

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, 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; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated November 13, 2018 and the Committee of Whole Meeting dated December 4, 2018 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Palosaari requested #10 be added to the Agenda for the Treasurer Retirement.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda as presented with the one (1) addition.

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

Public Comments:

John Haeussler thanked Commissioner Palosaari and Commissioner Pintar for their years of service on the Board, and thanked Kathy Beattie for starting the Houghton County Lank Bank Authority, and praised her for all of her hard work and for starting the Land Bank Authority.

Glenn Anderson thanked Commissioner Palosaari, Commissioner Pintar, and Kathy Beattie.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 1,113,326,69 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, stated a letter was received from MEDC on a clean review of the Houghton County's Revolving Loan Fund program and praised Jeff Ratcliffe for a well maintained program.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Upward Talent Council and the Solid Waste Committee. There will be a public meeting for the Solid Waste Committee on Thursday, December 13th at 1:00 pm on the 5th floor of the courthouse.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following: Veterans Administration Forum.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: She thanked Commissioner Pintar and Palosaari and Kathy Beattie, and then reported on the Health Department.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Bridge Committee. Mercy Ambulance services may be in jeopardy in the future.

County Officers:

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk, announced that the Committee to Elect the Houghton County Treasurer which consisted of herself, Michael Makinen, Prosecuting Attorney, and Fraser Strome, Probate Judge have appointed Lisa Mattila as the new Houghton County Treasurer. Lisa will take her new position on January 1, 2019.

Kathy Beattie, County Treasurer, thanked the Board, and stated she enjoyed working for the County and starting the Houghton County Land Bank Authority.

Brian McLean, Sheriff, thanked Commissioner Palosaari and Commissioner Pintar, and Kathy Beattie.

Kevin Harju, Road Commissioner Administrator, provided a handout to the Board regarding the flood. He gave a brief update on FEMA to the Board, and stated three (3) roads remain closed in Houghton County.

Lisa Mattila, Deputy Treasurer, thanked the Committee for her appointment to Houghton County Treasurer and addressed the Board.

New Business:

1. MERS Funding

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, thanked Kathy Beattie for all of her hard work. He requested the Board approve sending One (1) Million Dollars to MERS.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying \$1,000,000.00 to MERS.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

2. Courthouse Union contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Courthouse Union contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

3. Appointed/Elected wages and benefits

The Board had discussion on the B-4 & B-2 benefits.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Appointed/Elected wages and benefits as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

4. Compliance with Michigan Act 270

The Board had discussion regarding the Michigan Act 270. The Board has opted out in previous years.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to opt out of Michigan Act 270.

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

5. Remonumentation Grant

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the Remonumentation Grant to the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Remonumentation Grant.

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

6. Appointments to the Houghton County Planning Commission

The Board had discussion regarding the two (2) open positions, and the two (2) applicants.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to appoint Tim Sears and Horst Schmidt to the Houghton County Planning Commission Board.

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

7. Appointment to the Houghton County Department of Veterans Affairs

The Board had discussion regarding the one (1) open position, and the one (1) applicant.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to appoint Glenn Ekdahl to the Houghton County Department of Veterans Affairs Board.

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

8. Houghton County Road Commission commissioner's compensation

The Board had discussion. Compensation has not been changed in years.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Houghton County Road Commission commissioner's compensation as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

9. Houghton County Road Commission Board appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to re-appoint Ken Rowe to the Houghton County Road Commission Board.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Palosaari stated that this appointment was not advertised in the Daily Mining Gazette, and stated it should have been advertised according to the Board's policy.

10. Treasurer Retirement

Commissioner Palosaari requested \$1,000.00 be given to Kathy Beattie for her hard work and for starting the Land Bank Authority.

Commissioner Tikkanen thanked Kathy Beattie.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying a \$1,000.00 bonus to Kathy Beattie.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments:

Chairman Koskela thanked Kathy Beattie, and Commissioners Palosaari and Pintar for their years of service on the Board. He welcomed Roy Britz and Glenn Anderson who will begin their term at the January 2019 meeting.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn at 5:47 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk