

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 11, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2017, 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:

Tom Tikkanen, 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 Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated March 14, 2017 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 Palosaari to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Carol Eckstrom with the Recycling Committee addressed the Board regarding the Hancock Middle School group wanting to do a presentation to the Board. It will be put as an Agenda item at next month's Board meeting.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,785,096.55 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

The Board discussed their packet they received from Administrator, Eric Forsberg. Eric Forsberg stated Houghton County was #4 in the state for having the best value for property taxes.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Brownfield Committee, UP Planning Commission, Houghton County Planning Commission, Western UP Health Board, and the Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, asked for an update on NorthCare Network. Commissioner Ala will contact the Attorney.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the Bridge project.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, addressed the Board regarding the EAS fact sheet that was provided to the Board. The next Sun Country Flight to Laughlin will be on May 12, 2017 for \$339.00.

Brian McLean, Sheriff, updated the Board regarding the jail's inmate capacity. They have been over every day this month except for 2 days.

Kathleen Beattie, Treasurer, informed the Board of a foreclosed business in Houghton which could be considered for extra office space for the Courthouse. It could be purchased by the County for \$32,500, and \$8,000 in back taxes.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Audit Report-Christina Smigowski, Rukkila, Negro & Assoc.

Christina Smigowski addressed the Board. She explained the audit, and thanked the workers at the Courthouse for a great audit.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the Audit as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. County Equalization

John Partanen, Equalization Director, explained the packet he provided to the Board for the State Equalized Values for Houghton County for 2017.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Houghton County Equalization report as presented.

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

3. Deficit Elimination Plans

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve all of the plans as presented.

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

Region 8-2015 Grant Fund Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to accept the Region 8-2015 Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Region 8-2014 Grant Fund Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the Region 8-2014 Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Twin Lakes Special Assessment District Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the Twin Lakes Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Rice Lake Special Assessment District Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to accept the Rice Lake Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Otter Lake Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to accept the Otter Lake Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Houghton County Childcare Fund

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to accept the Houghton County Childcare Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Purchase Offer

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Ala to accept the sale offer of \$60,000.00 for the five (5) south lots on the far side of the community garden.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Voting System Resolution

County Clerk, Jennifer Lorenz, answered questions from the Board as to the new voting equipment. The state is funding the initial purchase 100%.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Resolution for County Clerk, Jennifer Lorenz, to submit the Resolution to begin the Grant application process as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None.

6. Personnel shuffling

Administrator, Eric Forsberg, explained to the Board the Community Corrections position and the part time Register of Deeds position. The Sheriff Department will be taking over the Community Corrections position in October, and the part time position in the Register of Deeds would go to a full time position also in October.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the shuffling of the two (2) positions.

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

7. Appropriations

- a. Western UP Health Department - \$62,909.25
- b. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

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

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

10. Travel Requests

- a. Todd Laroux – Houghton County Building Department

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the above-mentioned Travel Request and approve Commissioner Tikkanen to attend the UPEDA meeting with a \$25.00 registration fee.

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

Public Comments:

Valorie Troesch addressed the Board. The Board explained the process on how the Board receives information from the Administrator.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adjourn at 6:14 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk