

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 4, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public hearing and Regular meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 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.

Public Hearing-Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund

Open hearing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to open the hearing.

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director, with KEDA discussed the \$60,000 working capital loan.

Close Hearing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and 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 Ala to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting dated September 13, 2016 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo 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 Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$2,787,167.35 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

The Board discussed a letter that was received from Finlandia University.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board that Commissioner Pintar would address his report when he speaks.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: 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 Mental Health Board.

County Officers:

Jack Dueweke introduced Chris VanArsdale as the new Houghton County Emergency Director for Houghton County.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, gave a brief update on the jail project.

New Business:

1. Zach Halkola – PM Power Group

Zach Halkola, Chief Operating Officer, for the PM Power Group requested a letter of support from the Board be sent to the Government Agencies to keep the White Pine Electric power plant operating.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to send a letter of recommendation to keep the White Pine power plant operating.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Houghton County RLF loan application

Jeff Ratcliffe from KEDA explained the RLF loan application to the Board.

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

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

3. Houghton County RLF Part 2 application resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the resolution.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Otter Lake Special Assessment District Resolution

John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, addressed the Board regarding the \$31,750.57 assessment for Otter Lake.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Otter Lake Special Assessment District Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Letters of Commendation

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to send letters of commendation to Roy Britz (27 years) and Jack Dueweke (17 ½ years) for their years of service to Houghton County.

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

6. Special meeting

The Board discussed a special meeting for the Drain Commissioner and Tami Lehto (Medical Care Facility) to address the Board.

The Board agreed to Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 12:00 pm for the special Board meeting.

7. Proposed Resolution

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, informed the Board of a Resolution from Joel Keranen, Supervisor with Schoolcraft Township regarding the stamp sand issue they are having within Big Traverse Bay.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to sign the Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

The Board discussed possible uses for the unused stamp sand. Eric Forsberg will contact Kevin Harju at the Road Commission regarding possible uses for the unused stamp sand.

8. Appropriations

- a. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,123.73

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the \$41,123.73 to Copper Country Mental Health as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Travel Requests

- a. Paula Olson – Houghton County Prosecutor’s Office

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

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

Public Comments:

Commissioner Ala and other Commissioners discussed issues.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari 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