

**Public Hearing / Regular Meeting
September 13, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held two Public Hearings and a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th 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.

Commissioner Jenich announced the Public Hearing for MSHDA Housing Rehab Grant was open. Jerald Wuorenmaa from the Western U.P. Planning & Development Region was present and explained the application for the MSHDA Housing Rehab Grant. He stated the maximum grant offered is \$35,000.00. Low income households are eligible for 100% grant coverage, moderate income households are eligible for 60% grant coverage. The application will be for \$200,000.00 and will cover 7 to 8 homes. Of the \$200,000.00 application, \$164,000.00 is for housing rehab and 18% or \$36,000.00 is for administrative fees. Jerald went on to give a history of funded activities. Commissioner Jenich opened the floor for any questions. There being no questions, Commissioner Jenich stated the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Jenich announced the Public Hearing for Houghton County 2011/2012 Budget was open. Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller explained and went over the budget. General Fund Revenues are budgeted for 8.29 million, of that 4.4 are property taxes. There is a loss of revenue sharing from the State from 1.6 to 1.5 million, which is approximately \$160,000.00. On the expense side, the budget is 8.4 million with an expected \$117,000.00 deficit. Commissioner Jenich asked for any questions. Commissioner Ala brought up the retirement account. He stated it is growing further negative each year. He stated a large percent of the budget is going to fund the retirement account. He proposed to form a committee to look into a plan to fully fund the account. Commissioner Jenich announced the Public Hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the August 9, 2011 minutes as presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Barrette asked for an addition of a Brownfield Authority Meeting to be added to the agenda. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to accept the agenda with the addition. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment None

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills of voucher #128028 thru #128110 for a total of \$44,916.99 along with the late bills of \$45,270.87 for a grand total of \$90,187.86. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence None brought forward

Reports – Standing Committees

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: B-H-K Headstart, Keweenaw Scrap Problem, Portage Lake Multi Rec., Great Start, and Houghton County Fair Board.

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

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

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Western Upper Peninsula Health, Copper Country Mental Health, Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Executive Committee Meeting, Houghton County Memorial Airport, and Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group.

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

County Officers

Brian McLean, Houghton County Sheriff, spoke regarding the Torch Run starting from Copper Harbor to Sterling Heights Michigan.

Eric Forsberg stated the contract with MSU Extension was tentatively approved contingent on them making 2 changes. They have made the changes and the contract has been signed.

New Business

1. Duncan Township Supervisor Frank Pentti – Junk Ordinance Discussion. Mr. Pentti gave an update of Duncan Township, from businesses to a huge Forest Service Presence of 87% which he stated does not pay taxes and 6,500 acres of State Commercial Forest Reserve which only pays \$1.10 property tax per acre. He ended with inviting the Board to hold a meeting in Duncan Township.

2. Resolution authorizing application for MSHDA Grant. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution authorizing the application for MSHDA Grant. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. 2011/2012 General Appropriations Act. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the resolution appropriating monies and adopting the 2011-2012 Houghton County Budget. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Ala made a motion to form an ad hoc committee work with the MERS Plan to try to get the funding up to an acceptable level. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Budget Amendments. A motion was made by Commissioner. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. DHS Furnace Project. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari to award the bid to the low bidder without bringing it back to the Board if the bid was under \$60,000.00. He stated that due to winter approaching it may be necessary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. Eric stated he asked for two bids. One to replace the furnace as is with a steam boiler and one for a more efficient furnace. He stated the State pays the heating bills and they may be willing to chip in and we would be able to purchase the more efficient furnace. This would cause a more wide range of bids. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. I.T. Services Bids. Eric recommended going with the low bid from Computer Mechanix. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to award the bid to Computer Mechanix. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5 Nays 0.

7. DHS Janitorial Services Bids. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to award the low bid to D & L Janitorial. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

8. Request for appointment to Houghton County DHS Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to reappoint Gerald Erva for a three year term on the Houghton County DHS Board. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. Sheriff's Patrol Car Bids. Commissioner Jenich stated he went over the bids with the Sheriff and recommends awarding the bid to the low bidder, Signature Ford. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to award Signature Ford the bid. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

10. Houghton County Transfer Station Construction

- a. Request for approval of 2nd pay estimate
- b. Request for approval of Summary of Payments Due and approved
- c. Request for approval of Estimate of Funds Needed

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve a., b. & c. as listed above for a grand total of \$206,470.78. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

11. WUPPDR – Request for resolution. Phil Musser explained the U.P.E.D.A Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the resolution as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

12. Appropriations

- a. Copper Country Community Mental Health - \$41,123.73

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the appropriation of \$41,123.73 to Copper Country Mental Health. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

13. Travel Requests

- a. George Newman & Dan Giachino – Friend of Court
- b. UPACC Fall Conference
- c. Paula Olson – Houghton County Prosecutor's Office

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

14. Brownfield Meeting. Commissioner Barrette stated he would like to hold a Brownfield Meeting on October 11, 2011 prior to the October Board Meeting. He said it would take about 15 minutes to elect new officers to update that Board. The Board was in agreement. The Brownfield Meeting will be held at 4:45 p.m. on October 11, 2011.

Public Comment

Samuel Buschell from Lake Linden, which is in Schoolcraft Township, addressed the Board about over assessed residential property within the village due to a commercial property sale. John Partanen, Houghton County Equalization Director, was present and asked Mr. Buschell to meet him in the Equalization Department after the meeting to address the issue.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala.

Edward Jenich, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk