

**Regular Meeting
October 13, 2009**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 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 Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the minutes as presented of the September 15, Regular Meeting and the Special Meetings held on September 23, September 24, and September 30. 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 presented. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment none

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve paying the bills submitted of vouchers #119069 through #119145 for a total of \$72,070.34, along with the late bills of \$5,683.30 for a grand total of \$77,753.64. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence none

Reports

Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Copper Country Mental Health/Great Lakes Mental Health Conference, the 911 Advisory Board, the Houghton County Airport, the Veterans Affairs Office, and he attended the U.P. Association of County Commissioners Conference.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: The Copper Country Trail Committee, and the Western U.P. Michigan Works Administration Board.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region, the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund, B-H-K Headstart, and the Portage Lake Multi Rec.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Medical Care, Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, he attended a poverty summit, UPCAP will meet on Oct. 15, National Park work sessions, and the Western U.P. Health Dept.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission and met with the Court House Union to start new contract.

County Officers

Eric Forsberg announced that he thought the County would do well with the budget that was passed for the County Jail Reimbursement Program, but found out the Governor vetoed the whole program, so he doesn't know where the County stands now.

Kathy Beattie said the Tax Sale will be held in Marquette on October 19. The Land Bank met and the Land Bank is interested in purchasing one of the tax foreclosure properties. She would like the County to purchase the property and sell it to the Land Bank to keep it off the Tax Sale. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala to purchase parcel #31-001-700-033 for the minimum bid of \$900.00 dollars and sell it to the Land Bank for the same amount. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Dennis Hext stated there have been a lot of questions about the air service and as to when the DOT will make their decision. He said they are supposed to make their decision by October 15.

New Business

1. Board of Canvassers election. Mary Schoos stated the Republican and Democratic parties have each submitted 3 names to allow the Commissioners to elect one candidate for each party to the Board of Canvassers. She asked the Commissioners to vote on the ballots they were given. The names submitted by the Republican Party were Janell Huuki, Marge Nyman, and Francis Lide. The names submitted by the Democratic Party were Clarence McDonald, Rick Kasprzak, and Carol Kurz.

2. AARA Grant Application. Kim Stoker from WUPPDR was present to ask Houghton County to be the sponsor on a grant application for some American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA) funds. The grant if received would fund a feasibility study regarding linking the U.P. with a telecommunication network. It is geared to save travel time and cost. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to allow the Chairman, Paul Luoma to sign any documents necessary to apply for the grant to do the feasibility study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. Ambulance bids. Eric stated that the grant application went through Houghton County for the purchase of a new ambulance. There were 3 bids submitted. Holden & Holden, Ltd for \$112,979.00, Rolland Specialty Vehicles and Products Inc. for \$121,511.00 and Pomasl Fire Equipment for \$119,985.00. The purchaser, Mercy EMS, Gerald Primeau, has asked if the Board would approve the lowest bid. It has to then go onto Rural Development for their approval. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the low bid from Holden & Holden of \$112,979.00. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Houghton County Land Bank request. Commissioner Luoma stated this was taken care of at the time of County Officers Reports.

5. Employee grievance – County Board step. The attorneys asked that they be put last on the agenda for the convenience of others.

6. Appropriations

a. Coordinating Agency – ½ Liquor Tax - \$35,153.50

b. ICA (Health Department) - \$34,852.20

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the appropriations as listed above. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to go into closed session for the employee grievance. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to come out of closed session. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A discussion was held and Commissioner Pintar stated he felt termination was too strict a penalty for the action. Commissioner Ala agreed with Commissioner Pintar. Commissioner Pintar made a motion to rescind the termination and the employee be reinstated. It was added with an appropriate penalty other than termination, to be worked out between Ms. Kump and her supervisor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. Discussion followed. The motion carried by the following vote.
YES: Pintar, Ala, Jenich, Barrette, Luoma 5.
NO: None 0.

Dave Mechlin stated he understood that Mr. Forsberg has a letter from the Judge. Mr. Forsberg said he has not opened the letter, but understands that the Judge's final decision is not to take Ms. Kump back. If the Board is to take her back, they will have to create a position for her. Mr. Forsberg stated the Court is its own employer, the County is allowed the process in our employee policy but it is the Judge's final say.

Mary Schoos stated in the tally of the Board of Canvassers vote, Clarence McDonald and Marge Nyman were elected.

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

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk