

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following commissioners responded to roll call: Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 4 and Timothy Palosaari, District 5. Scott Ala, District 3 was absent.

Public Hearing-Quincy Mine Hoist Association-MDOT Permit Application

1. Open Hearing

Chairman Koskela opened the meeting to the public.

2. Discussion and Public comments

John Sullivan, a member of the Board of Directors for the Quincy Mine Hoist Association, addressed the Board on the cutting of the trees and the MDOT permit application.

Bob Hughes, owner of the White House Motel, addressed the Board.

Lisa Wiitala, property owner, addressed the Board with concerns.

Aaron Johnson, Manager for MDOT, addressed the Board and answered questions that the Board and the public asked of him.

Steve Delong, Landscape Architect with Keweenaw National Historical Park, addressed the Board.

Chris Nielson, property owner, addressed the Board with concerns.

John Sullivan stated they would hire a surveyor to review property lines and stated the land would be clear cut and the cutting would be twenty (20) feet away from people's property.

3. Close Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to close the hearing.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo, to approve the September 15, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve the agenda as presented with the two (2) additions.

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

Public Comments:

Melissa Davis, with HEET, addressed the Board and invited the Board and the public to the Dee Stadium on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 11:00-4:00 for the HEET Energy Show.

David Hall addressed the Board regarding the DEQ Grant Application.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve paying bills of \$ 52,106.55 and late bills of \$ 70,536.35.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

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:

UP Alliance Board, Western Upper Peninsula Health Board, Houghton-Keweenaw Soil Conservation Board, and the Keweenaw National Historical Park.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following:

BHK Child Development Board.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following:

The sale of the DHS Building in Hancock.

Old Business:

1. KEDA request for funding

Commissioner Pintar requested the proposed dues be reduced to \$5,000.00 for one (1) year.

Commissioner Londo discussed the consolidation of KEDA with WUPPDR & MI Works.

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director for KEDA, addressed the Board and answered questions regarding the possibility of consolidation, and he advised on economic development and their concerns.

Commissioner Palosaari suggested a meeting be scheduled with two (2) Commissioners, KEDA, MI Works and WUPPDR. Jeff Ratcliffe agreed to such a meeting being scheduled.

Marilyn Clark, KEDA Board Member, addressed the Board and asked the Board to invest in the economic development for our area.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to pay dues of \$5,000.00 for one (1) year, and for a meeting to be schedule with two (2) Commissioners, KEDA, MI Works and WUPPDR to look into possible consolidation.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

New Business:

1. DHHS Funding Request

The Board took no action at this time.

2. Board of Canvassers Appointments

The County Clerk provided the Board with paper ballots for both the Democrat and Republican parties. The nominees for the Democrat party were, Mary Wiitanen, Joan Antila, and Reba Andrews. The Republican nominees were Cathy Jacobs, Sharon Foix, and Edith Maki.

After voting, and Chairman Koskela reviewing the ballots, a motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to appoint Mary Wiitanen (D), and Cathy Jacobs (R) to the Canvassing Board.

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

3. Houghton County Planning Commission request for reappointment

Commissioner Pintar made a Motion to appoint Susan Burack.

The Motion did not pass for lack of support.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to run an ad in the Daily Mining Gazette for two (2) openings on the Houghton County Planning Commission Board with one (1) ad to run in October and one (1) ad to run in November.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to send a letter of thanks to Guy St. Germain for serving on the Houghton County Planning Commission Board since 2001.

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

4. Request for approval to file DEQ Grant Application

The Board discussed the Grant and David Hall stated it was a \$3,000 maximum grant. The Board mentioned putting this on the transfer station's agenda on 10/9. The Board stated that they would like to see a completed Grant Application before making any decision.

5. Request for approval of Airport lot sale

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, advised the Board on the sale of .31 acres.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the sale of the Airport lot.

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

6. Resolution regarding Rice Lake Special Assessment District

John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, addressed the Board regarding the Special Assessment. Day of Review was today, 30 individuals reviewed the tax roll, three (3) parcels had footages adjusted, and five (5) parcel codes had to be adjusted. The Tax Roll was adjusted and re-run. An average assessment for vacant parcels meaning no structures are \$150, and structured parcels are \$230. A revised Resolution has been prepared and attached.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the revised Rice Lake Special Assessment District Resolution.

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

7. North Care – 2016 Work Plan

Commissioner Palosaari discussed the Work Plan with the Board.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the North Care – 2016 Work Plan.

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

8. Houghton County Sheriff's Department – New position

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the part-time Deputy position in the Houghton County Sheriff's Department.

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

9. Appropriations

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay the appropriations of \$41,123.73 to Copper Country Mental Health.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None.

10. Travel Request

a. U.P. MAC

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve at least four (4) Commissioners to attend the UPACC Fall Conference on November 5 & 6, 2015.

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

11. National Association of Counties Membership Dues

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to pay the County Membership Dues of \$733.00.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None.

#### 12. Houghton County Indigent Criminal Defense Contract

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Houghton County Indigent Criminal Defense Contract for David M. Gemignani, P.C.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: None.

#### Public Comments:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, advised the Board and the media that the Airport has received full certification to perform back up weather observation at the Airport. Also, he advised the Board and wants the public to know that any flying drones must receive permission for flying within five (5) miles of the Airport from the Airport Manager.

#### Announcements:

None.

#### Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk