

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

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on April 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.

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

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the March 20, 2024, regular monthly meeting minutes and the April 8, 2024 Special Meeting minutes as written.

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

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=\$175,183.73 Construction Codes Fund=\$444.88 911 Fund=\$2,248.73 Veterans Affairs=\$1,289.86 FRF Fund=\$17,478.93 Probate Child Care Fund=\$399.00 Register of Deeds Automation Fund=\$187.85 Courthouse Improvement Fund=\$27,852.29 Medical Care Fund=\$1,668.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The following bids were received for the roof replacement on the sheriff department building:

Ronald Hyrkas Construction Inc. \$84,660.00

Copper Range Roofing and Contracting Inc \$55,875.00

Superior Coast Construction LLC \$84,700-no removal/no resheet \$114,800-full removal

Keweenaw Home Repairs & Maintenance LLC \$86,700 no sheeting, \$106,700 with sheeting

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to award the bid to Ronald Hyrkas

Contracting Inc in the amount of \$84,660.00. Copper Range Roofing and Contracting Inc was the low bid but appeared to quote the wrong type of shingles.

Jaikob Djerf, Equalization Director for Keweenaw County presented the report for County Equalization.

Overall, the County's equalized value went up 12.55%. The CEV (County Equalized Value) went from \$279,472,413 to \$319,583,660. The following values were adopted as presented:

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the commercial CEV at \$15,786,697.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to set the industrial CEV at \$356,414.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to set the residential CEV at \$291,615,994.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the timber cut over at \$3,425,559.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to set the personal CEV at \$8,398,996.

The county's equalized value for 2024 is \$319,583,660 and the taxable value is \$205,391,359. Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the equalization report as presented.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to approve the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for Engineering Services (seeking professional engineering/architectural services for the design of the Emergency Operations Center), RFQ Evaluation Rubric (point system for bids received) and the process for bid evaluation for the County Emergency Operations Center.

Julia Petersen from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was present to inform the Board that there is a grant opportunity for assisting with the County Master Plan that has to be updated every 5 years. TNC has interest in the plan since the inception of the Keweenaw Heartlands. Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to seek the grant funding for the master plan and to have the Planning Commission as the point of contact to help with any questions and to assist with the scope of work.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the Remonumentation Contracts with CHN and Clearwater.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the quote in the one-time amount of \$950 and then a reoccurring amount of \$288 per month for county email encryption.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to put the following millages on the ballot for the August Primary:

#### COUNTYWIDE ROAD MILLAGE PROPOSAL

This proposal will permit the County to levy 2 mills for the purpose of providing funds for the maintenance and repair of roads within the County in the years 2025-2029, inclusive.

Shall tax limitation upon the total amount of general ad valorem taxes imposed upon real and tangible personal property for all purposes in any one year under Article IX, Section 6 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963 be renewed in the County of Keweenaw Michigan by 1.9601 mills (which is equal to \$1.9601 per \$1,000 of taxable value of all such property) and increased by .0399 mills (which is equal to \$.0399 per \$1,000 of taxable value of all such property) for a period of 5 years, 2025 through 2029 inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds exclusively for highway, road and street purposes and the maintenance and repair of roads in accord with MCL 224.20b within the townships and village of the County of Keweenaw, and shall the County of Keweenaw be authorized to levy such millage for these purposes? The amount of revenue the County of Keweenaw will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the County is estimated to be \$374,620.00 in the first calendar year.

#### COURTHOUSE/JAIL BUILDING AND GROUNDS MILLAGE

Shall the expired previous voted increase in the fifteen mill tax limitation on general ad valorem taxes within the County of Keweenaw, Michigan be renewed in the amount of .4899 mill (\$.4899 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and increased in the amount of .0101 (\$.0101 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the years 2024 through 2027 inclusive for the Courthouse/Jail buildings and grounds improvements which will raise an estimated \$93,655 in the first year?

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the agreement between the Michigan State University for Extension Services and Keweenaw County in the amount of \$5,200 for 2024.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to require county employees to use all accumulated sick and vacation time before any zero days are taken.

Motion by Vivian supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve DeMarois as an alternate liaison for the Board of Commissioners to the Planning Commission.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow Eckloff to attend the Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners Spring Conference to be held on May 16-17<sup>th</sup> in Harris, MI.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to allow the Equalization Department to purchase the Apex Software to assist in drawing parcels. There is a one-time fee of \$655 and then the annual renewal is \$260.00.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the quote from Integris in the amount of \$2,750 to set up a DMZ network for JIS Verizon connection to allow the courts to continue to process cases.

Motion by DeMarois supported by DeMarois (Eckloff abstained), motion carried to send the letter that was written by County Attorney Miller on behalf of the Board to EGLE and other governmental officials regarding the need for EGLE to resolve ongoing odor concerns in a timely manner from the operation of Neuvokas (Gator Bar) in Ahmeek.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of new hallway carpets in the approximate amount of \$2,767.

There being no further business, motion by Rajala to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie Carlson, Clerk