

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2017**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2017, 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; Scott Ala, District 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Ala to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated June 13, 2017 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda and add #12 to discuss the jail and #13 to discuss committee appointments.

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

Public Comments:

Bill Terrell addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$917,917.47 as presented. The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Upward Talent.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: U.P. Economic Development Alliance, and the Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District.

Commissioner Ala reported to the Board on the following: NorthCare.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Director, addressed the Board regarding the Portage Lake Life Bridge. He stated many different agencies are working on several different emergency plans should the bridge not be accessible from one (1) hour to several months.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, addressed the Board regarding the 3 bids he received for the airport.

New Business:

1. Bill Lederer-Pilgrim River Watershed

Bill Lederer addressed the Board. Brad Carlson and Evan McDonald were also present. The Board asked questions.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Ala to send a letter of support for the Pilgrim Water Shed.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 1.

2. Contract for Recreation Plan update

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the contract for the Recreation Plan as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. UPCAP Annual Implementation Plan request for support

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the UPCAP Annual Implementation Plan.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Jury Board request for appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Ala to appoint Linda Neumann to the Houghton County Jury Board.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Request for return of sick leave

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to return 579.35 hours to the employees which is 54.63% of the total 1,060.5 hours donated by the employees.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None.

6. Request to change October meeting time

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to move the October 10th meeting to October 17th.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela 4.

NO: Ala 1.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to move the August 8th meeting to August 15th.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Houghton County Land Bank request

Kathleen Beattie, Houghton County Treasurer, addressed the Board and explained the Land Bank request.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve the Houghton County Land Bank request as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Marina Engineering Services Contract

Eric Forsberg explained the agreement to the Board.

George Kiiskila addressed the Board. He explained the contract has been approved by the DNR.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Marina Engineering Services Contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Lot sale

Eric Forsberg recommended to the Board that Lot 1, Block 3 in the City of Houghton be sold with a minimum bid of \$4,362.00.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to sell Lot 1, Block 3 at a minimum bid of \$4,362.00.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Appropriations

- a. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,123.73
- b. Western U.P. Health Department -\$62,909.25

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

11. Travel Requests

- a. Heather Cote – Friend of the Court Office
- b. Brenda Cadwell – Friend of the Court Office
- c. MAC Regional Summit
- d. Kathleen Beattie – Houghton County Treasurer
- e. Staci Kochan – Prosecutors Office

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the above-mentioned Travel Requests and approve three (3) people to attend the MAC Regional Summit.

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

12. Houghton County Jail

The Board discussed the Houghton County Jail.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to schedule a Special Meeting on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 12:00 pm to discuss the matter further.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

13. Committee appointments

The Board discussed their Committee appointments.

The Board will look at the Committee appointments in December before the Rules of Order are prepared for 2018.

Public Comments:

Ken Summers, Candidate for State Representative House District 110, addressed the Board.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adjourn at 6:12 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk