

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 9, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public hearing and Regular meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 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:

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 July 12, 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 Londo to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Hearing-Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund loan

Open hearing:

Chairman Koskela opened the hearing.

Discussion and Public Comment:

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director with KEDA, gave a brief explanation to the Board regarding the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund.

The Board had a brief discussion with Jeff Ratcliffe.

Close Hearing:

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

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

Public Comments:

Steve Palosaari with the UP State Fair and the Houghton County Fair addressed the Board and gave passes to both fairs to the Commissioners and to the Administrator.

Paul Putnam, Michigan State Extension Office Director, introduced Erin Carter. Erin explained her two (2) positions which are Disease Management and Extensive Health Research. She also explained the programs that are available between Houghton and Marquette.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$632,187.04 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Western Upper Peninsula Health Board.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: NorthCare Network and the Houghton County Fair. The Houghton County Fair is in need of volunteers. Any interested volunteers are asked to call (906)482-6200.

County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, addressed the Board. He gave an update on the Houghton County Jail addition, and the Houghton County Arena roof project.

Tammy Lehto, Houghton County Medical Care Facility Administrator, addressed the Board and stated she would attend the Houghton County Board of Commissioner's meetings quarterly. She gave a brief update on the Medical Care Facility.

New Business:

1. MERS Funding

Commissioner Ala stated he was against giving MERS \$1,000,000.00. He requested the employees contribute more. He also suggested the contracts for all employees of Houghton County be reopened.

Chairman Koskela discussed the unfunded liability to reduce MERS, and stated the contracts would have to be addressed in the future.

Commissioner Palosaari recommended paying the \$1,000,000.000 to MERS.

Commissioner Ala requested that a MERS representative come to the courthouse for a presentation in Circuit Court for all employees.

Commissioner Pintar disagrees with Commissioner Ala's plan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to pay the \$1,000,000.00 to MERS by the end of September 2016 as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: Ala 1.

Commissioner Ala addressed the Board and left the meeting.

2. Airport Grant Agreement

Dennis Hext explained the Airport Grant Agreement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Airport Grant Agreement as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Londo, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: None. 0

ABSENT: Ala 1.

3. Airport Resolution to Authorize Signing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to authorize Chairman Koskela to sign the Airport Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Londo, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Ala 1.

4. Appropriations

- a. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50
- b. NorthCare Network - \$49,718.50

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Appropriations with paying the April and July amounts to NorthCare Network.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None. 0

ABSENT: Ala 1.

7. Travel Requests

- a. 2016 Annual MAC Conference – Boyne Falls, MI
- b. Todd LaRoux – Houghton County Building Inspector
- c. Brenda Cadwell – Houghton County Friend of Court- Mackinaw Island
- d. Dan Giachino – FOC – Mackinaw Island
- e. Dan Giachino & Toni Cleary – FOC – Boyne Highlands
- f. John Partanen – Houghton County Equalization Director
- g. Judge Wisti – Houghton County Treatment Court

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests and approved Chairman Koskela and Commissioner Palosaari for the MAC Conference.

The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0. Absent 1.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

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 4, Nays 0. Absent 1.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk