

PUBLIC HEARING  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 18, 2024

A public hearing was held for the 2025 budgets at 6:15 p.m. at the Courthouse in Eagle River, MI. The hearing was for the 2025 General Fund and Special Fund budgets.

Commissioners present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Don Piche, Jim Vivian, Del Rajala.

There was no public comment.

Motion by Rajala supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:18 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 18, 2024

A public hearing was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Keweenaw County Courthouse in Eagle River, MI to receive final public comment on the 2025-2029 Keweenaw County Recreation Plan before its adoption at the regular meeting.

Ryan LaPorte, President of the Keweenaw Snowmobile Club, spoke about the Rec Plan and how great it looks and that WUPPDR did a good job. LaPorte stated that the plan may be useful as the Snowmobile Club seeks grant funding.

There being no further comments, motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to close the public hearing at 6:31 p.m.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 18, 2024

Prior to the meeting, the Board presented a plaque to Jim Vivian for his service to Keweenaw County as a commissioner since 1/1/2017.

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners held on December 18, 2024, began at 6:32 p.m., at the Courthouse in Eagle River, MI following the public hearings above. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The meeting was posted on the door of the Courthouse and on the Website.

Commissioner's present: Bob DeMarois, Randy Eckloff, Jim Vivian, Don Piche, Del Rajala.

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

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the November 13, 2024 regular monthly meeting minutes and the November 20, 2024 budget meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment. Meg Vivian North spoke about her father, Jim Vivian, about his decades of public service not only to the County, but also to Houghton Township. Meg thanked her father for his tireless service and said that his service is a legacy to his family and to all that know him.

The Board members gave reports on their respective committee meetings.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts: General Fund=\$217,630.46, Construction Codes Fund=\$2,307.68 911 Fund=\$13,530.08, Houghton County MCF Fund=\$1,292.70, Veteran Affairs Fund=\$222.62, ARPA=\$2,317.59, Concealed Pistol Fund=\$163.48, FRF Fund=\$5,760.00 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, Vivian, Piche. Nays: None. Abstain: Rajala. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Vivian and unanimously carried to move forward with hiring a full-time zoning administrator.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois (Board polled: Ayes: Eckloff, DeMarois, Vivian, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None.) to adopt the following resolution adopting the five-year Recreation Plan:

*WHEREAS, Keweenaw County has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2025 through 2029, and*  
*WHEREAS, Keweenaw County began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and*

WHEREAS, residents of Keweenaw County were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and  
 WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and  
 WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 18, 2024 at the Keweenaw County Courthouse to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Keweenaw County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2025-2029, and  
 WHEREAS, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Keweenaw County, and  
 WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners voted to adopt said Keweenaw County Five-Year Recreation Plan 2025-2029.  
 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Keweenaw County Recreation Plan 2025-2029. **(#24-8)**

Joe Foster was present to update the Board on the Survey and Remonumentation Grant Program and to present the 2025 grant application in the amount of \$38,903. Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the 2025 grant application.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to adopt the following budgets for 2025: General Fund, Friend of the Court, Courthouse Improvements, Building Codes, Register of Deeds Automation, Indigent Defense Fund, 911 Fund, Concealed Pistol Licensing, Sheriffs Training, Drug Law Enforcement Fund, Opioid Settlement Fund, Medical Care Facility, Probate Child Care and Juvenile Fund, Veterans Affairs/Veterans Affairs Grant Fund, DTRF, Kermit's Youth Fund, FRF Fund, and the ARPA Fund, Lagoon Fund, Tower Fund.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the following budget amendments for year end 2024:

<b><u>Amendments by Board of Commissioners for December</u></b>					
	<b><u>Expense Amendments</u></b>			<b><u>General Fund</u></b>	
	<b><i>From</i></b>	<b><i>To</i></b>	<b><i>Change</i></b>	<b><i>Account</i></b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>
Board	0	4,400	<b>4,400</b>	101-721	More travel for Board
Board	0	1,900	<b>1,900</b>	101-	Per Diem(500)Travel(700)Contracts(700)
Clerk	23,467	28,467	<b>5,000</b>	215-716	New Health Insurance
Clerk	0	50	<b>50</b>	215-911	Surety Bond
Clerk	0	4,200	<b>4,200</b>	215-	Supplies/Service new software systems
Treasurer	42,060	52,060	<b>10,000</b>	253-715	New Health Insurance
Treasurer	500	800	<b>300</b>	253-728	Stamps
Treasurer	4,000	4,200	<b>200</b>	253-808	Repairing New Harddrive, Extra Integris Support
Elections	14,000	17,000	<b>3,000</b>	262-727	Add'l Expense, Reimbursement Pending
Copying	2,500	4,500	<b>2,000</b>	267-808	New copier for hallway
Other	32,350	45,350	<b>13,000</b>	268-808	Integris software/network/workstation upgrade
Other	8,000	9,500	<b>1,500</b>	268-850	Changes,additions,Servicing telephone coverage
District Crt	18,594	22,594	<b>4,000</b>	286-716	New Health Insurance
District Crt	4,600	6,700	<b>2,100</b>	808,810,835	Additional Court Case Expenses
Probate	0	800	<b>800</b>	294-957	Training
Prosecutor	150	8,150	<b>8,000</b>	296-807	Legal Fees for Court Case
Juvenile	8,056	14,056	<b>8,000</b>	299-716	New Health Insurance
Mine Insp	71	181	<b>110</b>	375-860	Activity higher than expected
Med Exam	8,000	10,000	<b>2,000</b>	648-705	Room for wages, at budget
Med Exam	3,000	10,000	<b>7,000</b>	648-836	Ambulance higher
Med Exam	0	5,000	<b>5,000</b>	648-837	Autopsy higher
Med Exam	2,500	4,000	<b>1,500</b>	648-967	Training for new personnel
Sheriff	295,800	305,716	<b>9,916</b>	301-704	Addtl hours for training new hires
Sheriff	53,000	57,000	<b>4,000</b>	301-705	Addtl hours front desk, addition of PT Deputy
Sheriff	32,113	33,586	<b>1,473</b>	301-715	Addtl FICA w/ extra wages
Sheriff	11,000	14,000	<b>3,000</b>	301-802	Addtl certifications required
Sheriff	5,000	10,000	<b>5,000</b>	301-957	Addtl training with new hires
Sheriff	6,000	8,936	<b>2,936</b>	301-727 755-850	Addtl workstation, phone line
Stonegarden	0	22,000	<b>22,000</b>	328-978	Reimbursed SeaDoo watercraft
Marine	1,500	5,500	<b>4,000</b>	331-934	Addtl repairs required
Marine	0	3,000	<b>3,000</b>	331-704	Addtl wages with grant increase
Snowmobile	14,201	16,684	<b>2,483</b>	332-742	Allow for start of 2025 grant
ORV	12,505	27,505	<b>15,000</b>	334-705	Addtl ORV wages/increased patrol
ORV	1,538	4,938	<b>3,400</b>	334-742	Addtl gas expenses w/ increased patrol

1 <sup>st</sup> Respond	0	459	<b>459</b>	337-704	Activity with 1 <sup>st</sup> Responder/deputy on duty
Jail	27,153	47,703	<b>20,550</b>	351-	Increased prisoner load, rent and transport
KCEOC	0	50,000	<b>50,000</b>	667-808	Grant for design of KCEOC Center
MiColes	0	48,000	<b>48,000</b>	668-704	Grant for hiring and training deputies
Ebike	0	10,270	<b>10,270</b>	669-977	2 Ebikes, grant covered \$9,274
DHS	890	990	<b>100</b>	670-710	Higher per diems
Reg of Deed	4,700	6,000	<b>1,300</b>	711-808	Support of new software
WUPPDR	6,081	8,581	<b>2,500</b>	724-808	Addtl work, Rec Plan (Grant offset)
EDC	0	1,500	<b>1,500</b>	728-808	Website maintenance overlooked
Insurance	37,850	48,850	<b>11,000</b>	851-913	New garage and trucks
			<b>310,647</b>		
					<b><u>SPECIAL FUNDS</u></b>
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Account</i>	<i>Description</i>
DTRF	0	21,000	<b>21,000</b>	516-995.006	Auction surplus to separate restricted fund
Veterans	27,000	30,000	<b>3,000</b>	297-684	Amend grant usage, 2025 grant activity/4 <sup>th</sup> 1/4
Veterans	7,000	10,400	<b>3,400</b>	297-676	Amend grant usage, 2025 grant activity/4 <sup>th</sup> ¼
MCF	12,000	16,000	<b>4,000</b>	291-671	More residents
Opioid	0	40	<b>40</b>	284-666	ACH Bank Fees on payments
FRF	0	60,000	<b>60,000</b>	283-272	Dodge Ram pickup
FRF	0	50,000	<b>50,000</b>	283-272	Silverado patrol vehicle
FRF	0	4300	<b>4,300</b>	283-272	Repairs to Kermit's bus
CCW	0	250	<b>250</b>	263-860	Training
911	0	198,000	<b>198,000</b>	261-	Projects and equipment (radios and service)
IDF	7,984	79,85	<b>1</b>	279-808	Rounding down error on budget
ROD Auto	4,500	5,500	<b>1,000</b>	256-808	Addtl services install/activation new software
Bldg Codes	40,000	46,400	<b>6,400</b>	249-704	Addtl wages/increased activity
Bldg Codes	8,500	9,100	<b>600</b>	249-860	Addtl mileage with increased activity
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>351,991</b>		

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to authorize the County Treasurer to make budget transfers between accounts and between activities without increasing the total board authorized fund expenditures. This is in accordance with the State's Uniform Budgeting Act.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the following resolution opting out of PA 152: WHEREAS, on September 27, 2011, P.A. 152 of 2011, an act to limit a public employer's expenditures for employee medical benefits plans, became immediately effective; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners have reviewed the requirements of that Act; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the County's established, long-range budgeting practices that actively balance the interests of taxpayers and County employees, and in keeping with the long-established practice of Keweenaw County employees working with the County to defray escalating costs associated with employees' medical benefit plans and having made wage and salary concessions; and

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Act 152 authorizes a local unit of government, defined to include a county government, upon a 2/3 vote of the governing body, to exempt itself from the requirements of the Act for the next succeeding year; and

WHEREAS, by exempting itself under Section 8 of Act 152 for calendar year 2025, Keweenaw County is allowed prudent time to continue making changes over time that yield significant reductions in health care costs in a manner that is fair to both taxpayers and employees; and

WHEREAS, exempting Keweenaw County from Act 152 for calendar year 2025 is equitable considering that Keweenaw County's employees have already demonstrated by their actions a continuing willingness to fairly share in the burden of meeting the significant economic challenges associated with Michigan's long recession; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that acting pursuant to the authority granted a county under Section 8 of Act 152, the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners hereby exempts Keweenaw County government from the requirements of P.A. 152 of 2011 for calendar year 2025. **(#24-9)**

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to reappoint the following:

PLANNING COMMISSION

Reappoint Bob Pokorski

Dan Yoder did not wish to be reappointed

Barry Koljonen resigned

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Reappoint Mark Ahlborn

Reappoint Frank Kastelic

Marty Faassen resigned so Larry Butala could be moved to that position

Mike Delesha can be moved to Alternate 1

Should post for a vacancy for Alternate 2

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Bill Hannon

JURY COMMISSION

Reappoint Barb Foley (D) term ending 4/30/2030

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution authorizing public entity membership in the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool and appoint Clerk Julie Carlson as the trustee, the Deputy Clerk Roxanne Billing as the alternate trustee. (#24-10)

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the following changes to county fee schedules as of 1/1/2025.

<b>FINGERPRINT FEES</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
RESIDENTS	48.25	50.00
NONRESIDENTS	53.25	55.00

<b>CERTIFIED COPIES</b>	10.00/3.00	15.00/5.00
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<b>COPIES</b>	1.00 PER PAGE	
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<b>ADDRESS PERMITS</b>	150.00	300.00
REPLACEMENT SIGN	40.00	150.00

<b>BUILDING PERMITS</b>			
APPLICATION FEE	75.00	75.00	
FINAL INSPECTION	100.00	100.00	
COST OF PROJECT	\$1-1,000	200.00	125.00
	\$1,000-10,000	75.00	200.00
	\$10,000-100,000	165.00	375.00
	\$100,000-500,000	435.00	500.00
	>\$500,000	1,235.00	1,500.00

<b>EMP PERMITS</b>		
APPLICATION FEE	75.00	75.00
FINAL INSPECTION	75.00	100.00

<b>SOIL EROSION PERMITS</b>				
RESIDENTIAL	1 ACRE OR LESS	90.00	150.00	(BOTH INCLUDE TWO INSPECTIONS)
	ADDL ACRES	20.00/ACRE	20.00/ACRE	
	ADD INSPECTION	40.00 EACH	40.00 EACH	
COMMERCIAL	1 ACRE OR LESS	200.00	300.00	(BOTH INCLUDE THREE INSPECTIONS)
INDUSTRIAL	ADDL ACRES	40.00 ACRE	40.00 ACRE	
UTILITY	ADD INSPECTION	40.00 EACH	50.00 EACH	

<b>ZONING</b>		
COMPLIANCE PERMIT	50.00	
SPECIAL MEETING	500.00	
CONDITONAL USE	300.00	
VARIANCE REQUEST OR APPEAL	500.00	
SITE PLAN REVIEW	500.00	
ZONING AMENDMENT	ORDINANCE	
	TEXT	500.00
	REZONING-MAP	500.00
PUD/CONDO REVIEW	1,200.00	

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff to approve an advanced payment of \$10,000 to WUPPDR to help to cover costs prior to EGLE's awarding of the MMP (Materials Management Plan) grants. Over the three-year grant period, the county will be eligible for \$70,000 per year plus a per capita allocation.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to amend the budget by \$10,000 for the payment to WUPPDR for MMP.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the appointment of Mike Stafford, Bates Township Supervisor, as the Township Elected Official position on the Western UP MMP Committee.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to regretfully accept the resignation of Barry Koljonen from the Planning Commission.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to regretfully accept the resignation of Marty Faassen from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve the storage platform (mezzanine) for the new sheriff garage in the amount of \$2,326.05. The platform will be 12 feet by 36 feet, about 7 feet above the floor with 4-foot-wide stairs.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve changes in the sick time policy as the new law requires.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

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Donald Piche, Chairman

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Julie A. Carlson, County Clerk