

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 15, 2016**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, in the 12th Circuit Courtroom 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:

Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4.

Timothy Palosaari, District 5 was absent.

Public Hearing-DNR Recreation Passport Grant Application

Open hearing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Londo to open the hearing.

Discussion and Public Comment:

Mike Schira, representing Portage Lake Multi-Educational Services Board, addressed the Board.

Close Hearing:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar and seconded by Commissioner Londo to close the hearing.

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Ala 4.

NO: None. 0

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting and the February 26, 2016 Special Meeting as presented.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Koskela stated Item K would be moved to Item G on the Agenda.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda with the change as amended.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Old Business:

Houghton County Medical Care Facility Millage

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to have the Houghton County Medical Care Facility millage renewal be 2.55310 for six (6) years which shall appear on the August 2, 2016 ballot.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Londo, Koskela, Ala. 4

NO: None. 0

Public Comments:

John Ollila addressed the Board.

Bob Langseth addressed the Board.

Suzanne VanDam addressed the Board.

Kim Clouthier addressed the Board.

Alex Meyr addressed the Board.

Rick Kasprzak addressed the Board.

Lynn Taavola addressed the Board.

Valerie Beeman addressed the Board.

Gerald Perreault addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,946,656.51. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Londo, Ala, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: None. 0

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Londo had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Airport and the Houghton County Jail.

New Business:

1. Remonumentation contract approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Remonumentation contract as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Pintar, Londo, Koskela. 4

NO: None. 0

2. Western U.P. Consortium Pension Liability

Administrator, Eric Forsberg, explained to the Board the Attorney's response to withdraw from the Consortium.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to have the Administrator, Eric Forsberg, send a letter to all entities stating Houghton County would be withdrawing from the Consortium.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

3. Jail Kitchen Project

The Board discussed the jail project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to continue with the jail renovations project.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Londo, Pintar, Koskela, Ala 4.

NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Arena

Commissioner Ala explained to the Board the issues needing to be addressed at the Houghton County Arena. The Board discussed the importance of getting a qualified engineer/architect to look into these issues at the Houghton County Arena.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to begin receiving bids and the qualifications from engineers/architects for the Houghton County Arena project.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Ala, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

5. Recreation Passport Grant Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to accept the Recreation Passport Grant Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Ala, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

6. MERS Resolution and Plan Adoption Agreements

Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, advised the Board on the differences of the MERS groups.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adopt the MERS Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Ala, Londo, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: None 0

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adopt the MERS Plan for the new hires in the Courthouse and Airport Unions along with all

Appointed/Elected positions and new County Commissioners to a defined contribution pension plan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Londo, Pintar, Koskela, Ala 4.

NO: None 0.

7. Houghton County Seal

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to adopt the new Houghton County Seal as presented.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

8. Mental Health Resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to accept the Mental Health Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

9. Appropriations

- a. Western U.P. Health Department - \$53,195.50
- b. Houghton Energy Efficiency Team - \$1,500.00

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Ala, Pintar, Londo, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

10. Travel Requests

- a. Brenda Cadwell – Houghton County Friend of Court
- b. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer
- c. Dr. Dawn Nulf, Nanette Schaefer – Medical Examiner’s Office
- d. Houghton County Building Department
- e. U.P. Solid Waste Forum

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests.

The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Gerald Perreault addressed the Board.

John Ollila addressed the Board.

Bob Langseth addressed the Board.

Melissa Davis, HEET, addressed the Board.

Brian Bonen addressed the Board.

Commissioner Ala will address the issues regarding Mr. Bonen’s complaint.

Richard Knapp addressed the Board.

Commissioner Ala will address the issues regarding Mr. Knapp’s complaint.

Evan McDonald addressed the Board.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn at 5:53 pm. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk