

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, December 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.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated November 14, 2017 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar 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 Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$2,972,830.40 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

The Board discussed a letter from Superior Watershed Partnership. Chairman Koskela appointed Commissioner Tikkanen as the contact person/county liaison for Houghton County.

The Board and Eric Forsberg discussed a WUPPDR letter.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

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

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

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the Work Camp negotiations, and would discuss Item J later in the agenda.

County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, informed the Board on the year to date numbers for the Building Department in Houghton County. He stated there were 314 building permits, 52 new homes within Houghton County, and 934 electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits.

Cheryl Patrick informed the Board of John Partanen's retirement party on Tuesday, December 19th, and announced that she is the new Equalization Director for Houghton County.

New Business:

1. Jail Proposals

Jim Heikkinen discussed the four (4) received proposals for the conceptual design of the proposed jail addition. The Board discussed the proposals, and stated UPEA would be donating a lot of man hours for voter education.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to accept the UPEA proposal as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: Ala 1.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to pay Barry Givens \$2,000.00 for all of his preliminary work towards the jail addition/proposal.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. MERS Funding

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, proposed paying an additional \$1,000,000.00 to MERS. Commissioner Ala discussed payments made to MERS, and stated employees should pay more, and money should be put towards the jail. Chairman Koskela informed him that this matter would have to be discussed during negotiations with the Unions, and the unfunded liability has to be paid. Commissioner Ala stated he would like to follow what

MERS requires for payments. Commissioners' Palosaari and Pintar recommended paying the \$1,000,000 to help the unfunded liability decrease.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay MERS an additional \$1,000,000.00.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, 4.

NO: Ala 1.

3. Request to appoint Donna Moilanen as a Magistrate

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to appoint Donna Moilanen as a Magistrate.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Remonumentation Grant

Eric Forsberg advised the Board that this is an every year Grant.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Remonumentation Grant as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Compliance with Michigan Act 270

Chairman Koskela explained to the Board that this Act is what the Board opts out of each year.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to opt out of Michigan Act 270.

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

6. Appropriations

a. UPCAP - \$1,100.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to pay the above-mentioned Appropriation.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adjourn at 5:44 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk