

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on January 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Zoom was available.

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. Absent: Jim Vivian.

The organizational meeting was called to order by the Clerk. Carlson opened nominations for the chairman for the 2023-2024 term. DeMarois nominated Piche for chairman which was supported by Eckloff. Clerk asked for further nominations and there being none, a unanimous vote was cast for Piche as chairman. Chairman Piche took over leading the meeting.

Chairman Piche opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman for 2023. Eckloff nominated Rajala for vice chairman which was supported by DeMarois. All were in favor of Rajala as vice chairman for 2023.

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 Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Brownfiled	Chase	NorthCare	Eckloff
Building & Grounds	Piche	Planning Commission	Vivian
Building Codes	Piche	Road Commission	Piche
Community Action	Piche	Tri County Corrections	Rajala
Economic Development	Piche	UPCAP	Eckloff
Finance & Budget	Piche	UP Fair Authority	Langdon
Freedom of Information	Carlson	Hoton/Kew Conservation	Vivian
Head Start BHK Program	Eckloff	UPWARD Talent Council	Vivian/Rajala
Western UP Health Dept	Rajala/DeMarois	Veteran Affairs	Rajala
Historic Highway/Byway	DeMarois	WUPPDR	Eckloff/DeMarois
Human Service	Piche	911 Committee	Rajala
KEDA	Ahlborn	UP Legislative Review Comm	Eckloff
KEDA Board	Vivian	Community Mental Health	Eckloff

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

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

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the December 21, 2022, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Barry Koljonen and the Veterans Committee were present at the meeting. Barry gave an update on how the Veterans Services Officer is much busier each year advocating for Keweenaw County veterans.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There were no committee meeting reports.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$259,374.18 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,592.31 911 Fund=\$7,216.62 Veterans Affairs=\$1,821.44 Medical Care Fund=\$1,100.88 ARPA Fund=\$668.78 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to appoint Frank Ozanich to the Department of Health and Human Services Board, replacing Jerry Vairus who retired.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Pasty.net upgrade until February.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the 2023 mileage rate at \$.65.5.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the special land use request from Mount Bohemia to expand their existing campground. The Planning Commission unanimously approved the request at their last meeting.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to reappoint Sheriff Pennala to the U.P. 911 Authority.

A request was made by the Ahmeek Village Fire Department on behalf of them and other departments for the ARPA money that was appropriated to the county be shared with Ahmeek and other departments. There were no motions made.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow Open Skies LLC to apply for a blight grant from the Michigan State Land Bank Authority (SLBA) through the county and to approve the Memo of Understanding between Keweenaw County and Open Skies LLC and also to pass a resolution. This is all contingent upon the County being able to reach an agreement with the SLBA for changes to the sample contract between SLBA and the County. The grant would allow Open Skies to stabilize and clean up some of the buildings at MHG. The grant is a reimbursable grant so Open Skies would front the money and would get reimbursed from the SLBA with the County as a pass through. This would come at no cost to the county. This grant could be up to \$200,000 and once the money is spent, the SLBA would put a lien on the Open Skies property.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the fee of \$2,500 for the entire countywide parcel layer provided through GIS data. This fee is set for three years from 2023 through 2025.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to begin considering an elevator for the Courthouse. With the ARPA and FRF funds received, this would be the time to bring this back to the table for discussion. Phone calls will be made to the local engineering firms to question fees for engineering.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Jan Heikenen as assistant medical examiner effective immediately. The board expressed thanks to Jan for her service to Keweenaw County.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to close out the K-9 fund as of 12/31/22. The remaining balance is \$3,391.70 which will be absorbed by the general fund. This fund balance was county money to begin with as the board had appropriated money after the fund had been left with a small balance.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk