

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2016, in the 5th 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; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated March 15, 2016 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,265,579.81 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, Western Upper Peninsula Health Department and Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the Houghton County Arena roof.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the Houghton County Fair. He stated there would be a talent show this next year instead of a queen pageant. There will be two (2) different age levels.

New Business:

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

Debbie Bradford addressed the Board regarding the audit she performed on Houghton County.

Commissioner Ala questioned Debbie Bradford on the pension information on the audit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Ala to accept Debbie Bradford's report on the September 30, 2015 Houghton County Year End Audit as presented.

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

2. County Equalization

John Partanen, Equalization Director, gave a lengthy presentation to the Board regarding the 2016 property tax numbers.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to support the County's Equalization Report as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

3. Northcare Network

The Board discussed many issues with Northcare Network.

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained to the Board about the money being held by Houghton County, what is owed, and the lack of response from Northcare Network.

Mary Sears addressed the Board and suggested using the Attorney General as a source to address this issue.

The Board agreed to table this matter until the May Board meeting.

4. Copper Country Humane Society

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, addressed the Board and explained the Agreement for Animal Control Services covering the period of 4/1/16-12/31/18.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to increase the cap to \$20,000 per year with the daily rate increasing to \$22/day for the holding of dogs and cats effective October 1, 2016.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

5. Recognition of local sports participants

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to send a letter of congratulations to Hancock High School for winning the State Championship in hockey, Clara Luokus in Calumet for basketball, and Arthur Lyons in Lake Linden for basketball. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, will write the letters.

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

6. Airport Bids

The Board received three (3) bids and opened the sealed envelopes. Diamond Mowers Inc. \$22,980, Ward Husqvarna \$24,999.95, and Nortrax \$26,270.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to accept the low bid with the pending approval by the Engineer as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

7. Allocation Board appointment

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint Michael Lahti to the Allocation Board for 2016.

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

8. Appropriations

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

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

10. Travel Requests

- a. Dan Giachino – Houghton County Friend of Court

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Travel Request.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, thanked Tracy Smith and Jennifer Lorenz for their hard work regarding the new Houghton County Website that is now up and running.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn at 6:12 pm. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk