

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 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; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 Organizational/Regular Meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda: A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Del Rajala, Keweenaw County Commissioner, addressed the Board regarding his support of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$838,197.38. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, advised the Board on the letter in their pack on the latest update on the Otter Lake Dam.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance, and Western Upper Peninsula Health Board. Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA Director, advised the Board on activities of other organizations and reconstructing the KEDA Board.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Advised the Board he would address this later in the agenda.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Bridge meeting. Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, updated the Board on the Bridge meeting and enclosures.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Medical Care Facility Millage Renewal

The Board discussed the facility and the residents, financial issues, a possible addition at the facility for rehab, and how the facility was originally set up. Del Rajala, Keweenaw County Commissioner, addressed the Board again and requested to be included in future meetings.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to table this matter until the March 2016 meeting.

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

2. Houghton County Arena Maintenance

Commissioner Ala advised the Board on the poor condition of the roof at the Houghton County Arena.

Dave Hermanson, President Portage Lake Multi-Ed, addressed the Board regarding the issues with the roof at the Arena.

Ryan Markham, Houghton County Arena Board Treasurer, advised the Board on the financial budget, revenues, and the many different organizations that use the Houghton County Arena.

Richard Freeman, Houghton County Fair Board and Houghton County Arena Board member, advised the Board that the Houghton County Arena is necessary for the Houghton County Fair every year and how important that building is to the Junior Hockey Association.

The Board had discussion on other arenas, possibilities of fundraisers, grants, and bonding.

Commissioner Ala will meet with Eric Forsberg and other Board members to discuss this matter further.

3. Airport Sewer Project Bids

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to accept UP Engineers & Architects low bid for the Airport sewer project.

Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA Director, advised the Board on the pipes and smoke testing.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. U.P. state Fair Board Appointment.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint Steven Palosaari to serve a three (3) year term on the U.P. State Fair Board.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Ala, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.
NO: None 0.
ABSTAINED: Palosaari 1.

5. Allocation Board Appointment

The Board will discuss this at the March 2016 meeting.

6. Remonumentation Completion Report.

Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, advised the Board on the Remonumentation Completion Report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Remonumentation Completion Report. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

7. UPWARD Talent Council Appointment.

Chairman Koskela appointed Eugene Londo to the UPWARD Talent Council.

8. Keweenaw National Marine Sanctuary

Commissioner Pintar advised the Board on the plans for the sanctuary and advised the Board that Gina Nicholas is the contact person.

9. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. Planning & Development Region - \$ 2,866.50
- b. Northwood's Rail Transit Commission - \$100.00

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Public Comments:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, advised the Board that he has not seen the RFP or been updated and stated the airport had a great year.

Tim Koskiniemi advised the Board that he has been in contact with Dennis Hext and will continue to do so.

Announcements:

None.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to adjourn at 6:02 pm. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk