

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 11, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in the 3rd Floor Circuit Courtroom 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; Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Roy Britz, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Item "L"-Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution is moved on the Agenda and will be discussed after public comment.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Agenda with item "L" being moved under public comment as presented.

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

Moment of Silence

There was a moment of silence for Anton Pintar and Ken Rowe.

Health Department Presentation

Kate Beer did a presentation to the Board. There have been two (2) cases of CVOD 19 in Michigan. There have been a couple people sent for testing. The State can process the tests. Encourage the public to wash their hands, and stay home if the person is sick. They will continue to issue press releases and announcements. The flu is also happening at this time also. There is a link to the virus on the Health Department website is: www.wuphd.org.

Old Business:

Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution

The following people addressed the Board:
Randy McClellan

Matthew Wright
John Haeussler
Horst Schmidt
Justin Kasieta
William Holkome
Anne Kretschmann
Micaela Geborkoff
Logan Sandell
Barry Fink
Stephen Handler
Daniel Niemela
Steve Foix
Joe Schneller
Lance Elliot
Michael Bauman
John Larson
William Keith
Janeen Stephenson
Al McClellan
Evan McDonald
Devin Muljo
Ken Odgers

Old Business:

Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution

Commissioner Tikkanen stated there were three (3) proposed Resolutions in the Board packets.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Koskela to adopt Resolution #1 as presented.

The Motion failed by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Koskela 2.

NO: Anderson, Janssen, Britz 3.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 624,004.66 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Britz 5.

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: Thanked the Chairman for the moments of silence at the board meeting, the 2020 Census, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Trail Committee, and the Houghton County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Janssen thanked Commissioner Anderson for attending meetings on her behalf. She reported to the Board on the following: UPDRC&D Council-new manager is Nick Castle.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Stanton Township-wind turbine meeting. Turbines going forward. Houghton County Road Commission.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Trails Committee and Solid Waste Committee.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: The Special meeting, and the report will be coming out early next week.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, updated the Board on the Airport. He stated there are bids out for 8 unit T-Hangars. March flight is sold out and there are still open seats for the April and May flights. COVID19 is causing flights to cancel, however, nothing has been canceled at the Houghton County Airport. He did not anticipate a decline in attendance in the 2 daily flights.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Land Bank Annual Report

Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer, transferred five (5) parcels. Completed lakes lumber project. 1 of 3 houses to be built this spring on the site.

2. Houghton County Land Bank request for letter of support

Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer, stated she would apply for the grant again this year. There was a structure fire that should be demolished. Looking for a bid support of \$50,000.00.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve a letter of support for the Houghton County Land Bank.

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

3. Houghton County Solid Waste Committee request

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to spend up to \$10,000.00 to have a valuation completed to determine the value of the Houghton County Transfer Station.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Anderson, Koskela, Janssen, Britz 5.

NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Planning Commission applications

Chairman Koskela said there were two (2) applicants.

Commissioner Tikkanen nominated Ron Kilpela. Commissioner Britz stated he does not know either applicant. Commissioner Anderson had support for Valorie Troesch.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to appoint Ron Kilepla to the Houghton County Planning Commission.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Britz, Koskela 3.

NO: Anderson, Janssen 2.

5. Great Lakes Shoreline Resolution

Chairman Koskela discussed the damage around Lake Superior.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Resolution for the Great Lakes Shoreline as presented.

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

RESOLUTION
REQUESTING THE GREAT LAKES SHORELINE BE DECLARED A
DISASTER AREA AND TO SEEK ASSISTANCE
RESOLUTION #20-02

WHEREAS, record high water levels in the Great Lakes have contributed to ongoing shoreline erosion across the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes water levels have caused severe damage to public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes water levels are forcing the relocation of roads and infrastructure costing in excess of millions of dollars for the relocation of the roads and compromised public infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes water levels are causing detrimental environmental impacts at other various industrial legacy sites along the shoreline, and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula Counties that have land bordering the Great Lakes recognize the effects of storms, high water, and wind driven wave action that is causing severe erosion to the shorelines, infrastructure, and private property along the Great Lakes, and

WHEREAS, the conditions of the Great Lakes shorelines directly affect business and Upper Peninsula tourism by limiting access to beaches, boat landings, and parks along the shorelines, and loss and damaged property directly affects the local, county, and state tax base, and

WHEREAS, the shoreline communities in the State of Michigan are desperately in need of additional resources to combat shoreline erosion and protection of natural resources.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor of the State of Michigan along with the State Legislature declare the Shoreline of the Great Lakes in the State of Michigan a disaster area, and that the Governor and State Legislature seek assistance from Congress and the President of the United States of America for this devastating situation which has an impact statewide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Gary Peters, the U.P. Legislators, the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) and the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP).

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, JENNIFER KELLY, Clerk of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners and Clerk of the County of Houghton, do hereby certify that the above Resolution was duly adopted by the said Board on March 11, 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Houghton, Houghton, Michigan, on this 12th day of March, 2020.

Jennifer Kelly
Houghton County Clerk

6. Emergency Management Resolution

Chairman Koskela stated this Resolution was started by Iron County.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Emergency Management Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Anderson, Koskela, Janssen, Britz 5.

NO: None 0.

RESOLUTION **Emergency Management and Safe Schools** RESOLUTION #20-03

WHEREAS, The Office of School Safety created under the Michigan Public Act (PA) 435 of 2018, alongside Michigan Public Act 670 of 2018, identifies the department of Michigan State Police as being the exclusive agency responsible for all Michigan schools with respect to, but not limited to education, training, reporting and building assessments pertaining to safety and security using an all- hazards approach; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Peninsula (Region 8) Public Act 390 programs, have been undertaking safe school training and safe school professional development since 2005; and

WHEREAS, current Michigan law requires Emergency Management to oversee school drills; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of school safety to the department of Michigan State Police circumvents the underlying core functions of emergency management which is placing school safety programs under the umbrella of all-hazards emergency management planning; and

WHEREAS, local responders and local Public Act 390 emergency management programs are far more aware of school dynamics, as they have on-going working relationships with school staff, regularly communicate, plan, and exercise emergency action plans with said schools; and

WHEREAS, funds for a new division could be better used by redistributing to existing local emergency management Public Act 390 programs that are already providing safe school protocols in their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Office of School Safety should be established within the Michigan State Police department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (MSP EMHSD) Which under the Michigan Public Act 390 of 1978 statutorily appoints the MSP EMHSD as the administrator of emergency management within Michigan and the fiduciary for the distribution of grant monies across all of Michigan's 83 counties in collaboration with local emergency managers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners requests the Michigan Legislature amend the Office of School Safety placing it within the MSP EMHSD to coordinate the distribution of school security funds with local community response personnel and local Public Act 390 emergency managers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Upper Peninsula counties, the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP), the

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk