

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 16, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, October 16, 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; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Public Hearing-Houghton County Emergency Repair Program

Open hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to open the public hearing.

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, went over the income based CBG program and explained the \$38,003 balance available for roof repairs. WUPPRD administers this program. Upon questioning from Commissioner Janssen, it was explained that the decision as to how these funds were to be spent were made before the Father's Day Flood.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to close the public hearing.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated September 11, 2018 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Tikkanen asked that #8 be added to the Agenda for the Health Department.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda with the addition of #8 to the Agenda for the Health Department 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 Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$2,342,194.41 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

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

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: WUPPDR, Houghton County Planning Commission, Western Upper Peninsula Health Board, and Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: A ceremony he attended at the Colosseum in Calumet, MI Works/Upward Talent, and the Solid Waste Committee.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the following: MDOT sewer problem at the airport, and the Houghton County Jail addition.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, reported to the Board that the recent Sun Country charter flight enplaned 262 people. The next charter trip will be from 11/21/18-11/24/18 for \$369.00.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Emergency Repair Program Guidelines

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to support the Houghton County Emergency Repair Program Guidelines as presented.

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

2. Resolution regarding 2017 Rice Lake Special Assessment Roll

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the 2017 Rice Lake Special Assessment Roll as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.
NO: None 0.

3. Resolution regarding 2017 Twin Lakes Special Assessment Roll

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained that this is for the maintenance of the structures. John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, stated that beavers do damage.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Resolution of the 2017 Twin Lakes Special Assessment Roll as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Palosaari 5.
NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Equalization

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, explained that the 2018 tax request rate should be amended from the August 2018 election.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the new 2018 tax rate as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen Palosaari, Koskela, Pintar, Janssen 5.
NO: None.

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, asked that the Apportionment Report be approved.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adopt the Apportionment Report as presented.

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

The Apportionment Report may be amended again after the November 2018 election stated Cheryl Patrick.

5. Resolution in support of Ojibwa Correctional Facility

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the Resolution to the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Resolution in support of the Ojibwa Correctional Facility as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 5.
NO: None.

6. Appropriations

- a. Copper Country Mental health - \$41,123.73
- b. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$65,147.50

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

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

7. Travel Requests

None.

8. Health Department

Commissioner Tikkanen advised the Board that the charge of \$80 and a \$45 late fee by the Health Department for small organizations to hold functions may be too high. He is requesting a more reasonable fee be looked at for the small organizations.

Public Comments:

Horst Schmitt addressed the Board.

Announcements:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, commented about the Marshall Kipina Day.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn at 5:50 p.m.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk