

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Koskela.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Gretchen Janssen District 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Public Hearing-Rural Development Patrol Car Grant Application

Open hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to open the public hearing.

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Discussion and Public Comment:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, gave a brief explanation that the application pays for 55% of the cost of the patrol cars.

Horst Schmidt asked the cost of the SUV vehicles? Eric Forsberg stated \$58,000.00.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to close the public hearing.

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated October 16, 2018 as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda:

Eric Forsberg asked that #5 be added to the Agenda for Apportionment for the Equalization Department. Commissioner Palosaari asked that #6 be added for the jail addition.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Agenda with the two (2) additions as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Horst Schmidt thanked Clerk Kelly for her hard work on the November election.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,296,086.22 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Chairman Koskela discussed an issue for veterans trying to get into the Houghton County Medical Care Facility. A meeting is scheduled for November 27<sup>th</sup> at the VFW in Baltic and November 28<sup>th</sup> at the National Guard Armory in Calumet.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: KEDA, CCISD-open house on November 13, 2018 for vocational education classes, and Solid Waste Committee.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: U.P. Association of County Commissioners, Western U.P. Economic Development Alliance, Western U.P. Health, and Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Upward Talent Council, Western UP Health, Michigan State University Extension, Houghton County Road Commission-no worker compensation injuries, so they received a Goose Award.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the following: U.P. Association of County Commissioners, MDOT, Airport and Courthouse negotiations, and he congratulated Roy Britz on becoming a Commissioner.

County Officers:

None.

New Business:

1. Cathryn Beer – Community health data

Cathryn Beer, Western U.P. Health Department Health Officer/ Administrator, gave a presentation regarding community health data.

## 2. Houghton County Airport Union Contract

Eric Forsberg stated the contract for the Airport would be for the years 2019-2021 for raises of 1.7%, 2.5%, and 2.5%. Defined contributions will go from 5% to 6% and the health insurance core plan will go to a \$500/\$1,000 deductible.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Airport Union Contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 5.  
NO: None 0.

## 3. Michigan Indigent Defense Grant Contract

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the improvements for the Indigent Defense. The state is paying for upgrades and will pay half and report to the state. Grant-Houghton County and the State of Michigan.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Michigan Indigent Defense Grant Contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.  
NO: None 0.

## 4. Local Indigent Defense Contract

Eric Forsberg explained that this Contract is between Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties, Tri-County, not for profit by David Gemignani.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Local Indigent Defense Contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Tikkanen, Palosaari, Koskela, Pintar, Janssen 5.  
NO: None 0.

## 5. Apportionment

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, requested the Board approve the Amended Houghton County Apportionment. She explained this was necessary due to the November 2018 election results.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adopt the amended Apportionment.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Janssen, Palosaari 5.  
NO: None.

## 6. Appropriations

- a. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the above-mentioned Appropriation.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 5.

NO: None 0.

7. Jail addition

Commissioner Palossari discussed putting the jail back on the ballot. Board discussed holding a Committee of the whole meeting in the future to discuss.

Public Comments:

Horst Schmidt addressed the Board.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 6:05 pm.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk