

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 15, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, 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 3 and Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Absent: Scott Ala, District 4.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated April 10, 2018 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Agenda as presented with one (1) addition J-#6 added for the Copper Country Recycling Initiative.

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

Public Comments:

Evan McDonald with the Copper Country Recycling Initiative addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve paying the bills submitted of \$924,917.29 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

The Board discussed a USDA land exchange letter. Commissioner Palosaari will follow up on the matter.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance and MI Works.

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

Commissioner Palosaari had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the following: UPAC meeting.

County Officers:

Jennifer Lorenz, Houghton County Clerk, updated the Board on the following: all cities and townships in Houghton County have received their new voting equipment and all clerks and deputy clerks and election inspectors have received training. The Honor Rewards Program for Veterans is going well and cards have now been issued to the Veterans who have applied. The Property Fraud Alert Program is going fantastic. The Clerk has received very positive feedback from people who have signed up and received alert notifications.

Kevin Coppo, Houghton County Under Sheriff, updated the Board regarding the jail's overcrowded inmate capacity.

New Business:

#### 1. Jail Addition

The Board had discussion regarding the \$10,922,119 Houghton County Jail Addition Preliminary Budget Estimate. Karin Copper from UP Engineering explained the estimate. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, advised the Board on their options depending on interest rates. For example, at 4% for 30 years which would be .66 mills, or 4% for 20 years for .83 mills. The Board had discussion.

Commissioner Tikkanen advised the Board on his discussions with people in Calumet & Hancock Townships who do not support a new facility, but they would support a jail addition.

Commissioner Palosaari stated the jail was built in 1963, and lasted approximately 55 years.

Chairman Koskela advised the Board that he did a small survey and the results were that there was no support for a new (separate) jail facility, but there was strong support for the proposed jail addition.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to approve requesting a millage for no more than 20 years for the November 2018 election. Legal counsel will prepare the ballot language.

The Motions carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela 4.

NO: None 0.

#### 2. Deficit Elimination Plans

Eric Forsberg explained the plans.

#### Passenger Facility Charge Fund Resolution to Reduce Unrestricted Net Asset Balance

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Passenger Facility Charge Fund Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 4.  
NO: None 0.

#### Twin Lakes Special Assessment District Fund Resolution to Reduce Unrestricted Net Asset Balance

A Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Twin Lakes Special Assessment Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela, Palosaari 4.  
NO: None 0.

#### Rice Lake Special Assessment District Fund Resolution to Reduce Unrestricted Net Asset Balance

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Rice Lake Special Assessment Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.  
NO: None 0.

#### Otter Lake Special Assessment District Fund Resolution to Reduce Unrestricted Net Asset Balance

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Otter Lake Special Assessment Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 4.  
NO: None 0.

#### Houghton CDBG 2015-2017 Fund Resolution to Reduce Unrestricted Net Asset Balance

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Houghton CDBG 2015-2017 Fund Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.  
NO: None 0.

### 3. Commissioner Absences

The Board had discussion regarding the absences. The Personnel Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss Board Rules and then advise the Board of Commissioners.

### 4. State-wide septic inspections

The Board had discussion.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve the Resolution opposing the bill as presented.

YES: Tikkanen, Pintar, Koskela, Palosaari 4.

NO: None 0.

5. Appropriations

- a. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the above-mentioned Appropriation.

YES: Palosaari, Tikkanen, Koskela, Pintar 4.

NO: None 0.

6. Copper Country Recycling Initiative

Commissioner Palosaari expressed concerns regarding the state of affairs.

Evan McDonald discussed complaints.

The Board agreed to schedule an onsite visit and a meeting. There has been an electrical problem with the bailer. Commissioner Palosaari and Commissioner Tikkanen will participate in the meeting and onsite visit.

7. Travel Requests

- a. MAC Regional Summits
- b. Lisa Mattila & Elizabeth Bjorn

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

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

Public Comments:

Mary Sears, Franklin Township Supervisor, addressed the Board regarding a competition to accept designs for a new Franklin Township flag. Submission are due by Wednesday, August 15, 2018 at the Franklin Township Office.

Evan McDonald addressed the Board regarding the jail addition. The Board stated the public will be welcome to attend future meetings regarding the jail addition.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adjourn at 5:55 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