

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2015, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following commissioners responded to roll call: Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4 and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Public Hearing-Houghton County 2015/16 Budget

1. Open Hearing

Chairman Koskela opened the meeting to the public.

2. Discussion and Public comments

Evan McDonald, Chairman of the Houghton County Planning Commission, thanked the Board regarding the upcoming budget for the Houghton County Planning Commission.

3. Close Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo, 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 Pintar, to approve the August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting and the September 10, 2015 Special Meeting minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Edward Laitila, an Otter Lake resident, addressed the Board regarding the Otter Lake Dam DNR Grant. Commissioner Ala and Palosaari answered questions and stated what work would be done to the dam with the Grant money. Commissioner Pintar recommended the Otter Lake residents to look into paying for an engineer study to be done on the dam.

Gary Vyncke, an Otter Lake resident addressed the Board regarding the Otter Lake Dam Grant. Commissioner Ala and Pintar discussed the Grant and options for the residents.

Matt and Amy, Calumet Township residents addressed the Board regarding complaints they have. They are having issues with noise, dogs, motorcycles and snowmobiles. They are concerned someone is going to get injured. The Board advised they could not assist

them with any ordinance, however, they could go to their Township Board as a group and ask for assistance.

Paul Putnam from the MSU Extension Office addressed the board and stated it was a great Houghton County Fair this year and informed the Board of upcoming workshops.

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director for KEDA, addressed the Board regarding KEDA moving forward. The Board requested this matter be put on the Agenda for October's Board meeting.

Evan McDonald, Chairman of the Houghton County Planning Commission, advised the Board that the Houghton County Planning Commission is within budget.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala, to approve paying bills of \$ 139,086.34 and late bills of \$ 6,503.65.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Discussion regarding the letter Eric Forsberg wrote to Senator Stabenow.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the following:

Copper Country Trails and National Byways.

Evan McDonald, Chairman of the Houghton County Planning Commission, advised on the building of a tower on Brockway Mountain.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, Western Upper Peninsula Health Board; there will be a flu shot clinic at the Hancock High School on September 26, 2015. Michigan is 47th in the United States for immunizations.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following:

City of Houghton Police Chief, John Donnelly and Commissioner Ala discussed the heroin use in Houghton. It was recommended that this matter be put on the agenda for the next law enforcement committee meeting.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Fair and Northcare. The Board decided to use Skerbeck for the 2016 year for the Houghton County Fair for the amusement rides.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Medical Care Facility, Copper Country Mental Health, and UPCAP.

New Business:

1. 2015/2016 General Appropriations Act

The Board discussed at a great length on the two (2) Administrator positions in Family Court and Circuit Court. The Board discussed increasing the levels of pay to match the Administrator in District Court. It would be an increase of \$7,181.00 per position.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Resolution.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

2. 2014/2015 Budget Amendments

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the budget amendments.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. MERS Benefit E

The Board briefly discussed MERS Benefit E for the Deputies Sheriff's Union.

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

4. Request to reschedule the October Board of Commissioner's Meeting

The Board discussed the rescheduling of the October 13, 2015 meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to reschedule the meeting to Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

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

5. Blight Elimination Grant

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer advised the Board on the Grant, and answered questions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Blight Elimination Grant.

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

6. Appropriations

a. Commission on Aging - \$2,000.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay the Commission on Aging \$2,000.00.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None.

7. Travel Request

- a. Dan Giachino/Toni Cleary-Houghton County Friend of the Court
- b. Annette Schaefer, Travis Pierce, Judy Pruner-Houghton County Medical Examiner
- c. Paula Olson-Houghton County Prosecutor's Office

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the above mentioned travel requests.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk