

February 13, 2008
Special Meeting

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Paul Luoma, at 12:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance the following commissioners responded to roll call: Edward Jenich, District 1; Dennis Barrette, District 2; Scott Ala, District 4; and Paul Luoma, District 5. Commissioner Anton Pintar, District 3 was absent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments None

Correspondence Commissioner Luoma said the Board received a letter from Joel Sheltroun asking the Board to pass a resolution in favor of HB 4323. Commissioner Luoma said a letter of support was sent to our Representative which should be sufficient.

New Business

1. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund management. Commissioner Ala spoke in favor of the contract arrangement with Phil Musser. Phil Musser introduced KEDA board members in the audience. Some spoke in support of Phil Musser and his economic development consulting company and its administration of the Houghton County Revolving Loan Funds. Commissioner Jenich said he agrees with Commissioner Ala that Phil has done a tremendous job with the economic development for Houghton County. Commissioner Jenich said this meeting is not to judge Mr. Musser's credentials but was called regarding the budget. He said the County's budget has been approved for the year and it is too late to do anything this year. His concern was that the Revolving Loan fund equity is being used to contract management services and it will deplete the funds. Janet Metsa, KEDA president, summarized the discussion saying, her understanding is the County is willing to keep 2008 financing in place and to review how it will be done in 2009. Commissioner Ala made a motion to go ahead and make the request to pay Phil in the new fashion that was proposed. The County would pay SEDS, his consulting company the identical amount that was paid in previous years, which is \$20,000. The \$20,000 would be paid monthly instead of one payment annually. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. A discussion followed. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Barrette, Jenich Luoma 4.

NO: None 0.

Absent: Pintar 1.

2. Travel request

a. Ron Ekdahl – Houghton County Building Department. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the Houghton County Building Department travel request for Ron Ekdahl. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

3. Houghton County Road Commission – Commissioner's benefits. Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve the Road Commission benefit package as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Barrette, Jenich, Luoma 4.

NO: None 0

ABSENT: Pintar 1.

Public Comments

Kathy Beattie, Houghton County Treasure, said she and a member of her staff had been collecting money from the Rescue Sled donations boxes that were located at different establishments. She did receive some nice comments. She said the housekeeping staff at the Ramada Inn collect all the returnable cans left in the rooms and donated those proceeds to the Rescue Sled fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to write a thank you letter to the housekeeping staff of the Ramada Inn for their contributions. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ala. The meeting was adjourned.

Commissioner Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk