

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 12, 2015**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Timothy Palosaari at 5:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following commissioners responded to roll call: Eugene Londo, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Anton Pintar, District 3; and Timothy Palosaari, District 5. Scott Ala, District 4 was absent. Scott Ala, District 4 appeared at 5:02 pm.

Approval of minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo, to approve the April 14, 2015 minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Ron Hellman, a Chassell resident, addressed the Board regarding issues the residents of Chassell are having with drainage problems on Half Moon Beach Road. A Petition was signed by 21 property owners regarding the fixing of the drain on Half Moon Beach Road.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to send a letter to the Houghton County Road Commissioners regarding the complaints.

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

Sam Buschell addressed the Board regarding the report filed with the State of Michigan informing them of the problems with the assessing done by Assessor Matt Arko. Requested the Board order the Equalization Director to submit a report to the state tax commission detailing the deficiencies in their records. Commissioner Palosaari stated he would meet with the Equalization Director and address this issue.

Evan McDonald, Chairman of the Houghton County Planning Commission, and the Copper Country Recycling Initiative. The DEQ did offer the recycling grant to Houghton County. He stated there will be a meeting on Monday, May 18, 2015 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the Lakeshore Center and Brian Burke from the DEQ will make a presentation from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the Carnegie Museum. Brian Burke will also be touring the Houghton County Transfer Station on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

Approval of Bills:

A motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Pintar, to approve paying \$96,157.28, plus late bills of \$73,987.72 for a total of \$170,145.00.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports Standing Committee:

Commissioner Londo reported to the Board on the Planning Committee. Commissioner made a recommendation that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners set an agenda for the Planning Committee meetings.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, reported to the Board that the Charter to Laughlin left on May 11, 2015. There will be another Charter to Laughlin in June 2015, and the public can contact the Travel Leaders. The Airport had an FAA inspection done and Dennis Hext reported it was a great inspection.

Commissioner Ala had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Pintar reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, and the Adams Township Board. The WindFarm Energy may move forward with the wind turbines.

Commissioner Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

New Business:

1. Kyle Peczynski-Levin Energy Partners

Kyle Peczynski from Levin Energy Partners addressed the Board regarding the PACE financing district. Kyle Peczynski advised the Board that there must be an Administrator. He also advised that there is no cost for this program, and Levin Energy Partners can be terminated at any time. He advised that the program is for a fixed long term investment for property owners on efficiency.

The Board requested that Kyle Peczynski prepare a new Resolution and have it sent to Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, with the changes, and then this matter will be addressed by the Board at next month's County Board meeting.

2. Houghton County Medical Care Facility-request for approval of construction manager

Tammy Lehto, Houghton County Medical Care Facility Administrator addressed the Board regarding the Phase I Construction Manager. She informed the Board that they are recommending Miron Construction.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Ala to hire Miron Construction as the Construction Manager.

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

3. Liquor Tax/WUPSASCA & Northcare Network

The Board discussed the Northcare Network letter and overpayment. The matter was tabled until communication is received from Northcare Network.

4. Houghton County Sheriffs Deputies Union Contract

A motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the three (3) year Houghton County Sheriffs Deputies Union Contract.

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

5. Houghton County Marina Property

A motion was made by Commissioner Londo, seconded by Commissioner Koskela to negotiate an offer for first refusal, but not to exceed \$1,000.00.

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

6. Airport Water & Sewer Fund Resolution

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

7. Houghton County Planning Commission Annual Plan

The Board acknowledged receiving the Houghton County Planning Commission's annual report.

8. Appropriations

a. Western U.P. District Health Department - \$62,527.50

b. Liquor Tax - \$28,003.00

A motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Londo to approve the Western U.P. District Health Department in the amount of \$62,527.50. The Liquor Tax in the amount of \$28,003.00 was tabled.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

9. Travel Requests

a. Paula Olson-Houghton County Prosecutor's Office

b. Dan Giachino-Friend of Court Office

c. Brittany Bulleit-Houghton County Prosecutor's Office

d. UPACC Spring Conference

A motion was made by Commissioner Ala, seconded by Commissioner Koskela to approve all Travel Requests mentioned above, and the Board approved up to two (2) Commissioners for the UPACC Spring Conference.

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

Public Comments:

Sam Buschell addressed the Board regarding the costs he paid for copying charges at the Equalization Department. Eric Forsberg, County Administrator, advised the Board that he just received information on FOIA and he will have the FOIA information addressed on the next month's agenda for the Board's monthly meeting.

Evan McDonald, Chairman, of the Houghton County Planning Commission applauded Commissioner Londo on his recommendation for the Houghton County Planning Commission.

Brian McLean, Houghton County Sheriff, advised the Board that there will be a UP Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Service this Friday, May 15, 2015. There will be a ceremony at 11:00 am at the Michigan Technological University Student Development Complex. Honorable, Charles R. Goodman will be the guest speaker. Flags have been requested to be lowered to half-mast.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 pm. The motion carried by voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Lorenz, County Clerk