

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 6, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 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: Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; Scott Ala, District 4 and Timothy Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve the October 6, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, advised the Board that #3 should be stricken under New Business from the Agenda due to the ad being in the Gazette one more time.

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala, to approve the agenda and strike #3 under New Business for the Houghton County Planning Commission applications.

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

Public Comments:

Dave Olson, Regional Marketing Director from Aspirus informed the Board that Dr. Peter Vaitkevicius, Cardiologist, has joined Aspirus Clinic full-time. Dr. Vaitkevicius introduced himself and addressed the Board.

John Beck, Otter Lake property owner addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Otter Lake Dam Grant and the Dam Committee. Commissioner Palosaari and Drain Commissioner Pekkala discussed the grant and advised that this is a matter for the Dam Committee, not the Board of Commissioners.

Edward Laitila, Otter Lake property owner, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the Otter Lake Dam and the Dam Committee. Commissioner Pintar and Drain Commissioner Pekkala discussed the 2013 Grant application and stated a Petition needs to be completed by two-thirds of the property owners.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve paying bills of \$ 1,874,726.02. .

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

Keweenaw Scrap property in Painesdale regarding flooding, Western Upper Peninsula Health Board, and the Keweenaw Conservation District. Commissioner Pintar thanked Kevin Harju, Kathleen Beattie, Jim Pintar and Eric Forsberg for their help in fixing this problem. Kathy Beattie, County Treasurer, discussed issues regarding the Painesdale property.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following:

Portage Lake Multi Ed, a group of individuals who run the Houghton County arena and operate it, will begin a fundraising group and will start fundraising for repairs on the Houghton County Arena.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following:

Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, and Coppers (formerly PCI). Commissioner Koskela, Jack Dueweke and Todd Laroux attended a presentation at Coppers.

New Business:

1. Resolution authorizing County Drain Commissioner to maintain Twin Lakes lake level.

Drain Commissioner, John Pekkala, addressed the Board and advised the Board of the October 13, 2015 Order signed by Chief Circuit Court Judge, Charles Goodman, for a summer high and a winter low level. He is recommending option #3.

Commissioner Palossari asked about possible vandalism with the boards. Drain Commissioner Pekkala stated it is a misdemeanor to touch the boards.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Resolution authorizing the County Drain Commissioner to maintain the Twin Lakes lake level.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

2. Purchase Agreement-Houghton County Airpark Lot 23.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the Purchase Agreement at the Houghton County Airpark Lot 23.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

3. Houghton County Planning Commission applications.

This was stricken from the Agenda due to an additional ad running in the Gazette in November.

4. MDOT Permit.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari, to approve the MODT Permit and make Houghton County be the permit holder.

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

5. County Apportionment.

John Partanen, Equalization Director, addressed the Board and explained and discussed in great detail the handout that each Commissioner was given.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the County Apportionment as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

6. MEDC Community Block Grant.

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director for KEDA, addressed the Board and advised on the 50% grant towards a study of the sewer system at the Houghton County Airpark.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the MEDC Community Block Grant as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

7. Appropriations

a. Western UP District Health Department - \$53,195.50

b. Western UP Planning & Development Region - \$2,866.50

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to pay the appropriations of \$53,195.50 to the Western UP District Health Department and \$2,866.50 to the Western UP Planning & Development Region.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None.

Public Comments:

Evan McDonald, Houghton County Planning Commission Chairman, addressed the Board regarding the Houghton County Planning Commission applications.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk