

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public hearing and Regular meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 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.

Public Hearing-Houghton County 2016/17 Budget

Open hearing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to open the hearing.

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

The Board and Eric Forsberg, Administrator, discussed the packets the Board received.

Close Hearing:

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting dated August 9, 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:

David Fox from Baltic addressed the Board regarding a traffic problem. Scott Ala addressed Mr. Fox, and the Board discussed this matter.

Paul Putman, Director with Michigan State Extension Office addressed the Board on the success of this year's Houghton County Fair.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,187,455.87 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

The Board discussed the Keweenaw County Master Plan. The Board referred this matter to the Planning Commission.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the Western UP Health Board.

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

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the success of the Houghton County Fair.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the Mental Health Board.

County Officers:

Sheriff, Brian McLean, had nothing to report.

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

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, updated the Board on the Houghton County Jail project.

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, had nothing to report.

Kathleen Beattie, Treasurer, informed the Board that she received a grant for the removal of the 4,000 tires from the Painesdale site. DEQ had previously cleaned up approximately 22,000 tires.

Kathleen Beattie thanked Jeff Ratcliffe from KEDA for all of his help.

Kathleen Beattie also informed the Board that some of the offices in the Courthouse are now accepting debit/credit card payments. The offices that are now accepting those debit/credit card payments are the County Clerk, Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Probate/Family Court, Marina, and the Building Department.

New Business:

1. 2016/2017 General Appropriations Act

Commissioner Ala discussed the monies the Board agreed to pay last month to MERS, and the possibility of funding a new jail. The Board discussed MERS benefits.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adopt the 2016/17 Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, 4.
NO: Ala 1.

2. 2015/2016 Budget Amendments

Eric Forsberg explained the annual adjustments to the Budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the 2015/2016 Budget Amendments as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

3. Jerald Wuorenmaa – WUPPDR update

Jerald Wuorenmaa from WUPPDR updated the Board on the projects WUPPDR are working on.

4. MERS Benefit E

Eric Forsberg explained the annual COLA adjustment for the Houghton County Sheriff Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the MERS Benefit E as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

5. Houghton County Brownfield Authority

Chairman Koskela discussed the Brownfield Committee. It was recommended that the five (5) serving Commissioners on this Board be reduced to one (1) Board member. Chairman Koskela recommended Commissioner Pintar be appointed as chairman.

Jennifer Tucker from DEQ addressed the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to advertise and appoint community members to serve on the Brownfield Committee, and also requested Eric Forsberg to write a letter to begin the Brownfield Inventory process.

Kathleen Beattie asked to be appointed to the Brownfield Authority Board. Eric Forsberg stated himself and Kathleen Beattie would remain on the Board.

6. Request for appointment to Houghton County DHHS Board

Chairman Koskela wanted to table this matter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to appoint Christy Hilgers.

The motion did NOT pass by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Ala 2.

NO: Londo, Koskela, Palosaari 3.

The Board will advertise for the opening on the DHHS Board, and Eric Forsberg will notify Len Richards in writing of the Board's decision.

7. Houghton County Courthouse active shooter training

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, explained to the Board that there will be safety training available to Courthouse personnel. The Courthouse will be closed on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

8. NorthCare Network

Eric Forsberg advised the Board that he recommends the Houghton County Attorney look into the NorthCare issues, and the County monies that have been paid. The Board tabled the issue for future payments, and Eric Forsberg will put any future matters on the Agenda at future meetings.

9. Request to change October meeting date

The Board discussed changing meeting dates.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to change the October Board of Commissioners meeting from Tuesday, October 11, 2016 to Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Londo, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: Ala 1.

10. Request for per-diem increase

Chairman Koskela explained the per diem increase is only for the Houghton County Mine Inspector.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve a per diem increase to \$40.00 for the Houghton County Mine Inspector.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

11. Appropriations

None.

7. Travel Requests

- a. Sheryl Ala – 97th District Court

b. UPACC Fall Conference

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests and approved up to three (3) for the UPACC Fall Conference.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

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

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk