

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2015, in the 5th 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 3; Scott Ala, District 4 and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala, to approve the May 12, 2015 Regular Meeting and May 20, 2015 Special Meeting minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, requested an addition under #6 be added for Copper Country Mental Health.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve the agenda with the addition. The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Hearing-Truth in Taxation

1. Open Hearing

John Partanen, Equalization Director, addressed the Board regarding the 2 millage options and informed the Board that they must accept one (1). John Partanen explained the handout he provided to the Board.

2. Discussion and comments

Commissioner Ala asked John Partanen what would happen if the Board chose to go with the lower number? John Partanen responded that the next year's revenues would go down and the lower number would stay at that number for this year and the following year.

Commissioner Koskela asked John Partanen what does this rate mean to the average homeowner? John Partanen responded that it would be about a change of approximately \$3.00 on a \$100,000.00 home.

3. Close Hearing

Chairman Koskela closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing-Blight Elimination Grant

1. Open Hearing

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, addressed the Board regarding the grant and stated Houghton County would be partnering with Marquette County, and advised the Board of a blighted house in Calumet.

2. Discussion and comments

Commissioner Palosaari asked if the home was owned by the land bank?
Kathleen Beattie responded that it is owned by the County Treasurer through tax foreclosure.

3. Close Hearing

Chairman Koskela closed the public hearing.

Public Comments:

Sam Buschell addressed the Board regarding concerns of last month's board meeting minutes, Equalization Department and County Board issues, and a letter the Health Department sent to Torch Lake Township regarding water quality issues.

Mary Sears addressed the Board regarding the Torch Lake Township water quality issues.

Horst Schmidt addressed the Board regarding the Torch Lake Township water quality issues.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala, to approve paying bills of \$ 48,789.82 and late bills of \$ 61,223.66.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Palosaari reported he would report under Old Business #1.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, Torch Lake Watershed Project, and the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the Copper Country Trails and Bi-ways.

Commissioner Koskela asked Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, and Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director to make reports.

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, reported to the Board on the Life Bridge and stated the rafting exercise will be on June 20, 2015. The public is welcome to attend. Commissioners Koskela and Pintar commended Jack Dueweke for all of his hard work in coordinating this project.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, reported that the boarding percentages are up 7% from last year, the full scale drill they had was successful, firemen had training at the airport, and there is another charter to Laughlin leaving the airport on June 12, 2015. The public can contact Travel Leaders (906)482-1020 for more information.

Old Business

1. North Care PA-2 Funding

Commissioner Palosaari informed the Board that the PA-2 funds are County monies, and they are controlled by the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to forward \$ 31,325.00 to the Local Coordinating Agency and hold future monies to North Care.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Koskela, Ala 4.

NO: Londo 1.

2. PACE Funding

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to schedule PACE Funding for a Public Hearing at the next month's regular Board meeting. The Board will forward information to Michael Makinen, Houghton County Prosecutor for his review.

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

New Business:

1. Summer Property Tax Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to adopt the Summer Property Tax Resolution for the County Allocated Property Taxes to be collected by the townships and cities in the summer.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: Londo 1.

Truth in Taxation Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adopt the Truth in Taxation Resolution for 6.3000 mills.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

2. Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines.

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

3. Blight Elimination Grant Resolution

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer addressed the Board regarding the Grant and asked for the Board's approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to move forward with the Blight Elimination Grant Resolution.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

4. Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisor Committee Appointee

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to recommend Karin Cooper.

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

5. Travel Request

a. John Pekkala-Houghton County Drain Commissioner

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the travel request.

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

6. Appropriations for Copper Country Mental Health

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments:

Sam Buschell addressed the Board again on the Torch Lake Township water quality issues.

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Director, reported the 2014-2015 snow total is 271.2 inches according to Bruce Taavola.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk