

Regular / Public Hearing
October 21, 2008

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular / Public Hearing Meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2008 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, 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.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing was open for the Houghton County ORV Ordinance No. 08-01. He asked for public comments. Beckie Faulkner from Duncan Township expressed her concern that recreation will be restricted if ORV's are not allowed to use the roads to access gas stations and trails. Kevin Harju, from the Houghton County Road Commission was present. He stated the Road Commission has the authority to restrict 30% of the primary roads for ORV traffic. ORV's must travel in the maintained portion of the roadway, which is not the shoulder of the road. A discussion followed and questions were answered. With no further comment or questions, Commissioner Luoma announce the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Luoma announced the Public Hearing was open for the Houghton County Planning Commission Ordinance No. 08-02. He asked for public comment. There being none, he announced the Public Hearing was closed.

Commissioner Luoma announced there was an addition to the agenda of Number 10 under New Business, for GIS Contracting. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to approve the agenda with the addition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried with a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment – None

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich to approve paying the bills submitted of vouchers #109915 thru #110013 for a total of \$151,217.17, along with the late bills submitted of \$3,502.61, for a grand total of \$154,719.78. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence – None

Reports – Standing Committee

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: The UP Association of County Commissioners Fall Conference, Houghton County Airport, Local Emergency Planning Committee, Western UP District Health Department, and Township Association meeting.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: The Houghton County Planning Commission, Houghton – Keweenaw Conservation District, Copper Country Trail Committee, and his attendance at a WUPPDR – MDOT Rural Transportation Planning meeting.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Michigan Works, Headstart, The UP Association of County Commissioners Fall Conference and the Great Start Program.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Commission on Aging, Houghton County Medical Care, Keweenaw National Park, WUPPDR meeting, Community Partnership Program, The Michigan Sheriffs Association Conference, and Houghton County Finance Committee.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: The UP Association of County Commissioners Fall Conference, The Houghton County Road Commission, and the Western UP Substance Abuse.

County Officers

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, reported to the Board stating the remaining pieces of property left from the tax sale were sold on the 10th at the tax sale in Marquette.

John Pekkala, Houghton County Drain Commissioner, reported to the Board regarding the Soil Erosion Program in Houghton County. Mr. Pekkala gave specific numbers of permits issued, inspections made and additional inspections required to administer the program. He reported that the permit fees have generated \$6,600 and it has cost \$4,800 to administer the program. He stated the permit fees are adequately funding the Soil Erosion Program.

New Business

1. Ordinance No. 08-01, ORV Ordinance. Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve the Houghton County ORV Ordinance No. 08-01 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion passed by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Ordinance No. 08-02, Planning commission Ordinance. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the Houghton County Planning Commission Ordinance No. 08-02 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion passed by the following vote.

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

NO: NO 0.

3. Request for financial assistance for purchase of rescue vehicle. Donald Bausano, Chief of the Calumet Township Fire Department was present to remind the Board they were told that they would be next in receiving help for the funding of a rescue vehicle. Mr. Bausano gave an estimate of \$35,000 for the cost of a rescue vehicle. They have raised some funds and donations toward the vehicle. A discussion followed and Eric stated they could be eligible for a Rural Development grant which would pay for 40% of the cost. Commissioner Jenich stated he would like to make some calls and connections. He would like to see up front what donations can be raised and what amount the County would be required to give before making any commitments. He would like to bring it back to the Board in November or December.

4. Request for change in recognition of 2008 Christmas and New Years Holidays. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the union request to change the days off for the Christmas and New Year Holiday to December 25, 26 and January 1, 2 to allow 2 four day weekends. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Request for appointment to W.U.P. Planning & Development Regional Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to appoint Dallas Bond to the WUPPDR Commission to fill Houghton County's open general public slot. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Resolution for adoption of Benefit Program E. A motion by Commissioner Jenich was made to approve the resolution to adopt Benefit Program E Increase for retirees and beneficiaries in Division 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Resolution for Indigent Care Agreement. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich to approve the Indigent Care Agreement Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Appropriations

a. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$16,392.00. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the appropriation of the budgeted amount of \$16,392.00 to the Western U.P. District Health Department. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

b. National Association of Counties dues - \$775.00. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to not pay the appropriation of \$775.00 for dues to the National Association of Counties. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

9. Travel Requests. Commissioner Ala made a motion to approve the travel request for Dan Kipina. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

10. GIS Contract. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the contract with WUPPDR to maintain and update the current County parcel mapping and the 911 parcel mapping. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment

Commissioner Jenich reminded everyone there will be a meeting October 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the multi purpose building in Calumet regarding the Emerald Ash Borer.

Commissioner Pintar made a motion to adjourn. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk