

**Regular Meeting
November 10, 2009**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 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 to approve the Board meeting minutes as presented for the month of October. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of #7 Apportionment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comment Kristopher Tapani was present from Big T Towing. He expressed his concern that he is not getting called out by the sheriff department when accidents need towing. He also said Coon's and Dave's Towing have the same complaint. Commissioner Jenich said he will look into the matter and have the sheriff or himself get back to him.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve paying the bills submitted of vouchers #119412 through #119504 for a total of \$60,244.79, along with the late bills of \$35,037.72 for a grand total of \$95,282.51. 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: Western Upper Peninsula Health Department, Houghton County Memorial Airport, and Copper Country Mental Health.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Soil Conservation District, Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Planning Commission, Copper Country Trail Committee, and attended a meeting with WUPPDR/MDOT for Rural Transportation Planning.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Fair Board, Portage Lake Multi Rec., Michigan Works, and MSU Extension Funding.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw National Park Advisory Board, Commission on Aging, Smelter Committee, attended a ceremony honoring Douglas Houghton and the cancellation stamp the Houghton Post Office will use in his honor, Law Enforcement Committee, and met with the Controller and Department Heads regarding finances.

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

County Officers

John Pekkala, Houghton County Drain Commissioner gave his annual report.

New Business

1. WUPPDR Annual Community Economic Development Strategy Resolution. A motion was made by Commissioner Barrette to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. Commissioner Pintar stated he has been assured by Kim

Stoker that in the Workforce Development portion, Michigan Works and Michigan Works training session programs will be included in the listings. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Resolution for adoption of MERS COLA adjustment. Eric informed the Board that they have been approving this every year for the Sheriff Department and every other year for the remainder of the County employees. He was notified by MERS that because they are less than 80% funded that the adoption of a cost of living adjustment is considered an increase in benefits and they will no longer allow this. He was told verbally by the MERS rep. that because the Sheriff Dept contract does not expire until the end of 2011 to send it through. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the resolution for the retiree cost-of-living benefit program for unit 02 Sheriff Department. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Resolution for purchase of additional years of service from MERS. Eric stated that Edward Lemler would like to purchase additional service years. The Board has to approve the purchase of additional years in order for this to be done. It is no cost to the County, the employee pays the full amount. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the resolution to allow Edward Lemler to purchase additional service years. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Re-appointment to Houghton County Planning Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to re-appoint Guy St. Germain and Susan Burack to the Houghton County Planning Commission for 3 year terms ending December 31, 2012. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Appropriations

a. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

b. NACo Dues \$775.00

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

6. Travel Requests

a. Dennis Lasanen & Ronald Ekdahl – Building Department. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the travel requests as listed. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Apportionment. John Partanen, Houghton County Equalization Director, presented the Annual Appropriation Report for 2009. John explained how the report is read and how it shows the different taxable units of government and schools and the amount of taxable valuations and millages for each unit. A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the 2009 Apportionment Report as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comment None

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

Paul Luoma, Chairman

Mary Schoos, Clerk