

Regular Meeting  
November 13, 2007

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 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, 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.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, and seconded by Commissioner Barrette to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2007, Regular Meeting. The motion was carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Barrette requested an addition be made to the agenda under New Business, #7. Truck Bids. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Jenich to approve the agenda with the addition as requested. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Pubic Comment None

A motion was made by Commissioner Jenich and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills of vouchers # 105919 thru # 106028 along with the late bills presented for a total of \$104,640.36. 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: U.P. MAC Conference in Baraga, Houghton County Memorial Airport, 911 Advisory Committee, and Copper Country Mental Health.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Soil Conservation District, U.P. Association of County Commissioners Fall Conference, The Houghton County Planning Commission, and The Copper Country Trails Advisory Board.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Annual meeting of Rice Memorial Foundation, Michigan Works, Portage Lake Multi Rec., B-H-K Head Start, and The Houghton County Fair Board.

Commissioner Jenich reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw National Historical Park, Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, UPCAP, WUPPDR, Houghton County Medical Care, Western U.P. District Health, Houghton County Finance, and Law Enforcement Committee.

Commissioner Luoma reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission.

County Officers Reports

Kathy Beattie stated land owners have been calling regarding being contacted by a company called Assets Holdings LLC. They are based out of Scottsdale, Arizona. They are offering purchase agreements to property owners. She wanted to warn people to be careful of what they sign.

Eric Forsberg said they have been negotiating with unions and things are progressing.

Commissioner Barrette spoke regarding Jack Dueweke, being involved with a committee representing Region 8 which is the entire U.P. They had an opportunity to participate in a Public Safety Interoperable Communications Grant. 1.3 million was given to each of the regions. The U.P. was one of those regions to receive that money. It will be used for radios. There was an additional 9 million available to apply for. The committee that Jack was on was able to acquire 1.6 million of that 9. It will be used to connect all the dispatch centers in the U.P. If a problem would arise, calls would automatically transfer to the next nearest dispatch center.

#### New Business

1. Acceptance and awarding of bids for Rural Development patrol car grant. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to accept the bids as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to award the bid to Parkway Chevrolet for \$21,950.00 for an Impala and to Signature Ford for \$21,520.00 for an Explorer. The total is \$43,470.00. Houghton County's portion of that is \$19,561.50. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Jenich, Pintar, Barrette, Ala, Luoma 5.  
NO: None 0.

Sheriff McLean stated the balance of the grant will be used for in car video-DVD cameras. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the purchase and it was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Jenich, Pintar, Barrette, Ala, Luoma 5.  
NO: None 0.

2. Request for new Houghton County logo. There was a discussion and it was decided the Board would take the request under advisement.

3. Apportionment. John Partanen, Houghton County Equalization Director, was present to go over the presented 2007 Apportionment Report. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to approve the 2007 Apportionment Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

#### 4. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. Planning & Development Regional Commission \$2,459
- b. Copper Country Mental Health \$41,126
- c. Western U.P. District Health \$10,671.50

Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve appropriations to all three listed agencies for the allocated amounts stating they are all budgeted items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.  
YES: Jenich, Ala, Barrette, Pintar, Luoma 5.  
NO: None 0.

5. Benefit Program E. Eric Forsberg explained it has to be addressed every year regarding the increase of benefits for the retirees. The Sheriff Unit or Division 2 is every year, the Courthouse Unit or Division 11 is every other year, and the Non Union Division 10 and Judges and Comm Division 12 is every other year. He stated last year it was approved for Division 2 and Division 11. He is recommending the Board approve Divisions 2, 10, and 12 this year. Commissioner Ala made a motion to adopt MERS Benefit Program E for Division 2, Division 10, and Division 12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barrette. The motion was carried by the following vote.  
YES: Ala, Barrette, Jenich, Pintar, Luoma 5.  
NO: None 0.

6. Request for resolution – MSHDA P.I.P. Program. Commissioner Jenich made a motion to approve the MSHDA Property Improvement Program (PIP) Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pintar. Carried by the following vote.  
YES: Jenich, Pintar, Barrette, Ala, Luoma 5.

NO: None 0.

7. Truck bids. Commissioner Barrette stated they received three complete bids for the new trucks for the Airport and Transfer Station. The bids were for a ¾ ton diesel for the Airport and a ¾ ton regular for the Transfer Station. The lowest bid of \$68,434 for both trucks was from Parkway Chevrolet. Commissioner Barrette made a motion to award the bid to Parkway Chevrolet. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

#### Public Comment

Phil Musser mentioned that KEDA gave out their annual awards. There were three Sterling Awards given this year.

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

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Paul Luoma, Chairman

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Mary Schoos, Clerk