

Regular Meeting
June 12, 2007

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2007, in the 5th 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the May 15 and May 23, 2007 meetings. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich to approve the agenda with the following amendment of moving item #4 to #1, and moving the remaining down one. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. 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 vouchers # 103895 thru #103984 along with the late bills presented for a total of \$111,600.78.

The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence Commissioner Luoma announced the various correspondence that was received for the month.

Reports
Standing Committee

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

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton – Keweenaw Conservation District.

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

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Medical Care / Department of Human Services, Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, Commission on Aging, Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region, UPCAP, Houghton County Marina, and Western Upper Peninsula Health Department.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Tri County Corrections, Houghton County Road Commission, Western U.P. Substance Abuse, and a Public Hearing regarding proposed DNR increase in fees.

County Officers

Jack Dueweke, Emergency Management Director, announced the snow totals and wanted to thank the individuals responsible for reporting these totals. Debbie Pindral reported 288 inches for Painesdale, and George Turner reported 185 inches for Laurium.

New Business

Request to enroll in State of Michigan's "Benefits for Life" Program. Tim Easterwood was present to give a brief review of the program and answer any questions. It would be optional coverage available to employees at their expense if they chose to participate. The program offers Life Insurance, Critical Illness Insurance, Auto and Home Insurance. A motion by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Benefits For Life Program and give Houghton County employees an opportunity to participate in the program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund Committee appointments. Phil Musser was present and updated the Board of the need of appointments. He stated Richard Woodbury was interested in being re-appointed to a 3-year term which started October 2006 to September 2009. The HCRLF Board recommended Lauri Kneebone to fill the remaining term of Chester Rheault, ending September 2007. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the appointments of Richard Woodbury and Lauri Kneebone for the terms designated in the memo. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

UPEDA Request for membership. Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller stated that there is no record that the County is a member of the UPEDA and it is not a budgeted item. Phil Musser stated the County has been a member for the past 3 or 4 years. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to pay the membership fee if it has been paid in the past, but if it has not been paid to bring it back to the Board for review in July. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Attorney Agreement for Transfer Tax Case. Eric Forsberg stated it is an agreement between Houghton County and Attorney James Tercha. He recommended that the County approve the agreement. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Approval of final landscape plan for Canal Crossings Project. A representative from Moyle Construction was present. The plans were reviewed. There was discussion on the stumpage removal and gravel road. Commissioners Jenich and Luoma toured the site earlier in the day. The landscaping Moyle Construction will do is in return for the agreement made to infringe on County property during the construction of their building.

Public Comments None

Announcements None

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala to adjourn. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk