

**Regular Meeting
February 15, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Edward Jenich. 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2011 Organizational/Regular Meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

The controller asked for an addition to the agenda. #14 Authorization to sign contracts for Remonumentation Grants. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the agenda with the stated addition. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Todd Brassard addressed the Board regarding the Copper Dog 150, which is a sled-dog race scheduled to be held March 4, 5 and 6. He requested a street be closed from 2 lanes to 1 for safety on Friday, March 4 for 4 hours. The Board advised him to consult the Road Commission with his request.

George Dewey and two members of Michigan Technological University Senior Design Students introduced themselves and informed the Board of their plans of promoting and reestablishing the Jail Project. Through this academic exercise they hope to benefit the community.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to approve vouchers #125421 thru #125486 for a total of \$55,388.95 along with the late bills in the amount of \$23,631.24 for a grand total of \$79,020.19. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence None

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: A meeting with Phil Musser and Keweenaw Scrap Metal, Portage Lake Multi Rec., the Houghton County Fair Board, and KEDA.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, Houghton County Planning Commission, Michigan Works Administration Board, Copper Country Trail National Byway Committee, and the Western Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation Council.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Tri County Community Corrections, Houghton County Road Commission, and Western Upper Peninsula Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: 911 Advisory Board Meeting, a meeting with Phil Musser and the Keweenaw Air Service Task Force, Houghton County Memorial Airport Meeting, Western UP Health, Copper Country Mental Health, and Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw National Historical Park, Department of Human Services, Houghton County Medical Care Facility, Commission on Aging, and UPCAP will meet this coming Friday.

County Officers Nothing

New Business

1. U.P. Link Plan presentation – Kim Stoker. Mr. Stoker gave a report to the Board on the status of U.P. Link. The Feasibility study is finished and 18 sites were visited for high definition video conferencing. They set up a web site to view the power point presentation. He hopes that it will be up and running in the spring of next year.
2. Quote for updating the Houghton County Recreation Plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to hire WUPPDR to update the Houghton County Recreation Plan. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
3. Request to purchase a new County Plow Truck. Eric Forsberg explained the need and a discussion followed. The Board decided not to take action, but to refer it to a committee headed by Commissioner Palosaari.
4. Houghton-Keweenaw Trail Steering Committee – Truman Obermeyer. Mr. Obermeyer updated and informed the Board on the Trail Steering Committee efforts. He stated the trails add to the economy. The problem is the trails are not in the public sector. They have formed a Task Force and their goal is to organize themselves and become an official unit with governance. He asked that the Board would appoint someone to represent the County on the Task Force. Commissioner Pintar made a motion to appoint Truman Obermeyer to represent Houghton County on the Task Force. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
5. 2011 Marina Rates. On the recommendation from the controller, which would keep rates about the same as 2010, Commissioner Barrette made a motion to charge Level 10 for the seasonal rate and Level 1 for the transient rate. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0
6. Request for Initiative Bonus (two requests). Commissioner Barrette explained the initiative award. He stated there were two people applying for the same award. The initiation was started by Sheryl Ala and he believed she was eligible for the award. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the award to Sheryl Ala and it was seconded by Commissioner Palosaari. The motion carried by the following vote.
YES: Barrette, Palosaari, Pintar, Jenich 4.
NO: none 0.
ABSTAIN: Ala 1.
7. Corrections Retirement agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to approve the retirement agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.
YES: Barrette, Pintar, Palosaari, Jenich 4.
NO: Ala 1.
8. Tentative Agreement with the Houghton County Airport Employees Union. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the Tentative Agreement with the Houghton County Airport Employees as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
9. Tentative Agreement with the Houghton County Courthouse Employees Union. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Tentative Agreement with the Houghton County Courthouse Employees Union as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the same for the elected and appointed as was approved for the Courthouse Employees Union. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

10. Indigent Criminal Defense Contract. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Houghton County Public Defender Contract as presented for the term March 2011 thru February 2012. The motion carried by the following vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

11. MSU Extension proposed Memorandum of Agreement. Eric explained that MSU is proposing to divide a 4-H Program Instructor between Baraga and Houghton/Keweenaw. They want the counties to fund the entire cost of the position. The board decided not to take any action on the proposed memorandum of agreement.

12. Appropriations

- a. UP RC&D Council - \$300.00
- b. UPACC Dues - \$174.00
- c. WUPPDR - \$2,886.50
- d. UPCAP - \$1,100.00
- e. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$24,808.85
- f. Western U.P. District Health Department Tobacco Tax - \$4,197.18

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

YES: Ala, Barrette, Pintar, Palosaari, Jenich

NO: None

Commissioner Pintar made a motion that Commissioner Palosaari would be the alternate representative for the UP RC&D Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

13. Travel Requests

a. MAC Conference Commissioner Pintar made a motion to approve the travel expense for the commissioners that plan to attend the MAC Conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

14. Authorization to approve the Chairman to sign contracts regarding Remonumentation Grants. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to authorize the Chairman to sign on behalf of Houghton County. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments

Gerald Perreault was present and gave his opinion and approval that the Board is planning to build a new transfer station.

Announcements none

Commissioner Pintar made a motion to adjourn.

Chairman, Edward Jenich

Clerk, Mary Schoos