

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 9, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 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 Pintar to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated April 11, 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 and strike #2-Ballot language for Houghton County Veterans' millage as changed. This will go on the 2018 ballot.

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

Public Comments:

Paul Putnam with the Michigan State University Extension addressed the Board. He provided a 2015-2016 Annual Report to the Board. He introduced Anne Kretschmann, the new 4-H Program Coordinator. Anne provided a 2017 First Quarter Review handout to the Board.

Jen Davis, 8th grade teacher from Hancock Middle School and four (4) students gave a brief presentation to the Board on the Re-cycling Study that they recently accomplished. It was called Garbology.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,215,305.03 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Mental Health, Solid Waste, KEDA, Airport, and Calumet Township. He stated there will be an Open House at the Calumet Depot for a fundraiser on June 3, 2017 from 1-4 pm.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Chamber of Commerce, Houghton County Planning Commission, Brownfield Committee, Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, Western UP Health Board, and U.P. Economic Development Alliance.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: NorthCare Network. .

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Tammi Lehto, Administrator with the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, provided a brochure to the Board and updated the Board regarding 2016 admission numbers, and stated they are in week five (5) of the work project.

New Business:

1. Deficit Elimination Plan

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained to the Board what was requested by the Michigan Department of Treasury.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the plan for the Passenger Facility Charge Fund as presented.

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

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adopt the Resolution for the Passenger Facility Charge Fund as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Request for part-time help

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained to the Board the part-time Probation Officer position in District Court was a temporary position and non-budgeted item.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the part-time Probation Officer position in District Court.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Houghton County Marina Grant

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained to the Board about the study that was done approximately 10 years ago.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to move forward with marina repairs.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Otter Lake Land Transaction

The Board discussed this property. Commissioner Palosaari stated his disapproval of this transaction.

John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, addressed the Board and explained that Houghton County has ownership of the Otter Lake Dam.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to move forward with the Deed transaction for the Otter Lake Land.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Ala, Tikkanen, Koskela 4.

NO: Palosaari 1.

5. Request to purchase MERS service time

Chairman Koskela explained to the Board this request is for Commissioner Ala for eight (8) months service credit time. Commissioner Ala will pay \$1,055.00.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Resolution for Commissioner Ala's request to purchase the MERS service time as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None.

6. Twin Lakes lake level structure construction bids and Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the low bid of \$51,200.00 from John Coponen Construction.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Resolution for the low bid of \$51,200.00.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Travel Requests

- a. U.P. Association of County Commissioners Spring Conference
- b. Houghton County Equalization Department
- c. Harry Herman/Wayne Karvonen-Houghton County Building Department

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests and approve Commissioner Tikkanen and Commissioner Palosaari to attend the Commissioners Spring Conference.

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

Public Comments:

Karin Cooper updated the Board on the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Linda Belote with the League of Women's Voters addressed the Board.

Announcements:

Eric Forsberg congratulated Karin Cooper for being on the cover and being featured in the U.P. Business magazine.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 6:05 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk