

**Regular Meeting / Public Hearing**  
**July 12, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting / Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 12, 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 Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2011 Regular / Public Hearing meeting as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the agenda with the addition of # 9. DHS furnace replacement. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

**Public Comments**

The Coast Guard Chief was present and announced that in honor of Coast Guard Day and their 221<sup>st</sup> birthday, they will have an open house. It will be August 4, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Commissioner Jenich announced that the Public Hearing for Truth in Taxation was open. Cheryl Patrick from the Equalization Department was present and informed the Commissioners that the millage reduction fraction was 1. The millage rate will be set at 6.1791. With the Public Hearing they gain .0875 mills which amounts to about \$66,000.00. Cheryl stated the taxable value is up 18,000,000. If the County collects the maximum they could collect \$117,530.00 more than last year. Commissioner Jenich asked if there were any questions or comments. John Ollila was present and stated he was in favor of the County collecting the maximum allowed. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills of voucher #127181 thru #127262 for a total of \$100,099.32 along with the following late bills in the amount of \$18,575.59 for a grand total of \$118,674.91. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Barrette, Pintar, Ala, Palosaari, Jenich 5.  
NO: None 0.

Correspondence None

**Reports – Standing Committees**

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Memorial Airport, Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development, Copper Country Mental Health, Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group, and the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission, MDOT projects, and Western U.P. Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Michigan Works Administrative Board, and Houghton County Planning Commission.

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

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Commission on Aging, RSVP recycling program for electronics, UPCAP meeting, and Houghton County Medical Care.

#### County Officers

Jack Dueweke introduced the 8<sup>th</sup> District Emergency Management Coordinator, Don Brown. Mr. Brown spoke briefly and praised Jack for his work representing Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

#### New Business

1. Truth in Taxation – A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to adopt the resolution as presented setting the 2011 operating rate for Houghton County at 6.2666. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Resolution Imposing Summer Property Tax Levy – Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, explained to the Board the resolution is needed to collect the 2011 summer property tax. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Proposed position eliminations – Commissioner Barrette stated that due to a \$220,000 deficit the Finance Committee has proposed eliminating 2 positions. They are the Information Technology (IT) Director position (Steve Pesola) and one of the maintenance positions (Neil Hayryanen). Both individuals have been offered a buyout amounting to the County paying for 18 months of health insurance after their termination date of September 30, 2011. He stated neither person wants to accept the buyout. Commissioner Pintar commented he is not in favor of the eliminations. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Barrette, Ala, Palosaari, Jenich 4.

NO: Pintar 1.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala for the controller to compile a list of duties that would be required and emergency hourly costs for the contract to be bid out for the IT coverage and also to bid out a contract for the snow plowing. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Houghton County Land Bank – Request for option to purchase land. Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer requested the County to purchase 3 parcels of property before they go to the tax sale. The County Land Bank will then purchase the property from the County and the Land Bank will be able to decide the best means of disposing of them. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to purchase the 3 parcels as presented by the Treasurer. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Request to purchase envelope stuffing machine – This was combined with #6.

6. Proposal for copier purchases

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to allow the treasurer to purchase a new envelope stuffing machine at the price quoted, along with Eric to purchase 2 used copy machines from Sayen's Business Equipment for the courthouse. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Appropriations

a. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

b. Michigan Township Association - \$350.00

c. Houghton County Commission on Aging - \$2,000.00

d. Michigan Association of Counties dues - \$5,343.64

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

8. Travel Requests

- a. Brenda Cadwell – Houghton County Friend of Court
- b. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer
- c. James Gale – U.P. State Fair authority

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the travel request listed and agree to 2 nights lodging for James Gale at \$100.00 each for a total of \$200.00. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. DHS Furnace replacement – Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, stated the furnace is in need of replacement and he was quoted it could run between \$64,000.00 to \$80,000.00 to replace. Commissioner Palosaari will work with the Controller to get different options and bids to replace the furnace.

Public Comment

Paul Sintkowski questioned how it is determined to offer incentives for early retirement. He stated he asked if there were any incentives and was told no for his position. Eric explained that if the position is not being eliminated there are no incentives offered.

Commissioner Barrette made a motion to adjourn.

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Edward Jenich, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk