

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 12, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. 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:  
Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Election:

Vice Chairman-A Motion was made by Commissioner Londo and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to have Commissioner Palossaari stay on as the Vice Chairman.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Pintar made a Motion to accept the Agenda as presented and to add #9 UPEDA and #10 New Election Law to the agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda with the additions.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,188,443.26. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Ala. 5

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the following: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: WUPPDR.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: He will report under item #6.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Nothing to report.

New Business:

1. Meeting dates/times. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to change the November 15<sup>th</sup> date to November 8<sup>th</sup> and then approve the meeting dates as submitted.

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

2. Rules of Order. A Motion to accept the Rules and to have future committee members and anyone appointed serve a two (2) year term was made by Commissioner Palossari and seconded by Commissioner Ala.

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

3. Commissioner Committee Appointments.

Mental Health: A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to have the Committee Appointments serve a two (2) year term.

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

District Health: A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to have the Committee Appointments serve a two (2) year term.

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

4. Request to purchase time. Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, advised the Board on the MERS plan. The Board discussed options. Jack Larson would like to purchase one (1) year of time.

Jack Larson addressed the Board and informed the Board on the audit of his account and referred to his letter the Board received in their packets.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve Jack Larson's request to purchase time. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Ala, Palosaari. 5

NO: None. 0

5. Houghton County Department of Veterans Affairs Presentation. Jim Klutts, Houghton-Keweenaw County Veterans Service Officer, gave a presentation regarding the

activities in the Veterans Office. Gene LaRochelle, a Veterans Board member, addressed the Board regarding the Veterans budget.

6. Northcare Service Agreement. Commissioner Palosaari advised the Board of the upcoming special meeting. The Board tabled this matter and will address this matter again at the February Board of Commissioners meeting.

7. Appointment to the Houghton County Planning Commission. There were two (2) applicants. Pete Mackin was present and addressed the Board regarding his qualifications. A motion was made by Commissioner Londo and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to appoint Matt Huuki.

Commissioner Ala requested discussion on the applicants.

Commissioner Koskela stated that Mr. Mackin was not a current property owner.

The Board changed the Motion to a yes or no vote.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Huuki 3-YES, Mackin 2-YES.

8. Travel Requests. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the travel requests for Kathleen Beattie, County Treasurer; John Pekkala, Houghton County Drain Commissioner, and four (4) individuals to attend the MAC Legislative Conference. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. UPEDA. Commissioner Pintar and the Board discussed the upcoming meeting in Munising. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to have Commissioner Pintar attend the next UPEDA and travel the day before the meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

10. New Election Law. The Board and Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, discussed the New Election Law.

Public Comments:

Pete Mackin, Business Manager for EverGreenTechnology addressed the Board and informed the Board on their new business in Hancock.

Chairman Koskela thanked Jack Larson for his years of service with the Houghton County Sheriff Department.

Jack Larson thanked the Board.

Announcements:

None.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk