

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 11, 2022**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton and public viewing in person and by Zoom.

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 5:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

C. Roll call:

The following Commissioners responded to roll call done by the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

D. Approval of Minutes September 13th Regular Meeting, September 16th & September 26th Special:

County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly, informed the Board that Commissioner Janssen did not attend the September 26th meeting, therefore, she did not make a second to adjourn the meeting. Clerk Kelly will correct the minutes.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2022, September 16, 2022 and the September 26th meetings as presented with the one (1) correction.

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

E. Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Janssen asked to add CCMH Transport Panel under Old Business B. Commissioner Britz asked to add K& for 911 Board vacancies for 2 positions.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Agenda with the two (2) additions as presented.

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

F. Public Comments-Agenda Items only *(5 minute limit):

None.

G. Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$4,270,509.56.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

H. Correspondence:

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, discussed a letter from the Portage Health Foundation awarding automated external defibrillator equipment to the County because of a grant that Becky Ylitalo, Chelsea Rowe and Jake Djerf generated and submitted. Houghton County will receive #2 AED devices within the coming weeks for placement at two (2) separate locations within the courthouse.

Chairman Tikkanen asked Administrator Bjorn to thank them on behalf of the Board.

Chairman Tikkanen discussed a Kids Count in Michigan Data Book.

Reports:

1. Standing Committee:

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Recycling: There will be a presentation on October 12, 2022 at 7:30 am at the Bonfire by Brad from Marquette on Recycle 906. There has been 4 tons of recycling done at the Transfer Station in September 2022. That is up 2 tons. There will be tire collecting on October 19, 2022. People can call the Transfer Station to get specific hours.

Commissioner Codere reported to the Board on the following:

Torch Lake meetings: He attended 2 meetings. One was historical, and the other was on mining. He discussed a USEPA presentation. There will be 2 potential large projects done by USEPA & MI EGLE. The water level is down 8 feet. They are looking to do a study in 1-2 years, and Commissioner Codere recommended 1 year. Honeywell is potentially responsible for the entire lake.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

He congratulated Becky, Jake and Chelsea on their grant and stated one (1) is needed at the Transfer Station.

He stated he would like to see a chart of employees for the Board. Administrator Bjorn stated she has one.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following:

He discussed the briefing he received from Chris VanArsdale.

Church property: The Purchase Agreement has been signed. They are waiting on the appraisal.

Chairman Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

2nd Bridge: He stated Representative Markkanen is working hard on a feasibility study.

3. County Officers:

Joshua Saaranen, Sheriff, stated there are currently 24 inmates and 9 inmates at the work camp.

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Measures, gave a report to the Board. All radios are here, and they are waiting on the state for programming. He discussed the 60 days VISA for immigrants, and stated there is no notice to anyone when transports arrive. There is no immigrant activity in Houghton County.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, informed the Board she did a webinar with the State, Attorney General and FBI.

Chairman Tikkanen stated Hancock Township voted unanimously for Houghton County paying the bond for the Houghton County Arena.

I. Old Business:

1. American Rescue Plan (CSLFRF) \$6.8 million

a. Land Bank Request

Lisa Mattila, Treasurer, stated she had previously requested \$350,000 of ARPA Funds for the 8 blight parcels. Bids are due on September 30, 2022. They received bids of \$380,520.00 from B&B Contracting of Calumet, \$554,378.90 from MJO Contracting, and \$749,206.00 from Associated Constructors of Negaunee. She has applied for a \$200,00 grant that she hopes to receive within one (1) year. There are four (4) additional properties in need of demolition. Brian Bonen has agreed to take rocks and blocks to his rock pit and other items from the demolition would go to the Transfer Station.

Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA, stated the demolition would be an improvement of removing the blight and the removal would enhance residential properties.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, and seconded by Commissioner Codere to earmark \$350,000 of ARPA funds for the Land Bank for demolition of properties.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to authorize the low bid of B&B Contracting in the amount of \$380,520.00.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

b. CCMH Transport Panel

Sheriff, Josh Saaranen discussed the individuals who should be on the panel. The panel would be himself, Administrator Bjorn, a Commissioner, and others.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Commissioners Janssen and Britz, Sheriff Saaranen, and Administrator Bjorn.

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

2. Final Quarterly Budget Amendments (4th Qtr to include FY22 accruals)

Administrator Bjorn gave an explanation as to cleaning up accounts.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Final Quarter Budget Amendments as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

New Business:

1. 911 Intermodulation Study-Required for Centennial Tower Study

Jon Giachino, Undersheriff, requested an additional \$1,600.00. The 911 Board will cover the \$1,600.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Codere to approve an additional \$1,600 for a total of \$4,500 from the 911 Fund for the 911 Intermodulation Study.

Undersheriff Giachino stated having a tower in an asset. The Building could be sold with it. A vendor has showed interest in the property when 5G rolls out. The tower is in good shape. 911 will not need the tower in the future.

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

2. Benefit E COLA Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement

The Board had discussion as to the Benefit E COLA Agreement.

A Motion to table the discussion on the Benefit E COLA Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement was made by Commissioner Anderson and supported by Commissioner Janssen.

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

3. FY23 Snow Removal Renewal

Administrator Bjorn stated she received a proposal from Zimmick which is up about \$1,600 from the previous year. The County now has a truck with a plow to be used during working hours.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to accept the proposal from Zimmick in the amount of \$13,198 for the FY23 for snow removal as presented.

Commissioner Codere asked what the Counties policy is for bidding. Administrator Bjorn stated the County would review any proposals they receive.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Resolution #22-15 PA 152

Administrator Bjorn explained that 44North has advised to opt out of Public Act 152.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #22-15 as presented.

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

RESOLUTION – 80%/20%
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 80%/20% EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE
HEALTH CARE COST OPTION AS SET FORTH IN 2011 PUBLIC
ACT 152, THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE
CONTRIBUTION ACT
22-15

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the “Act”) was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011;

WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the Houghton County 2022 Apportionment Report as presented.

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

7. 911 Board vacancies-2 positions

Commissioner Britz discussed the vacancies. Aspirus recommended Joe Panijan be appointed. It was recommended that Tim Gasperich fill the at large position. No one had claimed the 1st responder position.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to appoint Tim Gasperich and Joe Panijan to the 911 Board.

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

8. Appropriations

- a. Western UP Health Department - \$68,024.50
- b. Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce -\$400.00
- c. WUPPDR \$2,974.25

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Codere to approve the above-mentioned appropriations as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

L. Public Comments: (5 minute limit)

Mary Sears addressed the Board and asked if the 911 Board contacted the Fire Departments for a recommendation for someone for the 911 Board.

Sheriff Saaranen discussed the safety of the polling locations.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to have a Committee of Whole meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 10:00 am to discuss APRA Funds and the Houghton County Area Recommendation.

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

M. Announcements:

None.

N. Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 6:25 pm.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk