

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special meeting on Friday, February 26, 2016, in Conference Room A at the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, City of Hancock.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Koskela.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call:

Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Absent: Eugene Londo, District 1.

Approval of Agenda:

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

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

Public Comments:

Peter Meuwenhuis, Physical Therapist, outside contractor with UP Rehab at the Houghton County Medical Care Facility addressed the board and discussed the patient care at the facility.

Bill Wanhala, a resident of Houghton County, addressed the Board.

Rick Kasprzak addressed the Board on the millage on the ballot and discussed funding.

Horst Schmidt addressed the Board.

Terry LaJeunesse, with the Michigan Association of Education, addressed the Board.

Scott Dianda, 110<sup>th</sup> District Representative, addressed the Board.

Alan Baker, videotaping this meeting for Keweenaw Now, addressed the Board.

Kim Clouthier, an employee of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility addressed the Board.

Evan Dixon addressed the Board.

New Business:

Houghton County Medical Care Facility

Tammi Lehto, Administrator for the Houghton County Medical Care Facility passed out handouts to the Board and to some of the public attending the meeting. She stated the Board was seeking a renewal of the millage for six (6) years, however, the talk of a two (2) year renewal was having them pursue a possible four (4) year renewal at the current rate of the millage.

Tammi gave a lengthy presentation about the Medical Care Facility to the Board and the public attending the meeting.

Gerald Jarvey, Business Manager for the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, addressed the Board regarding the 9.5 million building project and the need for private beds, and the need to rebuild their capital.

Edward Jenich, Chairman of the Board for the Houghton County Medical Care Facility stated that one (1) Houghton County Commissioner recommended in a meeting to reduce the Medical Care Facilities millage to two (2) years. He introduced Gary Capello and Christy Hilgers who are on the Medical Care Facility Board. He stated the Board has spent the facility's money wisely. He stated he was proud to be on the Board at the Medical Care Facility.

Commissioner Pinter recommended six (6) years at the current millage rate on the ballot which would be addressed at the March Houghton County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Commissioner Ala questioned Gerald Jarvey on the income from operations. Mr. Jarvey explained the pension distribution.

Commissioner Pinter stated that all Commissioners should be at special meetings for further discussion.

Tammi Lehto discussed the staff at the Medical Care Facility.

Edward Jenich stated a two (2) year renewal does not give continuity.

Tammi Lehto and Gerald Jarvey discussed the state requirements for updating the dining room areas, and relocating the rehabilitation unit and the hair salon.

Edward Jenich stated he is recommending a 6 year renewal of the millage, however, he would consider a four (4) year renewal, but will not agree to a two (2) year renewal.

Commissioner Ala discussed the finances of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility.

Commissioner Palosaari asked if a committee meeting could be scheduled. The Medical Care Facility Board agreed.

Public Comments:

Barbara Manninen asked the Board about the cost of the millage for special elections. Jennifer Lorenz, Houghton County Clerk, stated it would be costly if it was a special election.

Bill Wanhala addressed the Board.

Rick Kasprzak stated as a tax payer he is willing to pay for the millage for the Medical Care Facility.

Bill Wanhala addressed the Board. The Board stopped his comments.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Chairman Koskela to adjourn the meeting.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk