

**Organizational / Regular Meeting  
January 10, 2012**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational and Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following commissioners responded to roll call: Edward Jenich, District 1; Dennis Barrette, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Commissioner Jenich asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Barrette nominated Commissioner Pintar. Commissioner Jenich called for further nominations. There being no other nominations, Commissioner Ala made a motion that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Pintar asked that, Houghton County Website, be added to the agenda as number 9. Commissioner Palosaari asked that, County Vehicle Sign, be added to the agenda as number 10. Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions as stated. The motion was seconded by Commission Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

**Public Comment**

William Leder, representing the Pilgrim River Watershed Conservation Project, stated they have been successful with their fund raising and are planning to apply for a Michigan National Resource Trust Fund Grant. They need an approved County Recreation Plan to do so. They encourage the County to continue to work on the Recreation Plan. Eric Forsberg announced the draft of the Houghton County 2012 to 2016 Recreation Plan Update will come available on January 13 for a 1 month public review. The public hearing will be held on February 14, 2012 at the regular meeting.

Samuel Buschell was present and referred to the 2009 equalization study, stating it is incorrect. Commissioner Barrette stated that the Township reviews the tax rolls, if they feel errors are made they can appoint a person to work with the County. But it has to be done before the tax rolls have been approved by all entities. The individual property owners are allocated time to review their assessments. They have the ability to appeal before the Board of Review if they need. Sales studies are prepared and reviewed by the Equalization Department, the assessors review and use the studies, and the townships review the rolls and hopefully review the studies, as spread by the assessors. The property owners review their own assessments. If an error is made in the annual sales study, the tax rolls will be affected for that year only. If no appeals are made by any entity in a timely manner, by law, the tax rolls can not be changed. Each assessor every year has to wipe each tax payer's slate clean and reassess the property. They are not affected by a previous year's study. The process allows for reviews and appeals but only in a timely fashion. The tax rolls can not be changed for an apparent error that was made in previous years.

Commissioner Barrette made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Pinter to approve paying the bills of voucher #129427 thru #129498 for a total of \$71, 273.14 along with the late bills submitted in the amount of \$69,095.48 for a grand total of \$140,368.62. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Barrette, Pintar, Ala, Palosaari, Jenich 5.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence    None brought forward

## Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Local Emergency Planning Committee, Bridge Committee, and Houghton County Airport.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission, and Copper Country Trail National Byway Committee. Commissioner Pintar made a motion that Jack Dueweke be designated as a second alternate to the Copper County Trail National Byway Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Commissioner Pintar made a motion to send a letter thanking Truman Obermeyer and Donald Vanuum for their service on the Houghton County Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: BHK Headstart, Portage Lake Multi Rec, and the Houghton County Fair Board.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Medical Care, and a meeting with the Sheriff Dept. and controller regarding the purchase of a new patrol car with an application for assistance through Rural Development Grant funding.

## New Business

1. Meeting dates / times. Commissioner Barrette asked that the November meeting would be changed to November 6. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to approve the meeting dates as listed with the November 6 change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

2. Rules of Order. Eric Forsberg stated that under "Other Committees", Parks and Recreation lists 5 members. It was changed by recommendation that only 1 Board member serve on that committee. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to amend the Rules of Order. Rule 3, under, Other Committees, #6. Parks and Recreation from 5 to 1 Commissioner. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adopt the Rules of Order with the amendment. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

### 3. Commissioner Committee Appointments

- a. Mental Health
- b. District Health
- c. UPCAP/Others

Commissioner Jenich announced the following appointments: Mental Health, Commissioner Barrette, District Health, Commissioners Jenich, Barrette, and Pintar, UPCAP, Commissioner Jenich. Commissioner Barrette stated that under his appointments, the Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority is no longer under the control of the County and should be removed from the list.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar to approve the appointment of Commissioner Barrette to the Mental Health Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Palosaari. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the appointment of Commissioners Jenich, Barrette, and Pintar to the District Health Board. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Request for re-appointment to Houghton County Land Bank Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to re-appoint William Hodges and John Haeussler to the Houghton County Land Bank Board. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Budget amendments. Eric Forsberg stated that Rural Development wants the budget to reflect the bond payment for the Transfer Station is from the General Fund. He proposed to amend the budget to reflect a \$100,000.00 transfer in from the Transfer Station into the General Fund and that money then out of the General Fund for the Bond payment. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the budget amendment as proposed by Eric Forsberg. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Houghton County Transfer Station Construction.

- a. Request for approval of 6<sup>th</sup> pay estimate
- b. Request for approval of Summary of Payments Due and Approved
- c. Request for approval of Estimate of Funds Needed

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the pay request as listed above. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Appropriations

- a. Health Department Cigarette Tax - \$1,668.00
- b. UPEDA - \$250
- c. Houghton County 4-H – Plat Book advertisement \$600

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve paying the appropriations as listed above.

Commissioner Ala wanted to state his view of the county supporting the UPEDA and not locally supporting and joining KEDA. A discussion followed and the question was asked what it would cost for Houghton County to join KEDA. Phil Musser was present in the audience and stated “It’s been awhile since you have been members. It probably would be in the order of \$2,500 something like that.” The commissioners agreed that \$2,500 would be a reasonable amount to join KEDA and would look into putting that in the next budget. The motion carried by the following vote.

a. Health Department Cigarette Tax - \$1668.00

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Barrette, Ala, Jenich 5

NO: None 0.

b. UPEDA - \$250

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Barrette, Jenich 4.

NO: Ala 1.

c. Houghton County 4-H – Plat Book advertisement \$600

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Barrette, Ala, Jenich 5.

NO: None 0.

8. Travel Requests

- a. Brenda Cadwell

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the travel request as listed above. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. Houghton County Web Site. Commissioner Pintar wanted to know the process of getting something on the County web site.

10. County Vehicle Signs. Commissioner Palosaari made a motion that decal signs be put on all County vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Samuel Buschell again asked the Board to revise the 2009 Equalization Study.

Phil Musser said he was following up with the Renaissance Zone Committee. He stated the benefits for the Renaissance Zone was for 15 years. This is the last year in which there are still some partial benefits. The State of Michigan has indicated they will determine Renaissance Zone Benefits for individual companies that may come into the Renaissance Zone and create jobs. It would not apply to the others in the Renaissance

Zone. It would only be for a particular company. He ended with inviting the commissioners to a KEDA meeting on Wednesday morning.

Larry Corrigan questioned the Board as to why there are no regulations on timber harvesting and over harvesting by clear cutting. He was advised to contact the State Representative with his concerns.

#### Announcements

John Haeussler was present and thanked the Board for re-appointing William Hodges and himself to the Houghton County Land Bank Board. He also stated in 2013, Hancock will be celebrating its sesquicentennial and any suggestions will be welcome.

Commissioner Ala made a motion to adjourn. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

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Edward Jenich, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk