

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 5:04 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by County Clerk, Jennifer Lorenz at 5:04 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Clerk, Jennifer Lorenz.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Election:

Chairman-A Nomination was made by Commissioner Palosaari to have Commissioner Koskela stay on as the Chairman.

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

The Meeting was turned over by Jennifer Lorenz to Chairman Koskela.

Vice Chairman-A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen to have Commissioner Palossaari stay on as the Vice Chairman.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2016 Regular Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the Agenda as presented and to add #9 Brownfield to the agenda.

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

Public Comments:

Evan McDonald of the Houghton County Planning Commission addressed the Board regarding the five (5) year Master Plan that will be due in 2017.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$706,981.78. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Ala, Tikkanen, Koskela, Palosaari 5

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Arena.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Had nothing to report.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Department of Social Services.

New Business:

1. Meeting dates/times. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to accept the Schedule of Board Meetings 2017 as presented.

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

2. Rules of Order. The Board discussed several changes. Manpower Consortium will be eliminated. Additions will be: MI Works, Brownfield, Dam Committee, UPEDA, Northwoods Rail, UP RC&D. The word "Soil" will be removed from the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District.

The Finance Committee will stay as is.

A Motion to accept the Rules of Order with the necessary changes was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala.

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

3. Commissioner Committee Appointments.

Mental Health: Commissioner Tikkanen volunteered. A nomination was made by Commissioner Pintar to nominate Tom Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to have Commissioner Tikkanen be appointed for a two (2) year term.

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

District Health: Commissioner Pintar, Commissioner Ala, Commissioner Palosaari, and Commissioner Tikkanen showed interest. The Board discussed issues with attendance.

Chairman Koskela asked who each Commissioner wished to vote for:

Pintar: Pintar, Tikkanen, Palosaari

Ala: Ala, Palosaari, Pintar

Koskela: Tikkanen, Palosaari, Pintar

Tikkanen: Ala, Pintar, Palosaari

Tikkanen/Ala tied.

The Board discussed issues with attendance.

Chairman Koskela explained to the Board to vote between Tikkanen or Ala:

Koskela:	Tikkanen
Tikkanen	Ala
Pintar	Ala
Palosaari	Tikkanen
Ala	Ala

The Board voted 3 for Commissioner Ala, and 2 for Commissioner Tikkanen.

Commissioner Ala is appointed to the District Health Board.

4. Commissioner's Meeting Compensation Policy

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the Policy to the Board. The Board discussed meetings.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to accept the Policy as presented.

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

5. Houghton County Planning Commission applications

There were two (2) applicants for the Economic Development & Tourism. Neither applicant was present. The applicants were Matt Huuki and Greg Nominelli. The Board discussed the applications.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to appoint Matt Huuki.

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

There was one (1) applicant for the Local Government Planning and Zoning. The applicant was Eugene Londo and he was not present.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to appoint Eugene Londo.

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

6. Transfer Station Ordinance

The Board discussed the letter from the Prosecutor. No Ordinance will be done. The Sheriff Department will work with the Transfer Station when individuals leave garbage in the wrong areas. Tickets will be given.

7. Appropriations

- a. Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance -\$500.00
- b. Copper Country Mental Health- \$41,123.72
- c. Western U.P. Planning & Development Region -\$2,866.50

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the above-mentioned appropriations. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Ala 5

NO: None. 0

8. Travel Requests

- a. Kathleen Beattie-Houghton County Treasurer

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the travel request for Kathleen Beattie.

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

9. Brownfield Authority

The Board discussed Brownfield Authority. Eric Forsberg will discuss getting new members at the next meeting.

Public Comments:

The Board agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Barbara LaFex Lewis.

Evan McDonald addressed the Board.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk