

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 14, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public hearing and Regular meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 2016, in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

Eugene Londo, 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 May 10, 2016 and the Special Meeting dated May 27, 2016 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 Pintar to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Hearing-Truth in Taxation

Open hearing:

Chairman Koskela opened the meeting.

Discussion and Public Comment:

John Partanen, Equalization Director, addressed the Board and explained the Truth in Taxation. He recommended the new millage rate be reduced to 6.2710.

Commissioners Ala, Palosaari and Eric Forsberg, Administrator, had a brief discussion with John Partanen.

Close Hearing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to close the hearing.

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

NO: None. 0

Public Comments:

Roger Woods, President of Copper Country Humane Society, addressed the Board regarding the recently approved amount for next year's service agreement that was approved by the Board for the Copper Country Human Society.

Rev. Roger Jenkins addressed the Board regarding a new treatment center.

Keith Koski, a Twin Lakes resident addressed the Board regarding a complaint. The Board stated they cannot do an Ordinance and suggested that he could approach the Board in Elm River Township.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$4,467,236.83 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

The Board briefly discussed the Northcare letter.

The Board discussed a letter regarding downtown development. A Motion was made by Commissioner Palossari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar for Eric Forsberg, Administrator, to draft a letter to the City of Houghton stating the Board's opposition.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 1 (Ala).

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, Torch Lake Watershed Project, and the Western Upper Peninsula Health Board.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Torch Lake Watershed Project, and NorthCare Network.

County Officers:

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, addressed the Board regarding the snow total of 288" this past winter. He thanked Bruce Taavola from Painesdale for the snow total.

Kevin Harju from the Houghton County Road Commission provided the Board and the public attending the meeting with a Houghton County Road Commission Update handout. He discussed various projects for roads in Houghton County. He introduced Ross Gronevelt, Houghton County Road Commissioner, to the Board, and Commissioner Gronevelt praised Kevin Harju's hard work.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, addressed the Board and stated the second floor windows at the Houghton County Courthouse are complete and the jail project has begun. The third floor windows are not complete.

New Business:

1. Resolution authorizing 2016 County millage rate

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

2. Resolution authorizing collection of County's taxes

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adopt the Resolution authorizing the collection of County's taxes as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

3. Patrol Car bids

The Board discussed the bids that were received.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to accept the low bid from Signature Ford as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

4. Request for appointment to KEDA Board.

The Board discussed the appointment and Commissioner Londo will be appointed to the KEDA Board until the next organizational meeting in January 2017.

5. Commission on Aging

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to continue sponsoring the Commission on Aging and to pay their current year appropriation.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

6. Appropriations

- a. Copper Country Community Mental Health - \$41,123.73
- b. Michigan Townships Association dues - \$350.00

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

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

7. Travel Requests

- a. MAC Regional Summit
- b. Harry Herman/Wayne Karvonen-Houghton County Building Department
- c. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer
- d. Jennifer Lorenz – Houghton County Clerk

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests with approving Chairman Koskela for the MAC Regional Summit.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, thanked Lisa Mattila and April Lallande for planting the beautiful flowers outside the courthouse on their own time.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk