

**Regular Meeting
September 9, 2008**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the minutes of August 12, 2008 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette 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 Ala to approve paying the bills of voucher #109406 thru #109480 for a total of \$116,604.01 along with the late bills submitted of \$43,524.00 for a grand total of \$160,128.01. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence

A letter was given to the Board with the invitation from Sheriff Brian McLean to attend the Michigan Sheriffs' Association fall conference banquet where he will be sworn in as the 2009 President of the Michigan Sheriffs' Association Board of Directors.

Reports Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Airport, The Committee to up-grade the Morley Study for elected and appointed officials, the MAC Conference with sessions on Michigan Trash, Farm Bill, GIS, and 2010 Census, The Western Upper Peninsula District Health Department, Copper Country Mental Health, and 911 mic fees.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Houghton County Planning Commission, Western U.P. Michigan Works Summer Youth, Copper Country Trail Committee, and WUPPDR. – MDOT summit.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Mac Conference with sessions on Land Use, Area Agencies On Aging, and Meth. Labs, BHK Headstart, Houghton County Fair Board, Portage Lake Multi Rec., and Michigan Works.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: KEDA, Houghton County Medical Care Facility, WUPPDR, Commission on Aging, Law Enforcement, and Keweenaw National Park.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to re-appoint Gerald Erva to the Houghton County Department of Human Services Board (DHS). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion passed with a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

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

County Officers

Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, announced that the suit filed against the State of Michigan to recover Houghton County's fiduciary fees for the Region 8 Homeland Security money has been resolved.

Mary Schoos announced that Tapestry and Laredo are now up and running in the Register of Deeds office and it is hoped that it will bring in extra revenue to that office.

Kathleen Beattie announced that they netted approximately \$15,000.00 on the tax sale in August. There are 5 properties left to sell and the next sale is scheduled for October 10th in Marquette.

New Business

1. John Hill, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Presentation regarding the Emerald Ash Borer. John Hill spoke to the Board and also had a slide presentation on the Emerald Ash Borer. He is the Regional Supervisor for Regions 1 & 2 which encompasses 33 counties. He gave a very interesting presentation and ended it stating as of late this afternoon, September 9, 2008, Houghton and Keweenaw Counties are now on the quarantine list. All hardwood firewood movement to outside of Houghton and Keweenaw Counties is now restricted unless it is in 4 ft. lengths. Businesses that will be moving any hardwood will have to obtain compliance agreements with the Michigan Department of Agriculture. He ended his presentation answering any questions.

2. Draft of Houghton County Planning Commission Ordinance of 2008 (For discussion only) Commissioner Pintar went over the changes that have been made since the last meeting. He will email Eric the final version of the Ordinance. A public hearing will be held before the Ordinance is adopted.

3. Request for approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for W.U.P Health Department. Commissioner Barrette stated that this is a re-approval of what was done in the past. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to re-approve the 5 county Intergovernmental Agreement and Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by the following vote.
YES: Barrette, Jenich, Pintar, Ala, Luoma 5.
NO: None 0.

4. Auditor's Consideration of Fraud letter. Eric stated that it is on the agenda so it is noted that all the Commissioners read this letter.

5. Scheduling of special meeting and public hearing for County 2008/09 budget. Eric also said it was noted that the November meeting falls on Veterans Day and that meeting should be rescheduled. It was decided that September 23, 2008 at noon would be scheduled for the public hearing for the County 2008/09 budget. The November Regular Board meeting will be scheduled for Monday November 10, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

6 Appropriations

a. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,117. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the Copper Country Mental Health Appropriation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Travel Requests

- a. Paula Olson – Prosecutor's Office
- b. Marcia Houle – Prosecutor's Office
- c. UPACC Fall Conference
- d. Val Schulze, Tracy Smith, Pat Janke, Lisa Mattila – County financial software workshop.

e. Sheryl Ala – 97th District Court
Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve all the travel requests as listed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Phil Musser gave an update on Keweenaw Scrap – Tire. He said a new manufacturing company has moved into the former Hubbell Ice Skating Rink. They purchased the building and land. They will be producing specialized welding rods. He is also working with a company who may move in, a wood products company. He gave updates on other economic developments within the area.

Commissioner Pintar made a motion to adjourn.

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk