

**Regular Meeting  
May 10, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the minutes of the April 12, Regular Meeting and the Special Meetings held on April 21 and April 29. 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 with the removal of item #1 Proposed Revolving Loan Fund Management Contract. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Questions were raised from the audience regarding the building of a new transfer station. The general questions were when was the project approved and how was it going to be funded?

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve voucher #126433 thru #126498 for a total of \$30,254.07 along with the following late bills of \$36,071.47 for a total of \$66,325.54. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence None

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Jenich started by introducing the new Houghton County Human Services Director, Mr. Leonard Richards.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Commission On Aging, Houghton County Medical Care Facility, and The Keweenaw National Park.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: B-H-K Headstart, Portage Lake Multi Rec., Houghton County Fair Board, and Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission, Copper Country Trial National Byway Committee, and Michigan Works Administrative Board.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: The Pilgrim River Recreation Grant was denied, and the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: He attended the U.P. Michigan Association of Counties Meeting, Houghton County 911 Advisory Board Meeting, Mental Health Service Board, Air Service Task Force Citizens Committee, a meeting with Jack Dueweke and Houghton – Keweenaw Road Commissions 5 year Hazardous Mitigation Plan, Houghton County Airport Meeting, and Western Upper Peninsula Health Board.

County Officers

Commissioner Barrette asked Kathleen Beattie to give an update on the Houghton County Land Bank meeting. She stated there were 28 tax foreclosures this year and a few of them may be something the Land Bank may work with.

#### New Business

1. Removed from the agenda

2. Hazardous Materials Facilities Grant. Commissioner Pintar stated he doesn't think it would be beneficial for Houghton County to accept the grant. He said there will be costs that the grant wouldn't cover. He stated the Health Department handles electrical recycling of florescent bulbs and batteries. The Sheriff Department handles prescription drug recycling. Waste Management has a recycling program in place. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar to not sign the Memorandum of Understanding and to send a letter declining the grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. Request for special meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to set a special meeting date of May 26 at noon to go over the new Transfer Station bids. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. County Apportionment. Kathleen Beattie passed out the approved 2011 Five District Plan for the commissioners to view.

5. Tentative Agreement with the Houghton County Correctional Officers Union. Commissioner Jenich read the tentative agreement of: raises of 3% in 2011, 2.5% in 2010 and 2% in 2013, an increase of the longevity pay from \$800 to \$1,000/year after 10 years, adoption of the 10/40/80 drug card with the Blue Cross coverage, health insurance opt out payments are frozen at the 2010 levels. The total cost to the County of raise and longevity for the 1<sup>st</sup> year will be \$7,564.40. The change in drug card will save the County \$6,248 annually and freezing of the opt out payments will save the County \$3,882 annually. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette that the agreement be adopted as read. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Jury Board Appointments. A list of four names was given by the Circuit Judge to the commissioners to appoint three persons to a six year term of the Houghton County Jury Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint Joan Antilla, from the Democratic Party, Becky Bruin-Slot, from the Republican Party, and Nancy Fenili, from the Democratic Party. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. Substance Abuse Services - \$36,244.50
- b. Western U.P. Planning & Development - \$2,866.50

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to approve the budgeted appropriations as listed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

#### Public Comment

Individuals from the audience questioned if the jail committee has been active again. They stated the local paper's coverage of presentations of jail designs made by MTU Students and an engineering firm leads people to believe that it has. They were informed the Sheriff has a list of names and they will be contacted if they wish to volunteer if and when a committee is established.

Announcements None

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

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Edward Jenich, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk