

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
JULY 26, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special meeting on Wednesday, July 26, 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 12:00 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 (by telephone), District 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of Agenda:

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

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Jail discussion

Commissioner Palosaari stated he would like to propose three (3) options for when the State Proposals are on the next ballot.

1. 1 mill for 10 years would produce 7.15 million.
2. A Yes or No Vote
3. To take .5495 mills from the Houghton County Medical Care Facility

The average would be about \$34 per parcel for the cost to the residents.

He provided a rough draft drawing of a possible jail addition to the Board. The addition would be a two (2) story building which would have 64 beds and have three (3) holding cells. This would replace the current parking deck. The work camp would be relocated to where the current jail is located.

The Board discussed this matter.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to put ballot language on the first election in 2018 when the State proposals are on the ballot. This will not include Commissioner Palosaari's three (3) proposed items.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

The Board agreed to discuss this matter further and for this matter to be put on the August 15, 2017 Agenda.

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, recommended a committee be made to work on the language for the ballot. The Board agreed that Commissioner Palosaari and Commissioner Pintar would be on the Committee, and Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk would assist them.

Eric Forsberg asked if Commissioner Ala was on the telephone yet, and he did not respond.

Public Comments:

The Public asked about the County Clerk being present and assisting with the committee meeting.

The Public asked if the rough draft drawing of the addition to the jail could be put on the website.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari for Eric Forsberg, Administrator, to put the rough draft drawing of the addition to the jail and the total budget amount information onto the Houghton County website.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

The public asked about parking and possible street closure. The Board discussed the matter and explained that the City of Houghton and the Road Commission would have public hearings.

Evan McDonald recommended that Community work groups be established to get information out to the public regarding the addition to the jail.

The Board will discuss the Community work groups at the next Board meeting.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adjourn.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk