

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing/Regular meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 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.

Public Hearing-Houghton County 2017/2018 Budget

Open hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to open the hearing.

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

None.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen 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/Regular Meeting dated August 15, 2017 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$747,672.43 as presented. The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

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 following: Houghton County Fair.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Copper Country Mental Health, and the Copper Country Recycling Committee.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Tammi Lehto, Administrator of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, gave a brief update to the Board on the construction project at the Medical Care Facility. The building is at 45% completion. They hope to have the project complete between August and September 2018.

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, informed the Board that 17 parcels remained from the first auction. These 17 parcels are throughout Houghton County. These 17 parcels will be up for bid in a group bundle on September 29, 2017 at 12:00 pm in the Treasurer's Office. The cost is \$200.00 per parcel.

New Business:

1. 2017/2018 General Appropriations Act

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the packets to the Board.

Chairman, Albert Koskela informed the Board that the Personnel Committee was recommending a \$5,000 per year increase for the County Administrator.

The Board had some discussion.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve a \$5,000.00 salary increase for the County Administrator.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: Ala 1.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the 2017/2018 General Appropriations Act as presented.

Commissioner Ala discussed not receiving notification of the packets being available. The Board discussed procedure. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, informed the Board that he follows the Rules of Order regarding the packets.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. 2016/2017 Budget Amendments

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the costs for the Houghton County Arena roof, childcare fund, and the Houghton County Jail's medical cost and food.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the 2016/2017 Budget Amendments as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Houghton County Road Commission Offer for Sale

The Board discussed the \$100,000 purchase of the old Houghton County Road Commission Office and adjacent water front property in Ripley. The Board discussed getting a Committee in place after the purchase is finalized.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to move forward with the purchase of the old Houghton County Road Commission Office and adjacent water front property in Ripley for \$100,000.00.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Rice Lake Bids and Resolution

John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, addressed the Board and explained the bids with MJO having the low bid of \$108,500.00. Four (4) bids were received.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Resolution.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Houghton County Planning Commission Applications

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to reappoint Evan McDonald and Alan Aho, and appoint John Larson to the Houghton County Planning Commissioner Board for a three (3) year term from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020.

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

6. DHS Board Appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to reappoint Gary Capello to the DHS Board.

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

7. Houghton County Deputies Sheriff's Union – MERS Benefit E

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, advised the Board on the annual appropriation for the retirement benefits for the Sheriff Union Contract.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Resolution.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. MMRMA Appointment

The Board discussed the appointment.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to allow Eric Forsberg, Administrator, to attend MMRMA State Pool Committee meetings.

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

9. Jail Addition Conceptual Design RFP

The Board discussed options.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Conceptual Design RFP with District Court as an option.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Appropriations

None.

11. Travel Requests

- a. George Newman – Friend of Court
- b. Dan Giachino, Toni Cleary, Heather Cote – Friend of Court
- c. Jennifer Lorenz – Register of Deeds
- d. John Partanen – Equalization
- e. Staci Kochan – Prosecutor's Office
- f. UPACC Fall Conference
- g. Medical Examiner's Office

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Travel Requests a-e.

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

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve up to three (3) Commissioners for the UPACC Fall Conference.

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

Annette Schaeffer, Medical Examiner's Office, addressed the Board regarding the Medical Examiner training in St. Louis, Missouri.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the travel for the training in St. Louis, Missouri.

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

Public Comments:

Annette Schaeffer informed the Board of her support of a new jail.

Barry Fink, Portage Township, asked the Board to utilize the 2010 Houghton County Justice Center in proceeding with looking at a new jail or addition.

Annette Schaeffer recommended to the Board that counseling is needed in the jail.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adjourn at 6:12 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk