

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 10, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, July 10, 2018, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Koskela.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; and Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing/Regular Meeting dated June 19, 2018 as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Koskela requested #8 be added to the Agenda to change the October Board of Commissioner's meeting. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, requested #7c for Travel request be added for Ginger Sulisz, 97th District Court Magistrate.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Agenda with the two (2) additions as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,008,064.20 as presented. The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Chairman Koskela wished to give recognition to Eric Forsberg, Chris VanArsdale and Commissioner Palosaari for all of their hard work since the flood on Father's Day. All Commissioners agreed to this recognition.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: WUPPDR, and informed the Board that Paul Kempainen, Hancock Township Supervisor has passed away.

Commissioner Pintar had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: City of Houghton Council meeting.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the Houghton County Fair that is currently scheduled to be on August 23-26, 2018.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Kevin Harju, Houghton County Road Commission, addressed the Board regarding the updates on the roads in Houghton County. He stated 15 roads are still impassible. The Road Commission is continuing to work with MDOT on projects and they are waiting on Federal Highway and FEMA for funding.

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, advised the Board that the county car, boilers and hot water heaters were totaled or destroyed by the flood along with the carpeting, drywall, and Court records in the basement. The cost was approximately \$92,000.00 for the company to come and take the files, and to restore the records was \$440,000.00. The County will not pay for digitizing the records. The insurance company is handling the claim for the Court records.

New Business:

1. Jail Addition Ballot Language

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the jail addition ballot language as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen, Palosaari 5.

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Pintar asked if drainage would be addressed for the jail addition. Karin Cooper stated it would be dealt with.

2. Houghton County Land Bank Request

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, addressed the Board and explained the process for the four (4) tax foreclosed parcels.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Houghton County Land Bank request as presented.

The Board had some discussion regarding the process.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. UPCAP Annual Implementation Plan request for support

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adopt the Resolution for the UPCAP Annual Implementation Plan as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Janssen, Palosaari 5.

NO: None 0.

4. Request to Change E-911 Bylaws

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint the Houghton County Emergency Measures Director, as a permanent member on the 911 Committee.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

5. Houghton County Recreation Authority

Commissioner Pintar explained to the Board that a group is trying to make a trail from Chassell to Painesdale. They plan to create a separate Recreation Authority. The Houghton-Keweenaw Recreation Authority already exists. Commissioner Palosaari mentioned that the group prefers to establish a separate Recreation Authority solely for the purpose of creating a snowmobile trail from Chassell to Painesdale.

The current members of the Houghton-Keweenaw Recreation Authority have three (3) year terms and are supposed to have staggered three (3) year terms. Commissioner Tikkanen will contact Paul Lehto regarding the members terms for the Authority and report to Commissioner Pintar. Commissioner Palosaari stated a group has been trying for 15 years to have this trail done. The DNR is willing to contribute money to this trail, and will discuss this further at their next month's meeting. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, stated the Houghton-Keweenaw Recreation Authority has not been active.

6. Appropriations

- a. MAC Dues - \$5,343.64
- b. Copper Country Mental Health -\$54,831.64
- c. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$64,912.75

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Appropriations.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.

NO: None 0.

7. Travel Requests

- a. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer's Office
- b. MAC 2018 Annual Conference
- c. Ginger Sulisz – 97th District Court, Magistrate's Office

The Board agreed that Commissioners Janssen, Koskela, Palosaari and Eric Forsberg, Administrator, would attend the MAC Annual Conference. Commissioner Tikkanen will be an alternate.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests and the Commissioners/Administrator to attend the annual conference.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

8. Change October 2018 Board of Commissioner Meeting

The Board discussed changing the October 2018 due to a conflict in the Chairman's schedule.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to change the October 9, 2018 meeting to October 16, 2018.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adjourn at 5:35 p.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk