

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2021**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special meeting on Friday, January 22, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton and public viewing by Zoom.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 3:00 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 the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Roy Britz, District 5.

Agenda:

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

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

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

Public Comments:

None.

New Business:

- a. Resolution in Support of Local Business

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Resolution in Support of Local Business as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Tikkanen read the Resolution to the public.



**RESOLUTION #21-01
IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL BUSINESS**

WHEREAS, the Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death; and

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that Covid-19 is having direct impacts on all County residents, impacts which include but are not limited to, physical and mental health care difficulties, educational constraints, and financial strains; and

WHEREAS, to date, the County has had 2268 cases of Covid-19, or one in 16 residents, and 34 deaths, or one in 1076 residents, and

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners understands that many local businesses have suffered and continue to suffer economic harm due to Covid-19; and

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer's administration has now opened the state to most business except, restaurants, bars, night clubs and contact sports; and

WHEREAS, Michigan is currently one of only three states with a statewide ban on indoor dining; and

WHEREAS, we call on Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature offer state grants to financially assist affected small restaurant and bar owners; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognizes that our citizens and visitors are resourceful, intelligent and capable of safely supporting businesses while following safe Covid-19 protocols; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners call upon Governor Whitmer and MDHHS Director Gordon to immediately suspend restrictions on in person dining, bars and indoor rinks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Whitmer, both Speakers of the House of Representatives and the Senate, along with the Michigan Association of Counties and all Counties within Michigan.

Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Albert Koskela, Board Chair and District 2 Commissioner

Thomas Tikkanen, Vice Chair and District 1 Commissioner

Glenn Anderson, District 3 Commissioner

Gretchen Janssen, District 4 Commissioner

Roy Britz, District 5 Commissioner

Motion Moved by:

Motion Supported by:

Roll Call Vote: Yes:
No: None.

Motion carried.

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 a regular meeting held on the _____ Day of January, 2021, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Houghton, Houghton, Michigan, this _____ Day of _____, 2021.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

Commissioner Janssen discussed the 25% restaurant capacity, and encouraged residents to support the local restaurants and dine in or order take out.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 3:07 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk