

Regular Meeting / Public Hearings
August 11, 2009

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting / Public Hearings on Tuesday, August 11, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th 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: Edward Jenich, District 1; Dennis Barrette, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Paul Luoma, District 5.

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

Public Comment None

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing was open for the USDA Rural Development Grant Application. Eric Forsberg stated the County applied for 2 grants to fund the purchase of 2 squad cars. The grants have been approved. They are for 45% of the purchase price, a total of \$27,000. There being no further comments, Commissioner Luoma announced the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for the Revolving Loan Fund Application was open. Phil Musser stated there has been a request for a \$50,000 loan to Garritt Willey owner of Kenton Wood Works, for a saw mill. The mill will create 5 to 7 jobs, there is a \$106,000 equipment collateral and there is a contract with Robins Sports Flooring. The RLF Board recommends the Board to approve the loan. There being no further comments, Commissioner Luoma announced the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve paying the bills submitted of vouchers #113408 through #113485 for a total of \$93,685.54. along with the late bills of \$43,500.89 for a total of \$137,186.43. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence Nothing brought to Board discussion.

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Western U.P. Health Department, Copper Country Mental Health and the Houghton County Airport.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Planning Commission, and the Copper Country Trail Committee.

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

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: WUPPDR. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to support the nomination of Frank Stubenrauch for the Oreste Chiantello Public Service Award. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Jenich continued his report of the Houghton County Medical Care Facility, UPCAP is scheduled to meet on the 14th, Commission on Aging meets on the 12th, the Law Enforcement Committee, and Finance Committee.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Western U.P. Substance Abuse, Houghton County Road Commission, and the Houghton County Transfer Station.

County Officers

Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, stated negotiation with the Court House Union is expected to start soon. He has looked at this year's budget and is hoping the County will be able to put money into its fund balance.

Kathy Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, informed the Board the Tax Sale Auction will be held at Gogebic College on Friday, August 14, and the Land Bank has a Board and they are establishing their Policies and Procedures.

New Business

1. Request for starting wage for new District Court Probation Officer. Eric stated it was requested that the new employee be started at the 1 year rate because the person hired has 31 years experience. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve of the rate increase. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

2. Request for change in Vital Records fee. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the increase from \$8.00 to \$10.00 for the first certified copy of vital records in the Clerk's office. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. Resolution regarding Community Corrections Grant application. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw Counties Community Corrections Advisory Board's efforts to apply for continuing funds for Fiscal Years 2010 through 2012. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund application. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the RLF loan to Kenton Wood Works as recommended by the RLF Board. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Travel Requests

a. John Partanen – Houghton County Equalization Director.

b. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer

c. Brittany Bulleit – Houghton County Prosecutor's Office.

d. Paula Olson – Houghton County Prosecutor's Office.

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

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

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk