

**Regular Meeting  
November 9, 2010**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 to approve the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Jenich. 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 submitted. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

**Public Comment**

Carolyn Peterson, William Predebon, and George Dewey were present and each expressed their interest to be involved if a committee would continue to plan for the Justice Center. They were advised to contact Sheriff McLean.

Commissioner Luoma stated he feels it would be wise to continue with the jail committee.

Commissioner Ala said the election has made people aware of the need of a new jail. He agreed that the people should get involved.

Commissioner Jenich thanked the people that were involved on the Justice Center Committee.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve paying the bills of vouchers #124135 thru #124221 for a total of \$95,574.77, along with the late bill submitted of \$50,015.86 for a grand total of \$145,590.63. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence None was brought up.

**Reports Standing Committee**

Commissioner Barrette reported to the Board on the following: Western U.P. Board of Health, Houghton County Memorial Airport, Mental Health Services Board / Rice Foundation Board joint meeting, 911 Advisory Board Meeting, and Portage Lake Lift Bridge Planning Group.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Law Enforcement Committee, he attended numerous Justice Center presentations, Copper Country Trail National Byway Committee, and the Western U. P. Resource and Development Council.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: attended an open house for OHM, B-H-K Headstart meeting, Houghton County Revolving Loan Board, Michigan Works, and Portage Lake Multi Rec.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Commission on Aging, he will attend the KEDA meeting on Nov. 10, National Park Advisory Board Meeting, and Dept. of Human Services / Medical Care.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission and Western U.P. Substance Abuse.

#### County Officers

Eric Forsberg, Houghton County Controller, stated that the dollar amount on the health insurance will increase by \$210,000.00. They met with the insurance rep and three of the unions. He said they will have to look into making some major changes to the health insurance.

#### New Business

1. MEDC Technical Assistance Program – Kim Stoker. Kim Stoker from WUPPDR was present and asked the Board to approve a resolution of support for the continuation of the MEDC technical assistance funding which has been provided to the three Upper Peninsula Regional Planning Commissions. He stated they have been funded since 1999 with a technical assistance grant which allows them to help communities write CDBG grants. He said there is a possibility that this may be cut and he is asking the Counties he works with to support the continuation of the funding. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve a resolution of support. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Mr. Stoker continued to update the Board on UP Link and video conferencing. He said he was asked to show a return on investment for all of his members. He stated for Houghton County, made up of the County, Houghton and Hancock Cities, and Calumet and Portage Townships, for a 5 year period from 2005 to 2010 the investment was \$94,426 and the return was \$13,578.530.

2. Appointment to the Houghton County Planning Commission. Commissioner Pintar made a motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Ala, to appoint Jonathan Leinonen to the Houghton County Planning Commission to fill the vacancy. The partial term will end December 31, 2011. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. Appointment to the Houghton County Department of Human Service Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to appoint Christy Hilgers to the Houghton County Department of Human Services Board. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Contract extension-Houghton County Sheriff's Deputies. Eric Forsberg stated that when the issue came up with MERS and having to pay up front for Benefit E, the Sheriff's Union was approached to see if they would be willing to rework their contract to help pay for this. They agreed to reduce their pay raise that is scheduled for next year from 4% to 2% and take that over 2 years in exchange for a 2% increase in 2013 and they also agreed to freeze their opt out at the 2010 level. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the contract extension. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

#### 5. Appropriations

a. Substance Abuse Services Coordinating Agency – ½ of liquor tax \$23,417.

b. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50.

c. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$30,089.54.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the appropriations as listed. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

#### 6. Travel Requests

a. Dennis Lasanen – Houghton County Building Department.

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

Public Comment

George Dewey questioned what the status is regarding the sale of the lot and is the County accepting offers. Eric stated there is an offer coming. Commissioner Luoma stated that as it is zoned, if it is not a government building it would have to get the City of Houghton's zoning approval.

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

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Paul Luoma, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk