

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 15, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, 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 and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Absent: Scott Ala, District 4.

Public Hearing – CDBG Application

Open hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to open the hearing.

The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director for KEDA, addressed the Board.

Discussion and Public Comment

None.

Close Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to close the hearing.

The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo, to approve the November 10, 2015 Regular Meeting 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 Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve the agenda and move #10 on the Agenda and address it after #14.

The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve paying bills of \$1,253,305.48 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Londo, Pintar, Palosaari, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the following:

Western Upper Peninsula District Health Board, Houghton County Planning Commission, and the Recycling Center.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

KEDA.

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director for KEDA, addressed the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext reported to the Board that passengers should arrive at least 90 minutes prior to departure. Passengers should follow the 3.4 oz. rule and presents should not be wrapped.

New Business:

1. Road Commissioners compensation

Kevin Harju from the Houghton County Road Commission addressed the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Houghton County Road Commissioners compensation.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: None 0.

2. Houghton County Planning Commission Appointments

The Board discussed the resignation of Bill Fink from the Planning Commission. A position will be open in Tourism and Economic Development for the Planning Commission in addition to the two (2) current openings.

The Board received two (2) applications for the Recreation and Culture vacancy on the Planning Commission. The applicants were Susan Burack and Kevin McClellan. The Board voted and Susan Burack received one (1) vote, and Kevin McClellan received three (3) votes.

The Board received one (1) application for the Sanitation, Environmental Health, Housing, and/or Human Services vacancy on the Planning Commission. The applicant was Timothy Sears. The Board voted and Timothy Sears received four (4) votes.

There will be an advertisement put into the Gazette for Bill Fink's position. The Board will address this matter again at the January Board of Commissioner's meeting.

The Board asked Eric Forsberg to write letters of appreciation to Susan Burack and Bill Fink for their years of service on the Houghton County Planning Commission.

### 3. Houghton County Courthouse Union Contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Houghton County Courthouse Union Contract as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

### 4. Houghton County Airport Union Contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Houghton County Airport Union Contract as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

### 5. Appointed/elected raises

Eric Forsberg, Administrator requested that the Board approve the same pay increases for the Appointed/Elected officials for 2016-2018 as was granted to the Courthouse Union. Administrator Forsberg also requested that all Appointed/Elected officials hired after December 31, 2015 be given a MERS defined contribution plan with a 5% employer match in place of the current MERS defined benefit plan. Administrator Forsberg also requested that any newly elected members of the Judges and Commissioners group elected after December 31, 2015 also be changed to the MERS defined contribution plan in the same manner as the Appointed/Elected group.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the requested pay increases and changes to the MERS plans.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: None 0.

### 6. Houghton County Administrator Contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Houghton County Administrator Contract as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: None 0.

### 7. Compliance with Michigan Act 152

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to opt out of the requirements of Michigan Act 152.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

#### 8. Michigan CDBG Amendment

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director for KEDA, addressed the Board and explained the paperwork for the Revolving Loan Fund Grant.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Michigan CDBG Amendment as presented.

The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

#### 9. Remonumentation Grant

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Remonumentation Grant as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

#### 11. Jail Kitchen Renovations

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Jail Kitchen Renovations as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

#### 12. U.P. Fair Board Appointment Request

Commissioner Palossaari will address this matter at the next Houghton County Fair Board meeting.

#### 13. Western U.P. Consortium Pension Liability

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, will contact the County Attorney and prepare a letter to Gogebic County requesting information. The Board will address this matter again at the January Board of Commissioner's meeting.

#### 14. Airpark Sewer Study Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Airpark Sewer Study Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

#### 10. Alan Aho –United Nations Agenda 21

Alan Aho gave a lengthy presentation to the Board on Agenda 21.

15. Appropriations

a. UPEDA - \$500.00

b. C.C. Community Mental Health - \$41,123.73

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay the appropriations of \$500.00 to the UPEDA and \$41,123.73 to the C.C. Community Mental Health.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None.

16. Travel Requests

a. Brenda Cadwell – Friend of the Court

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve Brenda Cadwell’s travel request as presented.

The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Horsch Schmidt addressed the Board. Commissioner Pintar and Eric Forsberg answered his questions.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk