

**Public Hearing / Regular Meeting
October 11, 2011**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 5:30 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 was open for the Houghton County RLF Loan Application. Phil Musser spoke on behalf of REL Inc. He stated they are a manufacturing and research and development company. They are requesting a \$100,000.00 loan. The terms are 5.5% interest for 5 years. The jobs to be created are 7 manufacturing positions. The HCRLF Committee met on September 21, 2011 and unanimously recommends the loan.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to close the Public Hearing. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2011 meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

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

Public Comment

Sam Buschell stated his problem that he addressed the Board with at the September meeting has not been resolved. He would like the Board to find out what are the assessing standards in the County. He stated Schoolcraft Township will be sending a letter asking for a written explanation on how this could happen.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills of voucher #128357 thru #128434 for a total of \$73,290.48 along with the late bills of \$44,869.31 for a grand total of \$118,160.79. 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: 911 Advisory Committee, 911 Upper Peninsula Authority Meeting, U.P. Association of County Commissioners Conference, attended a Brownfield Seminar, Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group, attended MAC Conference, Community Mental Health Meeting, and Houghton County Airport Meeting.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Governing Board Meeting for the Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency, and the Houghton County Road Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: U.P. Resource Conservation Development Council, Michigan Works, Administrative Board, Houghton County Planning Commission, Copper Country Trail National Byway Committee, Keweenaw Scrap Group update, Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, and U.P. Association of County Commissioners Conference.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Revolving Loan Fund Meeting, Great Start Meeting, Portage Lake Multi Rec., and Houghton County Fair Board Meeting.

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

County Officers

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, requested that she be able to move forward with putting the County Property Data on line. She stated it would free up time answering incoming calls for both the Treasurers Office and the Equalization Office. There are two options which are, the County putting the information out there at a cost of \$11,000 or for BS&A to put it out there at no cost to the County with a pay per hit of \$2.00 per look up. The County would get 20% of the \$2.00 fee. She said there would be no fee for an individual to look up their own information. Her recommendation was to go with the pay per hit option. The Commissioners asked her to gather more information and give them a copy of the agreement before pursuing it further.

Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, stated the Courthouse Union Contract expires at the end of the year and he needs a commissioner be appointed to sit in on the negotiations. Commissioner Palosaari will be the Commissioner working with the Controller on the union negotiations.

New Business

1 REL Loan Application. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Revolving Loan Fund loan to REL Inc.. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

2. Snow removal bids. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to accept the low bid from LJJ and to contract for the six month option of \$11,700.00.

3. UPCAP request for resolution supporting the UPEDA. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution as submitted. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Severance Agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the severance agreement with Neil Hayrynen. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. IGT Authorizing Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. Houghton County Transfer Station Construction

a. Request for approval of 3rd Pay Estimate

b. Request for approval of MJO Change Order #2

c. Request for approval of Summary of Payments Due and Approved

d. Request for approval of Estimate of Funds Needed

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Transfer Station payment requests as listed above. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Board of Canvassers appointments. The Commissioners voted on the Democratic and Republican nominations as submitted by the party chairs for appointment to the Board of

Canvassers for a term of November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2015. Elected were Mary Wiitanen for the Democratic seat and Diane Gutshall for the Republican seat.

8. Appropriations

a. NACo dues - \$775.00 A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the appropriation as listed above. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Larry Corrigan was in the audience and addressed the Board with his concern of the tree die off in various areas in the County. He stated the major tree die off centers around Torch Lake and the lagoon systems. He stated it does not matter if the lagoons are covered, vented or open, the die off of nearby trees is found. The commissioners advised him to contact Representative Huuki to address the problem.

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

Edward Jenich, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk