

**Regular Meeting  
May 13, 2008**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 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 pm. 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the minutes as presented of the April 15, 2008 meeting. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the agenda as presented. 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 Ala to approve paying the bills of voucher #107975 thru #108074 along with the late bills submitted for a total of \$117,494.42. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence

Commissioner Luoma mentioned Marquette County's support request of Kennecott's Plan to use the abandoned Humboldt Mill for refining rock and opposition to the Right-To-Work Legislation. He said he would like to get more information before bringing it to the Board.

Reports    Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following. Houghton County Airport, Copper Country Mental Health, and the 911 Advisory Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following. Houghton County Planning Commission, Copper Country Trail Advisory Committee, Western Upper Peninsula District Health Dept., and Western U.P. Michigan Works.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following. Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Headstart, Houghton County Fair Board, Michigan Works, Portage Lake Multi-Rec, and Houghton County Medical Control Authority Board.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following. Houghton County Medical Care Facility, Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, Commission on Aging, Keweenaw National Historic Park, Houghton County Marina, and Houghton County Finance Committee.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following. Houghton County Road Commission, Western U.P. Substance Abuse, and he attended the USDA Rural Development check presentation of grant money for new vehicles to the local units of government.

County Officers

Eric Forsberg said the County received a notice from the State that they approved the County's Deficit Reduction Plan.

John Partanen, Houghton County Equalization Director, passed out the Final Assessed and Equalized Value Reports. He invited any questions. He said the County's Reduction Fraction is .9928, and the preliminary millage rate is 6.0839. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the reports as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Michael Schira, MSU Extension Director, spoke regarding a 4H - School voluntary art exchange program with China. He said 10 youths from Houghton County will have their work sent to China for display.

John Pekkala, Houghton County Drain Commissioner, said he passed his recertification for Soil Erosion Control. He is now able to sign permits.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. A motion by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the Resolution to Levy Summer Property Tax in the Summer of 2008 as submitted.

Carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. A motion by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution submitted by the Houghton County Tax Allocation Board as presented and accept the ballot language for Renewal and Allocation of Operating Millage within the County of Houghton as presented for the August 5, 2008 Election.

Carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. A motion by Commissioner Jenich seconded by Commissioner Ala to proclaim May 15, 2008 as Neil Isaacson Day in Houghton County.

Carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

#### 4. Appropriations

a. U.P. Economic Development Alliance - \$500. A motion by Commissioner Pintar seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve Houghton County's membership to the UPEDA. The motion carried by the following vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

#### 5. Travel Requests

a. Sue Gassetie – Probate Court

b. U.P. Association of County Commissioners

A motion by Commissioner Jenich seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the travel request as listed. The motion carried by the following vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment None

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

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Paul Luoma, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk