

Regular Meeting / Public Hearings
July 15, 2008

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held Public Hearings / Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 15, 2008, 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.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for Truth in Taxation was open. Cheryl Patrick, from the Houghton County Equalization Department was present. Cheryl explained that the County must hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution to be able to levy the maximum millage rate which is 6.0839.

Commissioner Luoma asked for public comment. There was none

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for Truth in Taxation was closed.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund / Keweenaw Scrap Metal LLC Loan was open.

Commissioner Ala spoke regarding the loan. The project and loan was approved by the Houghton County Revolving Loan Board who unanimously passed a motion to recommend the Houghton County Board of Commissioners to approve the loan.

Commissioner Luoma asked for public comment. Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, stated Keweenaw Scrap Metal owes \$13,000.00 for 2006 taxes and \$6,700.00 for 2007 taxes. She asked that the taxes be paid before the loan is approved.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund / Keweenaw Scrap Metal LLC Loan was closed.

The July 15, 2008 Regular Meeting followed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes as presented of the June 10, 2008 and June 17, 2008 meetings. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar 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 Pintar to approve paying the bills of voucher #108696 thru #108796 for a total of \$104,796.23 along with the late bills submitted of \$186,062.33 for a total of \$290,858.56. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence None

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: A meeting with GIS Planning Committee, Local Emergency Planning, MDOT update on local projects, Copper Country Mental Health, Houghton County Airport, and Personnel Committee regarding Morley study upgrade for Elected and Appointed positions.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Planning and Zoning Workshop, Western U.P. Michigan Works Administrative Board, Planning Commission, Western U.P. District Health Board, and Houghton - Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund, BHK Headstart, Portage Lake Multi-Rec, and Houghton County Fair Board.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region (WUPPDR), Keweenaw National Park, Medical Care Facility, Houghton County Commission on Aging/TRIAD, Finance Committee, and an UPCAP workshop.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission and Houghton County Transfer Station.

Commissioner Luoma made a motion seconded by Commissioner Ala to hire Travis Engineering to do a sight/building study for Houghton County to start the process for a new Transfer Station. The cost of doing a preliminary engineering study was estimated as not to exceed \$8,000.00. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

County Officers

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, stated the tax sale will be held on August 13, 2008 at Michigan Tech Union Building at 12:00 noon. The properties can be looked at on the Internet at www.tax-sale.info.

New Business

1. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund application – Keweenaw Scrap Metal LLC. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Houghton County Revolving Loan to Keweenaw Scrap Metal provided the back taxes due are paid. The loan amount is \$25,000.00, a 10 year amortization, with a 2 year balloon at 7.0%. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund – Request for extension. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the requested extension by GS Engineering. The extension would extend their loan balloon two additional years, until August 18, 2010. At that time the entire balance would be due. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. 911 Authority agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to agree to establish an Upper Peninsula 911 Authority with all counties in the Upper Peninsula. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Truth in Taxation. A motion by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to adopt a resolution of the total operating millage rate of 6.0839 mills for the year 2008 in Houghton County. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Request for resolution – U.P. Area Agency on Aging. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution as presented for U.P. Area Agency on Aging FY 2009 Area Plan/Annual Implementation Plan. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. Request to pursue legal action against State of Michigan. Eric Forsberg said Houghton County was named fiduciary of the 2006 Homeland Security Grant. He stated that the County was to receive 3% of the grant, amounting to \$54,000.00. Houghton County has received a portion of that and was asked to refund it. He is asking that Houghton County proceed with legal action against the State to recover the fees owed for administering the grant. A motion to allow Attorney David Mechlin to proceed with legal action against the State was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried with a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Appropriations

a. WUPPDR - \$2,459

b. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$10,671.50

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

Public Comments None

Announcements None

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adjourn. There being no objections, the meeting adjourned.

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk