

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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, and Timothy Palosaari, District 5. Scott Ala, District 4 was absent.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve the January 13, 2015 minutes as presented. The motion was carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve the agenda with two additions of NorthCare Network #8 and the Gogebic County unfunded pension liability for the Manpower Consortium #9. The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Mike Schira from the MSU Extension Office informed the Board that Christina Mayworm is the new 4H Coordinator.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo, to approve paying of voucher #143604 through # 1436857 for a total of \$86,468.30. The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Pintar, 4.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Fair; the Board is considering cancelling the pageant as they are in need of a queen coordinator for the county fair.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

MI Works Alliance Board, WUPPDR, Houghton County Planning Commission, WUPD Health, Adams Township, and South Range Village Council.

Commission Londo reported to the Board on the following:

Copper Country Trail National Byway.

Evan McDonald explained to the Board the process on geocaching.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Jail, Bridge, Houghton County Airport.

Emergency Director Jack Duewke updated the Board on the bridge maintenance and upcoming rafting exercise.

Airport Manager Dennis Hext advised the Board on the departure of the Laughlin Charter flight and other flights.

New Business:

1. Douglas Houghton Falls Management Plan.

Calumet Township Supervisor Paul Lehto advised the Board that the State of Michigan was looking to purchase the 203 acre parcel. He gave a proposed Resolution to the Board. He also advised that the State of Michigan is requesting that Houghton County, Calumet Township and the Recreational Authority develop a management plan for this property.

The Board tabled this matter to have further discussion and get more information.

2. Houghton County Medical Care Facility Architectural/Engineering Services.

Tammi Lehto advised the Board on phase one (1) of the repositioning plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to appoint U.P. Engineers and Architects/Hooker DeJong as the architects/engineers for phase one (1) of the repositioning plan. The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Palosaari, 4.

NO: None 0.

3. Otter Lake Land Owners.

Edward Laitila addressed the Board on the petition that has been circulating regarding the removal of the Otter Lake Dam. He advised the Board that 73% of the land owners have signed the petitions. He stated that an engineer study needs to be done. The land owners would like to rescind the lake level law and put in a natural dam.

The Board referred this matter to the Dam Committee for further review.

4. HEET Grant administrative costs.

Controller Eric Forsberg reported that Houghton County has been requested to pay \$1,500 every year for two (2) years to cover costs that WUPPDR will be incurring.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to pay \$1,500 a year for two (2) years towards the HEET costs that WUPPDR will be incurring. The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela, 4.

NO: None 0.

5. Copper Country Mental Health Board Re-Appointments.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to have Patrick Rozich, James Tervo and Barry Fink serve three (3) year terms on the Copper Country Mental Health Board that will expire on March 31, 2018. The motion was carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

6. Appropriations:

Western U.P. District Health-\$62,527.50. A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay the Second Quarterly Appropriations amount to Western U.P. District Health. The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela, 4.

NO: None 0.

7. Travel Requests:

- a. Mac Legislative Conference
- b. Brenda Cadwell-Friend of Court Director

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve travel request items a & b. The motion was carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

- c. Judge Mark Wisti-97<sup>th</sup> District Court

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve travel request item c. The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela, 4.

NO: None 0.

8. NorthCare Network.

The board requested that the Controller Eric Forsberg write a letter to the NorthCare Network requesting that they return the money to Houghton County and Houghton County would then send the money to the Coordinating Agency.

9. Gogebic County unfunded pension liability for Manpower Consortium.

The Board requested that the Controller Eric Forsberg write a letter to get more information on the interest and evaluation report regarding this matter.

Public Comments:

Evan McDonald, Chairman for the Houghton County Planning Commission welcomed Commissioner Eugene Londo to the Board. He also commented on the Douglas Houghton Falls Management Plan.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

---

Albert Koskela, Chairman

---

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk