

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 14, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, by Zoom.

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 done by Eric Forsberg:

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 Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the minutes of the March meetings as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Anderson requested to add appreciation to Mark Wisti to the Agenda.

Chairman Koskela added #11 D.

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

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 1,640,146.74 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote done by Eric Forsberg.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission.

Commissioner Janssen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: the 2020 Census.

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

Commissioner Koskela had nothing to report.

New Business:

1. Isle Royale National Park – Request for letter of support

Coral Conway discussed the delay in employees beginning work and how Isle Royale gets visitors from all over the world. They have received cancellations. Commissioner Anderson asked when a decision needed to be made. Coral Conway responded May 1st.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to send a letter of support that Isle Royale National Park not open for the 2020 season.

The Motion failed by the following vote done by Jennifer Kelly.

YES: Janssen, Anderson 2.

NO: Tikkanen, Koskela, Britz 3.

2. Houghton County Audit Report – Debbie Bradford, Rukkila, Negro & Assoc.

Debbie Bradford discussed the audit report. She thanked all staff and elected officials.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the audit report as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Chris VanArsdale – update on local Covid-19 efforts.

Chris VanArsdale stated there were 2 positive cases and 6 pending cases in Houghton County. There have been 118 negative results. People are requested to use the Copper Country Strong website. The Health Department is tracking where a positive person has been.

4. Remonumentation plan and resolution

Joe Foster spoke on the surveying of the County corners. He stated 38% are completed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt the plan and resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

RESOLUTION #20-04
Houghton County Board of Commissioners
April 14, 2020

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A REVISED SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION
PLAN FOR HOUGHTON COUNTY UNDER THE REQUIREMENTS OF PA 345 OF
1990, AS AMENDED, MCL 54.261-279

WHEREAS, the responsibility for land corner monumentation preservation resides in the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the Revised County Plan will continue to provide for the location, monumentation, and/or remonumentation of corners, a history of all corners, a repository of all records, a perpetual maintenance program, and preservation of public land survey corners; and

WHEREAS, the county is required to adopt a revised county plan to become eligible for grant monies to implement PA 345 of 1990, as amended, MCL 54.261-279; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County has a plan in place as approved on October 20, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners understands that the existing plan shall be amended as provided in this Revised County Plan,

NOW, AND THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Houghton County does hereby adopt the Revised County Plan for Survey and Remonumentation as provided.

Clerk of the Board of Commissioners

5. Remonumentation contracts

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Remonumentation contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. Houghton County Road Commission appointment

Commissioner Britz stated there were 17 applicants.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Peter Torola to the Houghton County Road Commission Board.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. County Equalization

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, gave her 2020 report to the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to accept the report as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund

Jeff Ratcliffe stated the loan department recommended approving a 6 month deferral of payments. The requesting company, Nitro, has made all payments on the original \$60,000.00 loan.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the 6 month deferral on payments.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Deficit elimination plan, budget and resolution – Rice Lake Special Assessment District

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained this is done every year and it is planned and budgeted.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931

Telephone: (906)482-8307 Fax: (906)482-7238

Chairperson
Albert Koskela
Vice Chairperson
Tom Tikkanen

Commissioners
Glenn Anderson
Gretchen Janssen
Roy Britz

**HOUGHTON COUNTY RICE LAKE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Rice Lake Special Assessment District Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan, and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan, could result in a reduction of State Revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the process to establish a court ordered lake level and create a special assessment district is completed; and

WHEREAS, that the 2019 assessment will be sufficient to cover all incurred and future costs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the plan for the Houghton County Rice Lake Special Assessment District Fund to eliminate the deficit balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budget for the year ending September 30, 2020 for the Houghton County Rice Lake Special Assessment District Fund.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Houghton, state of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its regular meeting held on the 14th Day of April, 2020, the original of which resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 15th Day of April, 2020.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

10. Deficit elimination plan, budget and resolution –PFC Fund

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

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**HOUGHTON COUNTY PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State Revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the timing of how PFC monies are collected and expended, as directed by the Federal Aviation Administration, dictate that the Fund will always have a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets; and

WHEREAS, the activity currently being posted to the PFC Fund was previously reported in the Airport Fund but was split out for internal accounting purposes only; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit balance in unrestricted net assets is an internal accounting number only.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognize that the PFC Fund will be in a perpetual state of deficit balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budget for the years ending September 30, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 for the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTENTIONS:

ABSENT:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting County Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its regular meeting held on the 14th day of April, 2020, the original of which resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 15th Day of April, 2020.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

11. Appropriations

- a. Wester U.P. Health Department - \$66,680.75
- b. WUPPDR - \$2866.50
- c. Copper Country Community Mental Health - \$41,123.73

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the above-mentioned appropriations as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Britz 5.
NO: None 0.

- d. Mark Wisti appreciation

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to recognize Mark Wisti, 97th District Court, and congratulate him on his retirement.

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

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Travel Request as requested.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 6:20 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk