

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 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 Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated October 4, 2016 and the Special Meeting dated October 19, 2016 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari 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 \$2,043,876.41 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

The Board discussed correspondence received from the State of Michigan regarding the White Pine Unit 1, and the letter of support that the board sent previously.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the following: He presented a book on Upward Talent and discussed the Upward Talent Board. He also discussed Houghton County Planning Commission Board with two (2) possible openings as Matt Huuki and Barbara LaFex Lewis's terms expiring.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, the training he attended at the Courthouse. Western Upper Peninsula Health Board. He also discussed the Baraga County taxes with Eric Forsberg.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on NorthCare.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, informed the Board that there were no cancellations in September and October.

Tammy Lehto with the Houghton County Medical Care Facility updated the Board on the occupancy status, she stated the facility did very well on the annual survey, and they currently have six (6) openings for CNA's.

New Business:

1. County Millage Apportionment

John Partanen, Equalization Director, gave a presentation to the Board with explanation on the handouts to the Board on the Houghton County Millage rate.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to Approve the Houghton County Millage Apportionment as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

2. WUPPDR Request for letter of support

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to send a letter of support to WUPPDR.

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

3. Application for Additional Service Purchase Credit

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the additional service purchase credit for Terry Brey from the Houghton County Sheriff Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the additional service purchase credit as presented.

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

4. Houghton County Planning Commission Annual Report

The Board accepted the Report as presented.

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

5. Houghton County Planning Commission Appointment

The Board discussed the replacement of Jack Dueweke with the new Emergency Director, Chris Van Arsdale.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint Chris Van Arsdale to the Houghton County Planning Commission Board.

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

6. Houghton County Road Commission Board Applications

The applicants were Eugene Londo and Russell Gronevelt. Commissioner Ala questioned Eugene Londo's qualifications. Eugene Londo responded with his qualifications. Chairman Koskela advised the Board that Russell Gronevelt, while qualified, does not always attend his meetings.

Commissioner Pintar made a Motion, seconded by Commissioner Ala that according to the Rules of Order to move this matter to the December meeting.

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

7. Houghton County Department of Human Services Board Application

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint Christy Hilgers to the Houghton County Department of Human Services Board.

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

8. Health Insurance Opt Out Payment

Chairman Koskela and Commissioner Ala discussed the Opt outs. Eric Forsberg advised the Board that this can only affect the appointed and elected personnel at this time. This cannot affect the Union at this time, and will be brought up at future negotiations.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to change the policy to eliminate double dipping for opt outs for future appointed and elected employees.

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

9. Houghton/Keweenaw Conservation District – Otter Lake Dam Grant Application

Commissioner Pintar advised the Board that the grant application will not be submitted. The Dam Committee will schedule a meeting.

Ed Laitila, Otter Lake resident, questioned the Board on the maintenance and attorney fees charge. John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, advised him that there should not be any future attorney fees.

10. Patrol Car Bids

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to accept the low bid of \$32,103.00 from Signature Ford Lincoln as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

11. 2017 Health Insurance rates and options

Eric Forsberg informed the Board that there is an increase of 25.11% for 2017. This is an increase of 26.652% for Houghton County. This increase is due to the high usage.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to invoke Public Action 256 if Simply Blue is not chosen by the Union.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

12. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$53,195.50
- b. KEDA - \$5,000.00
- c. NACO Dues - \$733.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Appropriation as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn at 6:05 pm. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk