

**Regular Meeting  
July 13, 2010**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 13, 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 Vice-Chairman, Scott Ala. After the Pledge of Allegiance the following commissioners responded to roll call, Edward Jenich, District 1; Dennis Barrette, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; and Scott Ala, District 4. Commissioner Paul Luoma, District 5, was absent.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the June 15, 2010 minutes as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

**Public Comment**

There were a few local citizens that expressed their concern as to the location chosen for the new proposed County Justice Facility, and a request to have the location inserted in the ballot language.

Chris Tapani was present to request a rotation among local towing services be done when the Sheriff Department calls for towing services. He said it is his third attendance at a Board Meeting and nothing has changed. He stated it is not fair that there is not a rotation system used.

Jason Martin was present and stated an accident victim requested that a vehicle be towed to his auto body shop and it was denied by the towing company. The vehicle was towed to an impound yard owned by the towing service and charged storage. Commissioner Jenich stated he will address the issue with the Law Enforcement Committee and see that it is enforced properly.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve paying the bills of voucher #122487 thru #122573 for a total of \$61,503.27 along with the late bills submitted of \$7,456.55 for a grand total of \$68,959.82. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Jenich, Barrette, Pintar, Ala 4.

NO: None 0.

**Correspondence**

Commissioner Ala stated that he would like to represent Houghton County on the local college access network (CAN) board. Its goal is to serve Houghton, Keweenaw, and Baraga Counties by increasing awareness, attendance, and success of students from the three county area in post-secondary education.

**Reports Standing Committee**

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: He attended a meeting put on by the state to discuss Michigan Share Public Service Initiative, Local Emergency Planning, Lift Bridge Planning Group, and Western U.P. Health Department.

Commissioner Pintar did not have anything to report.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Department of Human Services/Medical Care Facility, Commission on Aging, Department Head Meeting, UPCAP Meeting, Recycling of Electronic equipment held July 10, and a request from Glenn Ekdahl, Franklin Twp. Supervisor, regarding applying for a Community Wide Assessment Grant for the Brownfield Authority. A motion was made by Commissioner

Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve Franklin Township's grant application. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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

#### County Officers

Eric Forsberg reported attending a meeting at Finlandia University regarding holding a Finn Fest in this area in 2013.

#### New Business

1. Houghton County Justice Center ballot language. Commissioner Ala read a letter from Chairman, Paul Luoma stating his support of putting the question on the November Ballot. He then opened the floor for public comment. There were many county residents present to voice their opinions and concerns. The main concerns expressed were the number of beds the proposed facility would have to the proposed residential location. Questions were raised as to considering other locations and cost comparison studies. Members of the Justice Center Planning Committee along with Judge Wisti were present to help answer questions asked.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the resolution and language as presented to put the bond proposition on the November 2, 2010 Election. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Barrette, Jenich 3.

NO: Ala 1.

ABSENT: Luoma 1.

2. Houghton County Audit bids. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the low bid from Bruce Rukkila for the Houghton County Audit for the 3 year bid proposal submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

3. Land sale offer. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to accept the offer of \$10,000 for the sale of 29.29 acres of land locked property the County owns in Baraga County. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pass a resolution to allow the Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Ala to sign the deed and the purchase agreement for the land sale. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Barrette, Pintar, Jenich, Ala 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Luoma 1.

4. Request for resolution – UPCAP. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the resolution for the U.P. Area Agency On Aging FY 2011 Area Plan/Annual Implementation Plan as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Jenich, Barrette, Pintar, Ala 4.

NO: None 0

ABSENT: Luoma 1.

#### 5. Travel Requests

a. MAC – Summer Conference

b. Kathleen Beattie – County Treasurer's Conference

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the travel requests for MAC and Treasurer's Conference. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

#### 6. Appropriations

- a. Michigan Association of counties - \$5,343.64
- b. Western U.P. district Health Department - \$21,640.80
- c. Western U.P. Planning & Development Regional Comm. - \$2,866.50

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the three budgeted appropriations as listed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments None

Commissioner Barrette made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich.

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Vice Chairman, Commissioner Ala

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Clerk, Mary Schoos