

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was opened by the County Clerk, Jennifer Lorenz.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following commissioners responded to roll call: Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

The first order of business was to elect a Chairman. Commissioner Palosaari made a motion to nominate Commissioner Koskela and Commissioner Londo seconded the motion. The clerk called for any other nominations. There were none. A voice vote was called on the nomination. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Commissioner Koskela was elected Chairman. The meeting was then turned over to the Chairman, Commissioner Koskela.

The Chairman announced the next order of business was to elect a Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Londo nominated Commissioner Palosaari and Commissioner Koskela seconded the motion. The Chairman called for any other nominations. There being none, the Chairman asked for one unanimous vote for Commissioner Palosaari. A voice vote was called on the nomination. Ayes 5, Nays 0. Commissioner Palosaari was elected Vice-Chairman.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the minutes of the December 9th, 2014, Regular Meeting. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda: Controller, Eric Forsberg requested a bill from UPPCAP be added to the agenda for \$1,100.00 for the annual dues.

Public Comments:

Andrew Kemper from Moyle Construction spoke to the Board regarding concerns he had regarding turning down the Houghton County Medical Care Facility job.

John Haeussler welcomed the re-elected Commissioners and welcomed Commissioner Londo and the new County Clerk. Mr. Haeussler wanted the Board to recognize Bill Hodges for his 6 years of service on the Land Bank Authority Board and the wonderful work he performed. Mr. Haeussler also requested that he be able to serve a third term for the Land Bank Authority and recommended Tom Tikkanen for the second position.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve paying the bills submitted as voucher #142984 through #143097 for a total of \$144,514.47 along with the late bills of \$9,819.76 for a total of \$154,334.23. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Londo, Koskela, Ala. 5

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

City Council Notice of Public Hearing; Commissioner Pintar questioned if someone from the Board should attend. Controller, Eric Forsberg, informed the board that the realtor will be attending the meeting.

The Board discussed the Tax Exemption for Franklin Township.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Copper Country Trail National Byway Committee, WUPPDR, Houghton County Planning Commission, MI Works Manpower Consortium, and Workforce Development Board.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: Public welcome to attend a “media blast” on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 11:00 am in the Circuit Court regarding the remaining 50 counties for the Georgetown Grant. Commissioner Ala also reported on a Health Department issue.

Commissioner Palosaari reported to the Board on the following: Nothing to report.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Nothing to report.

New Business:

1. Meeting dates/times. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the meeting dates as submitted. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

2. Rules of Order. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Londo to have the Chairman serve a two (2) year term. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

A Motion to accept the Rules with the new change was made by Commissioner Palossari and seconded by Commissioner Ala. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

3. Commissioner Committee Appointments. Mental Health: A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Ala to re-elect current representative, Commissioner Koskela, to the Mental Health Board. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

District Health: Commissioner Ala and Commissioner Pintar requested staying on this Board. Commissioner Palossari made a Motion to have Commissioner Ala and Commissioner Pintar to continue on this Board, and Commissioner Londo be appointed to the District Health Board. Commissioner Londo seconded the motion. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

4. Regional Prosperity Initiative: Kim Stoker spoke to the board regarding the status of this plan. Jeff Ratcliffe from KEDA spoke to the board. Laura Marohnic, Regional Director for SBDC also spoke to the board.

5. Request for appointment to WUPPDR Board. Kim Stoker recommended Cherilyn Lampinen to be a full voting member. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to appoint Cherilyn Lampinen to be a full voting member. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

6. Appointment to Houghton County Planning Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Londo to appoint Robert Loukus for a three (3) year term. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

7. Appointment to the Houghton County Land Bank Authority. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to appoint John Haeussler and Thomas Tikkanen for three (3) year terms. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

8. Houghton County 4-H request for plat book ad. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Londo to purchase the ad. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Ala, Palosaari, 5.

NO: None. 0

9. Commissioner's mileage reimbursement. A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay mileage from the Commissioner's home address. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

10. DHS Building short-term rental request. A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to rent the building to Northern Mutual Insurance Company for 2-3 months. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

11. Appropriations. A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and supported by Commissioner Palosaari to approve appropriation requests for Copper Country Mental Health \$41,123.73, WUPPDR \$2,866.50, UPCAP \$1,100.00, and UPEDA for \$500.00. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

12. Travel Requests. A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the travel request for Kathleen Beattie, County Treasurer. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Dennis Hext commented on a charter leaving the airport on February 9-13, 2015.

John Partanen addressed the board on the County's portion is under \$300 per year regarding the Franklin Township Tax Exemption.

John Haeussler thanked the board for his appointment to the Land Bank Authority.

Announcements:

None.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk

