the authority to change them, that laws are being violated by the Planning Commission, that members whose terms were up or who resigned are still members anyways, and that the county would be better served if everyone followed the rules.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche  
Keweenaw County Board Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson  
Keweenaw County Clerk