

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 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:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Public Hearing-Houghton County 2018/19 Budget

Open hearing:

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

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, went over the budget numbers with the Board. Houghton County is the lowest County in the Upper Peninsula for per capita for property taxes. The Board had discussion, and he informed the Board that Houghton County is under assessed by a large amount.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to close the public 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 Pintar to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated August 14, 2018 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Linda Belote from the League of Women Voters addressed the Board. She stated the League of Women Voters takes no position on the jail addition for the November 2018 election.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$2,192,953.31 as presented. The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 5.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Commissioner Pintar discussed a road in Hubbell. Chairman Koskela stated it is a matter for the Houghton County Road Commission.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, MSU Extension, and Upper Peninsula Resource Council & Development.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission, and Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Upward Talent Council, MI Works, and KEDA.

Chairman Koskela stated he would report to the Board under #7 of the Agenda.

County Officers:

Brian McLean, Sheriff, updated the Board regarding the jail's inmate capacity. He stated there are 33 inmates currently, and 28 is the capacity. They have been over the capacity all month.

New Business:

1. 2018/19 General Appropriations Act

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Resolution for the 2018/19 General Appropriations Act as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar, Janssen 5.

NO: None 0.

2. 2017/2018 Budget Amendments

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the 2017/2018 Budget Amendments as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.
NO: None 0.

3. State Disaster (Section 19) Contingency Fund Resolution

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained that this Resolution is from the second flood for the Houghton County Road Commission.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adopt the Resolution for the State Disaster (Section 19) Contingency Fund as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen, Palosaari 5.
NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Citizen Participation Plan

Commissioner Pintar said two (2) corrections need to be made, first page, should say County, not City, and on Page 3, several places says City Council, should say Commissioners.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Houghton County Citizen Participation Plan with the corrections.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen, Palosaari 5.
NO: None 0.

5. Houghton County Deputies Sheriff's Union – MERS Benefit E

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the contract to the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Houghton County Deputies Sheriff's Union – MERS Benefit E as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar, Janssen 5.
NO: None.

6. Medical Examiner Appointment

The Board had discussion regarding the appointment of the new Medical Examiner. This will be a four (4) year appointment and a paid position.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Dr. Petio Kotov as the new Medical Examiner for Houghton County for four (4) years.

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

7. Jail addition discussion

Commissioner Tikkanen stated that on the handout, the Calumet meeting will be in the commons area on the north end area of the Elementary School.

The Board discussed the handout provided to all Board members and the public in attendance for the upcoming seven (7) public meetings regarding the jail addition. These public meetings are being done to provide an overview of the proposed project and answer questions from citizens. Karin Cooper advised the Board and the public that a link will be added to the Houghton County website very soon regarding the League of Women Voter's report.

8. Marshall Kipina Day

Commissioner Tikkanen addressed the Board regarding Marshall Kipina. He stated Marshall Kipina was a graduate of Calumet High School in 1964. He had been missing since 1966 when fighting in Vietnam. His remains have now been positively identified. No local family survives him here in Houghton County. He will be buried in the Arlington Cemetery. The service will be on October 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. There will be four (4) Calumet High School Jr. ROTC cadets attending. There will also be a service at the Lakeview Cemetery on October 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Tikkanen asked that October 18, 2018 be known as Marshall Kipina Day, and that all flags in Houghton County be lowered to half-mast for this day.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to proclaim October 18, 2018 be known as Marshall Kipina Day, and that all flags in Houghton County be lowered to half-mast for this day.

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

9. Appropriations

None.

10. Travel Requests

- a. Staci Kochan – Prosecutor's Office
- b. UPACC Fall Conference

The Board had discussion regarding the UPACC Fall Conference.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 5:46 p.m.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk