

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public hearing and Regular meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Absent: District 3; Scott Ala.

Public Hearing-Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund Loan

Open hearing:

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

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

Jeff Ratcliffe, Executive Director with Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance, informed the Board of the \$48,000 5 year starter loan for a daycare for 24 toddler/infants in Hancock.

Close Hearing:

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the Organizational/Regular Meeting dated January 10, 2017 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Evan McDonald with the Houghton County Planning Commission addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,030,969.45 as presented. The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, 4.

NO: None. 0

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen had nothing to report to the Board.

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

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the U.P. energy meeting that he attended in Marquette.

County Officers:

Sheriff, Brian McLean, addressed the Board stating the amount of inmates in jail was over the capacity. The capacity is 28, and the jail currently has 39 inmates, and 13 at the work camp.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, addressed the Board regarding the City of Houghton turning over their building permits to Houghton County.

New Business:

1. Revolving Loan Fund – Request for approval/resolution

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Resolution as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: None. 0

2. Medical Care Facility Renovation

Tammi Lehto, Administrator, and Jim Heikkinen, Project Manager, addressed the Board regarding the 18 month project. The ground breaking ceremony may be scheduled to be on March 13, 2017.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to sign the contract for the renovation as presented.

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

### 3. Resolution regarding Marina Grant Application

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the \$250,000 application/grant to the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to authorize the Resolution for the Grant Application as presented.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

### 4. Houghton County Land Bank Applications

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to re-appoint Glenn Anderson and James Hainault to the Houghton County Land Bank Board.

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

### 5. Copper Country Mental Health – Request for reappointments

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to reappoint Zach Edgerton, Carol Evers, and Kathleen Carlton Johnson to the Copper Country Mental Health Board.

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

### 6. Houghton County Arena

John Pietila addressed the Board regarding the Houghton County Arena Project.

The Board discussed questions and options with John Pietila.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to authorize the entire Houghton County Arena roof project to be sent out for bid.

The motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Koskela 3.

NO: Tikkanen, 1.

### 7. Houghton County Brownfield Committee applications

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to appoint all five (5) applicants to the Houghton County Brownfield Committee.

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

### 8. Judge Mark Wisti

Judge Mark Wisti addressed the Board on the overcrowding in the Jail, the horrible conditions of the jail, and the need for a new jail. He answered questions from the Board.

### 9. Appropriations

- a. U.P. RC&D Council - \$350.00
- b. Western U.P. Health Department - \$62,909.25

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 4.

NO: None. 0

7. Travel Request

- a. MAC Conference

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the above-mentioned Travel Request with approving Eric Forsberg, Chairman Koskela, Commissioner Palosaari and Commissioner Tikkanen to attend the MAC Conference.

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

Public Comments:

Evan McDonald with the Houghton County Planning Commission stated the overcrowded jail should be brought up at the next Planning Commission meeting. The Board agreed.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 pm. The motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk