

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 14, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, 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.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala, to approve the March 10, 2015 minutes and the March 25, 2015 Special Meeting minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve the agenda with two (2) additions to #11 & #12 under New Business. The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Sam Buschell addressed the Board regarding a letter he received from the Department of Natural Resources that was addressed to Brian Cadwell, Torch Lake Township Supervisor. He informed the Board of problems he has had with the Assessor, Matt Arko and stated that he received no help from Houghton County.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve paying \$122,847.31, plus late bills of \$10,595.00 for a total of \$133,442.31.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

Adams Township Board. The Adams Township Board made a Motion to not amend the ordinance for the seven (7) wind turbines, and voted unanimously to not amend the ordinance.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Planning Committee. At their meeting a presentation was made by Brad Newman. The Committee approved a Grant application that was prepared by Evan McDonald and Susan VanDam for the cardboard recycling program.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Medical Care Facility.

County Officers:

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, reported on the Lift Bridge Planning Committee.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, reported to the board on the pre-construction project for the ramp at the airport, and the fuel sales from the Michigan Technological University Basketball and Hockey Charters. He also advised that bids for the purchase of a compact track loader for land clearing have been made with the lowest bid at this time as \$84,000.00. He also informed the Board that the Airport has a wind turbine ordinance.

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, informed the Board that a request was made by Jennifer Tucker, from the MEDC, to have a meeting with the Brownfield Committee. The board agreed that a meeting will take place on May 20, 2015 at 9:00 am on the 5th floor of the Houghton County Courthouse.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Audit Report-Debbie Bradford, Rukkila, Negro & Assoc.

Debbie Bradford reported to the Board that the County had a clean report, the budget had no overages, and the Region 8 monies were just under \$800,000.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to accept the audit as presented.

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

2. County Equalization

John Partanen, Equalization Director, explained to the Board the 2015 property tax numbers. These numbers will be E-filed with the State.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to support the 2015 property tax numbers.

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

3. County Administrator Position

The Board discussed the current Controller's duties and the difference in the new proposed title and the current title. Commissioner Ala made a suggestion to look into the matter further.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to change the County Controller's title to County Administrator and to look into the matter further according to Commissioner Ala's request.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Londo, Palosaari, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: Ala 1.

4. Houghton County Work Camp-Union Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the three (3) year agreement with the Houghton County Work Camp Union.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

5. Otter Lake Petition

John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, advised the Board that the Dam Committee had met. According to the County Attorney, the petitions were found to be invalid.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari declared that the petitions are invalid.

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

6. Request for appointment as Remonumentation Representative

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to appoint Joseph Foster as the Remonumentation Representative.

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

7. Request for Peace Officers Memorial Day Proclamation

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adopt the Peace Officers Memorial Day Proclamation with a few changes that Commissioner Ala brought to the Boards attention. It was agreed that the changes shall be made.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

8. Deficit elimination plans

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to make a resolution for the five (5) plans.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

9. Deficit elimination resolutions

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Twin Lake Special Assessment.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Rice Lake Special Assessment.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Londo, Ala, Koskela, Pintar, Palosaari 5.
NO: None 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Otter Lake Assessment.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Ala 5.
NO: None 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Airport Water/Sewer Fund.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Ala 5.
NO: None 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Passenger Facility Charge Fund.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Ala, Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Palosaari 5.
NO: None 0.

10. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. Planning & Development Region - \$2,866.50
- b. Copper Country Community Mental Health - \$41,123.73
- c. U.P. RC&D Council -\$350.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the above-mentioned Appropriations.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Ala, Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Pintar 5.
NO: None 0.

11. North Care Network

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala for Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, to send a letter to North Care Network requesting the money incorrectly sent to them be returned to Houghton County or the County will have no choice, but to withhold future payments.

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

12. Mechanical Inspector wages and insurance

The Board discussed the rates charged for services, and the rate of pay Michael Schultz receives. Chairman Ala would like to have a meeting to discuss the matter further if the Board approves. No comments were made.

Public Comments:

Sam Buschell addressed the Board on the Equalization report that is being E-filed, and recommended to the Board that the report should reflect the incorrect assessments made by Matt Arko, and requested that Matt Arko's office be ADA compliant.

Evan McDonald, Chairman, of the Houghton County Planning Commission gave a brief update to the Board on the last meeting they had on the recycling program and a compost program.

Wanda Klarich from Hubbell addressed the Board on a complaint of a neighbor's home due to unsanitary conditions. Chairman Koskela informed Ms. Klarich he would look into the matter.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk