

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
KEWEENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
May 21, 2025

The regular meeting of the Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners was held on May 21, 2025, 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, Mike LaMotte, Don Piche, Del Rajala.

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

Motion by DeMarois supported by Eckloff and unanimously carried to approve April 16, 2025, regular monthly meeting minutes as written.

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

Time was allowed for public comment. The following people spoke in favor of keeping AJ Kern on the Planning Commission for various reasons: AJ Kern, John Kern, Debbie Butler, Mike Delesha, Mike Erickson, Steve Kyllonen.

Commissioners reported on various committee meetings.

Motion by Rajala supported by Eckloff to pay the approved and audited bills in the following amounts; General Fund=\$188,343.99 Construction Codes Fund=\$1,038.62 911 Fund=\$1,567.61 FRF Fund=\$1,720.00 Child Care Fund=\$466.00 Veterans Affairs=\$1,255.33 Medical Care Fund=\$ 1,034.16 Board polled. Ayes: DeMarois, Eckloff, LaMotte, Rajala, Piche. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois to renew the Board of Commissioners vote following the Public Hearing held on April 1, 2025 concerning the Planning Commission's recommendation to remove AJ Kern from the Planning Commission. The recommendation for removal was based on AJ Kern's absence without notice from the Planning Commission Special Hearing held January 14, 2025 at 3:15 pm to consider and recommend new member applications to the Planning Commission. Board polled for removal. Eckloff-No, DeMarois-Yes, LaMotte-No, Rajala-Yes, Piche-Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by DeMarois supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the Code of Conduct and Oath of Office for all members of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals as submitted by the Zoning Administrator.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve the first quarterly report of 2025 for the Master Plan which will be sent to The Nature Conservancy.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to hold a Truth in Taxation public hearing on June 18, 2025 at 6:15 pm prior to the regular board meeting.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve a letter of support for the name change of Lost Lake to Lake Trillium in honor of Barbara Fetterman and at the request of JR Richardson who owns the property surrounding the lake.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution opposing proposed cuts to Medicaid by the Federal Government.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve Piche to write letters to our past and current insurance carriers for help with employee claims that are still unpaid, some being in collections and to put health insurance under unfinished business until the situation is resolved.

Motion by Eckloff supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve the MERS Health Care Savings Program Participation Agreement for the Sheriff's Office and Maintenance in the amount of 4% beginning on June 1, 2025. This program is fully funded by employees.

Motion by Eckloff supported by LaMotte and unanimously carried to approve armor plates for the sheriff's department in the amount of \$3,448 that will be covered by a private donation. This motion includes the budget amendment to make this purchase.

Motion by Eckloff supported by Rajala and unanimously carried to approve the Copper Shores grant to purchase a four-season rescue craft which helps to get closer to the shoreline. This grant is a 50% match with the other 50% coming from KORC and the motion also includes amending the budget for this purchase of approximately \$7,000.

Motion by Rajala supported by DeMarois and unanimously carried to approve tree, stump and shrub removal on the Courthouse grounds by Tamarack Tree Service LLC in the amount of \$6,800 which will come from the Courthouse Improvement Fund.

Time was allowed for public comment.

There being no further business, motion by DeMarois to adjourn at 7:23 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Donald Piche, Chairman

Julie A. Carlson, Clerk