

**Regular Meeting  
August 9, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 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 Pintar to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar to approve the agenda with the following changes and additions: to move item #7 Keweenaw Scrap Tire to Public Comment and insert an addition to the agenda requested by Commissioner Ala of, Electrical Permit for Houghton County Fair Board, to item # 7. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

**Public Comment**

Commissioner Pintar stated Phil Musser will arrange a meeting involving the owner of Keweenaw Scrap Tire, Jon Vick, Jim Pintar, and Commissioners Ala and Pintar. With a meeting they hope the problem can be resolved without going through the Attorney General's Office. The floor was then turned over to Jim Pintar. Mr. Pintar was the spokesperson for the residents of Adams Township stating they are living in a scrap yard with a disaster waiting to happen. It has been in the hands of Attorney General since 2009 and nothing has happened. Don Heikkila also spoke updating the commissioners, stating the business operation was first welcomed into the community by both the residents and the township. Now it has raised health and safety concerns of the residents. He presented a list of complaints and concerns to the commissioners.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills of voucher # 127601 thru # 127660 for a total of \$46,629.05 along with the following late bills in the amount of \$45,293.09 for a grand total of \$91,922.14. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence none

**Reports Standing Committee**

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group, meetings held with department heads and managers regarding their 2011 / 2012 department budgets, and the Houghton County Memorial Airport.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission

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

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

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw National Park, Department of Human Services / Houghton County Medical Care, a meeting with Congressman Dan Benishek's aid, Jesse Osmer, and Commission on Aging.

#### Reports – County Officers

Dennis Hext, Houghton County Memorial Airport Manager, stated the contract between the Dept. of Transportation and Sky West will run out at the end of December 2011. Proposals are due by August 31, 2011 for a 2 year contract beginning January 1, 2012 from any carriers interested in providing air service. He stated that Sky West will be applying for the contract.

#### New Business

1. Proposed agreement for MSU Extension Service. Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, stated there were 2 items of concern in the contract. First is the indemnification. Dave Mechlin, Houghton County's attorney, has looked at the contract and suggested new language for the indemnification terms. Basically stating that if MSU does something wrong, MSU is responsible. The second is MSU wants Houghton County to pay for Keweenaw County and for us to bill Keweenaw County for their portion. He feels that we should not be responsible for Keweenaw County. He stated he would ask for the Board to approve the contract, subject to those two changes. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the contract with the changes recommended by the controller. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
2. Bids for design work for DHS furnace. Commissioner Palosaari stated there were 2 bids submitted. UP Engineering at \$4,850 and OHM at \$6,500. He made a motion to accept the low bid of \$4,850 to UP Engineers. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
3. National Park Service – Request for nominees. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to nominate Commissioner Jenich to be appointed as Houghton County Board's representative on the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
4. Houghton County Airport – Request for approval to purchase land. Dennis Hext explained the purpose of purchasing the land is to protect the runway protection zone. The question was raised as to how it will be paid for. Dennis stated it will be paid for by airport improvement grants. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the purchase of the property. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.
5. Resolution for the adoption of MERS Benefit E. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution adopting the Benefit E for the Sheriff's Deputies Division 2. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Barrette, Pintar, Ala, Palosaari, Jenich 5.  
NO: None 0.
6. Community Corrections Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the resolution as presented giving the Tri-County Community Corrections Advisory Board approval to apply for continued State funding for the fiscal year 2012. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Barrette, Palosaari, Pintar, Ala, Jenich 5.  
NO: None 0.
7. Electrical Permit – Houghton County Fair Board. Commissioner Ala asked that the permit fee of \$125.00 be reimbursed to the Houghton County Fair Board because they are a County entity. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by

Commissioner Pintar to wave the fee and reimburse the money. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

8. Houghton County Transfer Station Construction

- a. Request for approval of 1<sup>st</sup> pay estimate
- b. Request for approval of MJO Change Order #1
- c. Request for approval of Engineering Services agreement Amendment #1
- d. Request for approval of summary of Payments due and approved
- e. Request for approval of Estimate of Funds Needed

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the payment of the requests as stated above in the total amount of \$241,291.86. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund – Request for Resolution. Phil Musser asked the Board to approve sending a resolution to oppose the transfer of the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund to a Consolidated Upper Peninsula Regional Revolving Loan Fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$30,089.54
- b. Western U.P. Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency - \$36,985.50

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

11. Travel Requests

- a. Brittany Bulleit – Houghton County Prosecutor’s Office
- b. MAC Fall Conference
- c. Sheryl Ala – 97<sup>th</sup> District Court

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

Public Comments

John Ollila gave the Board an update of the current finances of the Pilgrim River Watershed Project.

Announcements None

Commissioner Barrette made a motion to adjourn. There being no objections, the meeting was adjourned.

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Edward Jenich, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk