

## Regular Meeting June 15, 2010

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. 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. After the Pledge of Allegiance the following commissioners responded to roll call, Dennis Barrette, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Paul Luoma, District 5. Commissioner Edward Jenich, District 1 was absent.

Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2010 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Eric Forsberg asked that the agenda include the addition of WUPPDR with the Energy Efficient Community Block Grant. Commissioner Luoma said it will be included under #7. Commissioner Barrette asked that a proposed resolution for a snowmobile ORV trail sticker program be added to the agenda. Commissioner Luoma stated that would be added to the agenda under item #8. Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve the agenda with the requested additions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comment none

Eric Forsberg stated Commissioner Jenich was in earlier and recommended approval of paying the bills of voucher # 122012 through 122110 for a total of \$108,027.20, along with the late bills submitted of \$9,234.21 for a grand total of \$117,261.41. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve paying the bills as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Barrette, Ala, Pintar, Luoma 4.  
NO: None 0  
ABSENT: Jenich 1.

Correspondence Commissioner Luoma stated there was numerous correspondence but was for information only, no action is needed.

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Memorial Airport, Mental Health Board, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee / Bridge Emergency Planning Committee.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton – Keweenaw Conservation District, Upper Peninsula Resource and Development Council, Houghton County Planning Commission, Western Upper Peninsula Health Board, and Law Enforcement Justice Center Committee.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: B-H-K Headstart, Michigan Works, Portage Lake Multi Rec, and The Houghton County Fair Board.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission, and Western Upper Peninsula Substance Abuse.

County Officers

Eric Forsberg made an announcement saying on July 13 and 14, NACO will have a film crew here filming 6 one minute videos about the County. It will be put on the County website. It will be a welcome to people looking to relocate in the County.

## New Business

1. Houghton County Justice Center Study Committee – Results of Study. Bill Fink, Barry Fink and Truman Obermeyer gave a presentation on the findings of the Justice Center Study with a power point demonstration which included the committee’s findings and a projected sketch of the building that would house the Justice Center.
2. Request of Initiative Award. Mary Schoos, requested to be considered for an Initiative Award due to saving the County thousands of dollars. The correction in the County not including health insurance opt-out payments as reportable wages to MERS has resulted in a refund of approximately \$90,000 and future saving of thousands of dollars annually. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar to award the maximum amount of \$500 for the initiative request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.
3. Houghton County Land Bank Authority – Board appointment. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint James Hainault to the Houghton County Land Bank Authority. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.
4. Resolution for County Operating Millage. John Partanen, Houghton County Equalization Director, stated last year the County operating millage was set at 6.3 mills per thousand dollars of assessed value. He further explained that using the formulas mandated by the state and calculating our millage reduction fraction the new millage rate is 6.2666 mills per thousand dollars of taxable value. Commissioner Pintar made a motion to adopt the Resolution setting the 2010 operating rate for the County at 6.2666 mills as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Pintar, Barrette, Ala, Luoma 4.  
NO: None 0.  
ABSENT: Jenich 1.
5. Travel Requests. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve mileage and 2 nights at a Purple Ribbon Level 2 for James Gale to represent Houghton County as Chairman of the U.P. State Fair. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Eric Forsberg stated he received a late request from the Head of The Friend of the Court, asking for a travel request for Dan Giachino. He said there was no amount stated. Eric said he would stipulate that based on if it doesn’t exceed the current budgeted amount for travel for that department it could be approved.

- a. Judge Strome – Houghton County Probate Court
- b. John Partanen – Equalization Department
- c. Brenda Cadwell – Houghton County Friend of Court
- d. Dan Giachino – Friend of the Court.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

6. Appropriations
  - a. Michigan Township Association - \$336.00
  - b. Copper Country Mental Health - \$82,247.46

Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve the appropriations as listed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

7. WUPPDR – EECBG Kim Stoker from WUPPDR stated the County was awarded an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant for \$165,000 to do a study for UP Link, which is video conferencing across the Upper Peninsula. WUPPDR is administering the grant for the County. He stated they only received one bid. He is recommending that the Board approve the bid of \$152,000 to Exeratec. They will still negotiate the travel budget. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the bid to Exeratec. The

motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

8. Snowmobile ORV Resolution. Robert Black was present and asked the Board for support of the resolution to allow snowmobiles to cross state lines without having to purchase a separate state sticker in neighboring counties. Commissioner Ala made a motion to support the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Barrette, Pintar, Luoma 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Jenich 1.

Public Comment Robert Black introduced himself and stated he is running for 110<sup>th</sup> District State Representative.

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

---

Paul Luoma, Chairman

---

Mary Schoos, Clerk