

**Regular Meeting / Public Hearing**  
**March 11, 2008**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting / Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, 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, at 5:00 p.m. 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.

At 5:02 p.m., Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing was open regarding - U.P. Auto Glass Loan. Phil Musser gave an overview regarding the loan request. He said the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund Committee reviewed the business plan, financial projections, and credit reports of the applicant. The applicant is requesting a loan of \$27,500. It would be a participation loan with Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund's (HCRLF) amount of \$22,500 and Keweenaw Microloan Initiative's (KMI) loan amount of \$5,000. The HCRLF recommends that the loan be approved. At 5:10 p.m., Commissioner Luoma announced that the Public Hearing was closed

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the February 5 and February 13, 2008 meetings. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the agenda with the addition of #8 b. Houghton County Commission on Aging appropriation of \$2,000. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment None

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve paying the bills of vouchers #107218 thru #107319 along with the late bills submitted for a total of \$149,018.02. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Jenich, Barrette, Pintar, Ala, Luoma 5.  
NO: None 0.

Correspondence

Commissioner Luoma stated Raymond Niemi, the Houghton County Drain Commissioner, sent a letter announcing his retirement. His last day will be April 30, 2008. Anyone interested in the position will have to submit a resume and an appointment will be made to finish the term.

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following. 911 Advisory Committee, Michigan Township Association regarding the mapping project, Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance Meeting, the Airport Meeting and an Airport conference he attended.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following. Michigan Association of Counties Legislative Conference, Houghton County Planning Commission, Copper Country Trails Advisory Committee and Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance Legislative Session.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following. Michigan Works, Houghton County Fair Board, Head Start and Portage Lake Multi Rec.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following. Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance,

Department of Human Service/Houghton County Medical Care Facility, Western Upper Peninsula District Health, and UPCAP.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to allocate the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Houghton County Commission on Aging. 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 Luoma reported to the Board on the following. Western U.P. Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency and the Houghton County Road Commission.

#### Reports County Officers

Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, said the auditors have finished and should report at either the April or May meeting.

#### New Business

1. James Tercha - update on the transfer tax lawsuit. Mr. Tercha said he negotiated a settlement subject to approval by the County Board. The defendants have agreed to pay the two Counties which are Houghton and Gogebic a total of \$77,000.00. Houghton's share would be \$50,412.00 and Gogebic's share would be \$26,588.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the settlement and authorize Chairman, Paul Luoma to sign the release of claims on behalf of Houghton County. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 5.

2. Request for approval of Houghton County Public Defender's Contract. A motion by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Houghton County Public Defender's Contract as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Agreement establishing the Upper Peninsula 911 Authority. Eric Forsberg said this was put on the agenda as an informational item and they are waiting for the attorney to review this.

4. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund request for loan approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Houghton County Revolving Loan of \$22,500 to U.P. Auto Glass as stated in the Public Hearing held prior to the opening of this meeting. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Applications for Houghton County Planning Commission. Commissioner Pintar made a motion to appoint Barbara Lewis to serve on the Houghton County Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Bids for County liability and property insurance. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the low bid of \$137,810.00 from Hannula Insurance Agency for Houghton County liability and property insurance. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. National Map Grant – Ken Marshall, WUPPDR. Ken Marshall, from WUPPDR, gave a video presentation and reported on the National Map Grant/Interactive Web Mapping project.

8.Appropriations

a. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,126.00. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the second quarter budgeted appropriation of \$41,126.00 to Copper Country Mental Health.

b. Commission on Aging appropriation. Appropriation approved with Commissioner Jenich report.

Public Comment

Phil Musser extended an invitation to attend the May KEDA meeting where they will be featuring three high schools involved in the 1<sup>st</sup> robotics program. They will demonstrate their robots.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to send a letter of congratulations to the Calumet High School Hockey Team on winning the State Championship. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to adjourn.

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Chairman, Paul Luoma

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Clerk, Mary Schoos