

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 24, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special meeting on Thursday, May 24, 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-appeared by telephone.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

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

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

Public Comments:

Rick Allen with Keweenaw Report addressed the Board.

New Business:

1. Commissioner's Residency Status

Chairman Koskela questioned Commissioner Ala on where he is a resident of Florida or Michigan and if Commissioner Ala has a Florida or Michigan driver license or a homestead in Michigan. Commissioner Ala stated his driver license address is 4711 SE 5<sup>TH</sup> Ave, Cape Coral, FL. He pays all taxes in Houghton and is not running again for County Commissioner. Residency and voting, and mail is in Houghton County.

Chairman Koskela asked Commissioner Ala if he has a non-resident driver license in Florida. Commissioner Ala responded yes, and is not be a voting person in Florida.

Commissioner Ala stated he has no residency in Florida, and pays taxes in Michigan. He obtained a Florida non-resident driver license.

Chairman Koskela and Commissioner Ala had discussion.

Commissioner Ala stated he did not have a Michigan driver license, but will come back to Michigan to get a Michigan driver license.

County Clerk, Jennifer Lorenz, informed Commissioner Ala that she had spoken to the Cape Coral Driver License and Motor Vehicle Service Center. When Commissioner Ala obtained the driver license, it automatically made him a voter in the State of Florida. Commissioner Ala stated he did not know this.

Commissioner Palosaari made a Motion to terminate Commissioner Ala. The Motion died for lack of support.

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, recommended that the Board follow the steps that the MAC Attorney stated. He then read the steps to the Board. The Board would need to do a Resolution and a letter to clarify Commissioner Ala's residency status or a letter if he would resign.

Commissioner Ala stated he would have a private conversation later that day with Eric Forsberg and that a letter would not be necessary, and the matter would be resolved.

Commissioner Pintar asked Eric Forsberg who declares a seat to be vacant? Eric Forsberg answered the Board does.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari, seconded by Commissioner Pintar to approve a Resolution to follow the legal advice of the MAC Attorney, and send a letter to Commissioner Ala.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Palosaari, Pintar, Tikkanen, Koskela 4.

NO: None.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Palosaari to adjourn at 12:19 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