

**Organizational / Regular Meeting  
January 12, 2010**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational / Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Paul Luoma. 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 Paul Luoma, District 5.

Commissioner Luoma stated the first order of business was to elect a Vice – Chairman. Commissioner Pintar nominated Commissioner Ala. Commissioner Luoma called for further nominations. With no further nominations, Commissioner Barrette made a motion that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Barrette made a motion that the minutes of the December 2, 2009 Special Meeting along with the December 13, 2009 Regular Meeting be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

#### Public Comment

Barbara Manninen from Atlantic Mine was present with concerns regarding the building of a new Transfer Station off of Erickson Drive, and how it may impact the church she is a member of, which is located on Erickson Drive. Commissioner Luoma said the site plan was not complete yet to answer some of her questions. Eric asked her to leave her name and address with him and he would forward information to her as the development is completed.

Larry Corrigan addressed the Board with his concern of two separate incidences. The Board advised him they have no control over small businesses or judicial rulings.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve paying the bills submitted of vouchers #120222 through #120296 for a total of \$38,364.82 along with the late bills of \$39,631.17 for a grand total of \$77,995.99. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

#### Correspondence

Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the Resolution To Oppose The MiWater Ballot Initiative as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Ala made a motion to adopt a Snowmobile Advisory Committee Resolution which mirrors the Mackinac County's resolution sent in correspondence. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

## Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Western U.P. Health Department, Local Emergency Planning, and Houghton County Memorial Airport Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: the Michigan Works Administrative Board.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: WUPPDR meeting.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Commission on Aging, and Department of Human Services. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to appoint Marvin Heinonen, the recommended candidate by the interviewing board, to fill the partial term expiring October 31, 2010 created by the death of Scott Dickson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Jenich continued his report with the Medical Care Facility. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the request for a millage renewal by the Houghton County Medical Care Facility to be placed on the August 2010 ballot. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Jenich reported on the Quincy Smelter, the Law Enforcement Committee, and Houghton County Finances.

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

## County officers

Eric Forsberg stated he was notified by the Treasury of the amount of State Revenue Sharing the County will receive. He stated it is in line as to what was budgeted. He was notified by the Sheriff that this is the last year the County will be reimbursed for Mental Health transports.

Jack Dueweke said there are communications problems with the snowmobile groomer up North. El-Com has offered to supply mobile radios for the groomers and have started installing them.

Dennis Hext stated the local travel agency, Travel Leaders, has volunteered to assist passengers with problems with the Delta to United transition. They are able to go into both systems and have helped passengers return to CMX that were diverted to other airports .

## New Business

1. Meeting dates and times. The commissioners reviewed the scheduled dates for the 2010 meetings and no changes were made.
2. Rules of Order. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to adopt the Rules or Order as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5. Nays 0.
3. Commissioner Committee Appointments.
  - a. Mental Health - Commissioner Ala made a motion to appoint Commissioner Barrette to represent the County on the Mental Health Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
  - b. District Health – Commissioner Ala made a motion to appoint Commissioners Jenich, Barrette, and Pintar to represent Houghton County on the District Health Board.
  - c. UPCAP/ others – Commissioner Luoma stated the remaining appoints will remain the same as the previous year.

4. Jon Midkiff, U.S. Census Bureau – Overview of Census process. Mr. Midkiff informed the Board of the importance of an accurate count for the 2010 Census. It could mean thousands of dollars of Federal Funding for communities. Each individual counted is estimated at \$1,200 per year and if missed, it would be a \$12,000 loss for the 10 year period. He urges people looking for work to contact the Michigan Works and sign up for the testing. He said the jobs are temporary but pay well.

5. Guy St. Germain, Western U.P. District Health Department – Update. Mr. St. Germain gave an informative presentation of the structure, the services provided, and the funding source and expenses of the 5 County District Health Department.

6. Houghton County Department of Veteran’s Affairs – Appointment of 3 Board members. Commissioner Ala made a motion to appoint, Christopher Bates, Joseph Battsfore, and Glenn Tapio to serve on the Veteran’s Affairs Board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Houghton County Department of Human Services – Appointment of Board member. Accomplished during reports.

8. Houghton County Medical Care Facility – Millage renewal request. Accomplished during reports.

9. Proposed amendment to Planning Commission Ordinance. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the amendment to the Planning Commission Ordinance as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Houghton County Remonumentation Program Contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to renew the Houghton County Remonumentation Program Contract. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

11. Resolution in support of the Final Report of the Legislative Commission on Statutory Mandates, December 2009. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adopt the resolution as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

12. Appropriations:

- a. Western U.P. Substance Abuse Service Coordinating Agency - \$21,952.50
- b. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$21,640.80
- c. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,120.33
- d. UPEDA - \$500.00 Membership Fee
- e. UPCAP - \$1,100.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the appropriations as listed above. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

13. Travel Request

- a. Houghton County Treasurer’s Office – Kathleen Beattie
- b. Houghton County Drain Commissioner – John Pekala
- c. Houghton County Friend of Court – Dan Giachino

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the travel requests as listed above. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Phil Musser stated that the Board approved a loan to Kenton Woodworks. They are now producing products and started paying back on their loan.

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

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Paul Luoma, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk