

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
May 22, 2024

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on May 22, 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. Absent: Don Piche.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the April 17, 2024, regular monthly meeting minutes and the April 19, 2024 Special Meeting minutes as written.

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

Mark Ahlborn was a guest at the Board meeting and spoke regarding zoning. Mr. Ahlborn provided a letter to the Board and in summary at the end of the letter were three points that he wanted to make: Zoning administration needs help, Updating the Master Plan is paramount and Additional expertise is needed to thoroughly and properly amend the zoning ordinance.

Time was allowed for public comment.

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=\$165,220.26 Construction Codes Fund=\$705.51 911 Fund=\$3,503.14 Veterans Affairs=\$(85.73) Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$29,937.50 Medical Care Fund=\$1,551.24 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve Mark Aho as the Court Security Officer. Aho will be paid at the deputy rate plus hazard pay while working security and security will be at the request of the Judge that is presiding over court.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to move forward with looking into a security camera system for all buildings and grounds. The Court Security Committee asked that this item be brought to the Board for consideration.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the zoning ordinance amendments until June. There were only two amendments originally coming to the Board but all of the amendments will be available for the June meeting.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to purchase the Verizon phone system for both buildings and to have everything switch over at one time vs the Courthouse switching over first.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to set a Truth in Taxation hearing prior to the June meeting. The hearing will take place on Thursday, June 20th at 6:15 p.m.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to oppose the at&t contract options that were presented for contract renewal by md7. Rajala will reach out to let them know that the options were denied.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to hire a Equalization Assistant/County Appraiser/Building Codes Clerk as a full time position starting at \$45,500 with a full benefit package. This job will be posted and DeMarois and Eckloff will be on the interview committee.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Equalization Assistant to go to the MI Association of Equalization Directors Annual Conference in Harris, MI from July 28-31, 2024.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to allow the sheriff to move forward with getting credit cards for full time deputies for travel and lodging.

Motion by Vivian supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to give the undersheriff longevity and to have the four personal days not be taken out of the sick bank.

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the water system upgrade until June.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to table the Courtroom doors at the top of the steps until June.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to move forward with storage closet shelves to be built. With the lift being put in, the closets upstairs have been changed. The cost is approximately \$432.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to move forward with the security upgrades for the sheriff's office which include: building of a wall, drywall finishing, new door and transaction window, security film and shades on windows, new flooring, new furniture and the possibility of the need of an electrician. The project cost (not including electrical) is approximately \$11,328.23.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to table the security wall project in the clerk's office until June.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian, motion carried (Eckloff voted no) to approve the request from Copper Range Roofing to pay an additional \$4,675 for a pricing error by ABC Supply-Marquette if there is documentation showing proof of the error. An employee misquoted the shingles on 4/17/24 at \$220/sq and it should have been \$305/sq and at 55sq total, ABC Supply would lose \$4,675.

Public comment was allowed. Property owners in Keweenaw County can now sign up for Property Fraud Alert. Property fraud occurs when someone records a fraudulent document in the county register of deeds. Property Fraud Alert is a notification service that alerts subscribers against the possibilities of fraudulent activity being committed against their property. Property owners can be notified by text, call or email. This service is free by visiting PropertyFraudAlert.com or by calling the Property Fraud Alert Hotline at 800-728-3858.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Del Rajala, Vice Chairman

Julie Carlson, Clerk