

Regular Meeting / Public Hearing
August 14, 2007

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, 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; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Paul Luoma, District 5. Dennis Barrette, District 2, was absent.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund was open.

Phil Musser was present and presented the details of the proposed Houghton County Revolving Loan to Endres Machine Innovations. The loan would be partnered with Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, each loaning the amount of \$80,000.00 for the purchase of a CNC lathe and tooling. Mr. Musser stated the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund recommended that the Board approve the loan. The floor was opened for public comment.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund was closed.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing for Houghton County Truth in Taxation was open.

John Partanen, Houghton County Equalization Director, was present to explain that each year the County and Townships have to comply with State law to allow them to levy the maximum millage. By holding a hearing, if approved, the County can levy an additional .2189 mills. This is the difference between the base rate of 5.9095 mills and the Headlee maximum amount of 6.1281 mills. Mr. Partanen recommended the Board approve the increase to the maximum allowance. The floor was opened for public comment.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2007 meeting. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the agenda with the additions of #7 Passport Resolution and #8 designation of Chiantello Award. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Major Barry Getzen of the Michigan State Police and State Representative Mike Lahti were present to give a synopsis of the meeting held earlier regarding the State's plans for the Calumet State Police post. The floor was then opened for comments and questions. There were a number of people in the audience that spoke regarding their concerns.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills of vouchers #104693 thru #104810 along with the late bills presented for a total of \$115,140.11.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Jenich, Ala, Pintar, Luoma 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Barrette 1.

Correspondence

Commissioner Luoma stated there was a lot of correspondence but wanted to address the support of Lawrence Harrington, Iron County Commissioner, to serve on the Michigan Association of Counties Board of Directors.

Eric Forsberg wanted to announce the Check Presentation on August 16, to the County for the grant the County received to purchase remote rescue equipment.

Commissioner Jenich stated the Counties on the WUPPDR Board have chosen a candidate to support for the Chiantello Award.

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Soil Conservation District, Houghton County Planning Commission and the Western U.P. District Health Department.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Michigan Works, Houghton County Airport, Portage Lake Multi Rec. and the Houghton County Fair.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Main Street Calumet, the Law Enforcement Committee, the Commission on Aging, Department of Human Services / Medical Care Facility, WUPPDR, Keweenaw National Park, and meeting with Department Heads regarding their 2007 / 2008 budget requests.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: The Western U.P. Substance Abuse Board.

County Officers

Kathy Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, reported that the delinquent tax settlements have been mailed.

New Business

1. Revised agreement and resolution regarding Marina Grant from Michigan DNR. A motion by Commissioner Ala, and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the resolution as submitted.

Carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Jenich, Pintar, Luoma 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Barrette 1.

2. Revolving Loan Fund

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to accept the recommendation of the Revolving Loan Committee and approve the loan to Endres Machining Innovations as presented.

The motion was carried by the following vote.

YES: Jenich, Ala, Pintar, Luoma 4

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Barrette 1.

3. Truth in Taxation

A motion by Commissioner Pintar, and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to accept the recommendation of the Equalization Director and approve the increase of .2189 mills in the operating tax millage rate to be levied in 2007.

The motion was carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Jenich, Ala, Luoma 4

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Barrette 1.

4. Visit from MAC Executive Director, Thursday, Sept. 20, 10:00 a.m.

The Board decided to hold a special meeting on September 20 at 10:00 a.m. to meet with the MAC Executive Director.

5. Appropriations

a. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$8,291.17

b. Western U.P. Planning & Development Regional Commission - \$2,459

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the budgeted appropriations of \$8,291.17 to the Health Department, \$2,459 to WUPPDR and the travel request of the Houghton County Treasurer for \$891.65. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

6. Travel Request this was incorporated in #5.

7. Passport Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to adopt the passport resolution as presented.

Carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Ala, Jenich, Luoma 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Barrette 1.

Public Comment

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

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk