

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2014

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Ala at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance the following commissioners responded to roll call: Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Al Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4 and Tim Palosaari, District 5.

A motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2014. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

John Hauesler-Commented and thanked Commissioner Tom Tikkanen, and Houghton County Clerk Patricia Janke for their services.

Barbara LaFex-Lewis-Commented to the Board on the applications for the Houghton County Planning Commission encouraging them to use a wide area when they are considering candidates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve paying vouchers 142623 through 142732 for \$149,330.26 and late bills of \$29,581.28 for a total of \$178,911.54. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence: None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the Bridge Committee. Commissioner Koskela also commented that the bridge construction kick off will begin next week.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission, the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, and the Western UP Health Board.

Commissioner Ala also reported to the Board on the Western UP Health Board.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Commented on the Houghton Energy Efficiency Team and the HEET Committee and stated that the Georgetown group will meet again on January 6, 2015. Commissioner Tikkanen asked Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, to comment about the airport. Dennis Hext commented that they will allow the Escanaba Airport to use their ramp for the Veteran Honor Flights. Dennis Hext also stated that the weather observer class has begun.

Commissioner Palossaari reported to the Board on the following: Deferred to the agenda.

County Officers:

Houghton County Sheriff Brian McLean thanked Commissioner Tom Tikkanen, and County Clerk Patricia Janke for their services.

New Business:

1. Real Estate Purchase Agreement. The Commissioners and Controller spoke with Kristine Jukuri Weidner from Century 21 regarding the Purchasing Contract.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to make a counter offer with adjustments, and accept the price that was offered. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

2. Houghton County Planning Commission Appointments. Commissioner Pintar commented to the Board on Allan Aho's qualifications.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to appoint Allan Aho. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A discussion took place between the Commissioners regarding the education position.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to run a revised ad in the newspaper with a new deadline of January 7, 2015. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. Houghton County Department of Veteran's Affairs Appointment.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Koskela, to appoint Chris Bates. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Resolution Regarding Rice Lake, Lake Level Maintenance.

John Pekkala commented and recommends Alternate 3.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen, to approve the resolution. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

5. 2015 Remonumentation Grant Application.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to accept the grant application. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Compliance with Michigan Act 152.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to opt out. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. DHS Board Appointment Request.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to appoint Gary Capella for an additional three (3) year term. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

8. Appropriations.

a. NorthCare Network-\$31,325.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to pay. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. Changing of the Courthouse Holidays.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to change the Courthouse Holidays from Wednesday and Thursday to Thursday and Friday for the Christmas and New Year Holidays. The motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

10. Building Department.

Commissioner Ala discussed the fee schedule with the Board members. The Board asked Todd LaRoux to compare the fees that the Houghton County Building Department currently charge compared to other Western U.P. region counties.

Public Comments:

Barbara LaFex-Lewis commented on how the Board should handle the previously received applications. The Board advised that the individuals would be notified through the new ad in the newspaper.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to adjourn the meeting. The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Scott Ala, Chairman

Patricia A. Janke, County Clerk