

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton with the public viewing in person and by Zoom.

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 4:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

**Roll Call:**

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

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

**Approval of Minutes Regular Meeting 1/17/23 and Special Meeting 1/20/23:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 and January 20, 2023 minutes as presented.

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the Agenda 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 Keranen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,566,330.48.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**Correspondence:**

Administrator Bjorn discussed the legal correspondence on the opioid litigation, Governor Whitmer's Press Release, a letter from Bruce Peterson at Portage Township, and the Waste Management Contract.

**Reports:**

**Standing Committee:**

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Recycling: The total for January was 5.32 tons. In 2022 January's total was 2.48.

Michigan State Extension Office: There is a Citizen Planner class from March 21, 2023 to May 2, 2023 for 3 hours per evening. Cost is \$250.00 per person. Information is on the Michigan State Extension Office website.

City of Houghton: She stated Walmart is requesting a reduction in property taxes by 60%. There is a public hearing on February 23, 2023 at 12:00 pm (Noon). Canal View, the Veterans and the Houghton County Road Commission would be effected.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Sheriff Department: He attended interviews at the Sheriff Department and felt they were well handled.

Health Department: The Prosecutor was supposed to review the Health Code, but is not able to. He has reached out to the County Civil Attorney to get an opinion.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Visit Keweenaw: He stated the short-term rentals went from 357 in 2021 to 450 in 2022, which is an increase of 27%.

Blight: He discussed the new State budget and stated there would be \$75 million for blight elimination and Houghton County should see \$500,000.00.

Solid Waste: He questioned if the contract should go to a one (1) year contract.

City of Houghton: He discussed the document he provided to the Board that would have an impact on businesses regarding Walmart's request in reducing their property tax.

Commissioner Keranen reported to the Board on the following:

Transfer Station and Recycling: He discussed the potential of having tire recycling.

Health Department-He stated all counties must pass the Health Codes for it to take effect.

Chairman Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Health Department: He stated the Health Code Plan has been sent to the County Attorney for review.

OHM Meeting: He attended a meeting on January 31, 2023 with Commissioner Britz and Administrator Bjorn to obtain a proposal for the planning structure on the Sharon Avenue property. The Board should have the proposal within one (1) month.

KEDA: All Accounts are current and reported to the State.

### **County Officers:**

Sheriff Saaranen extended his prayers to the people at Michigan State University. There have been 300 complaints for 2023, and currently there are 24 inmates. He discussed the interviews. The Pigs-N-Heat will take place this coming Friday at the SDC at 6:00 pm.

Tom Bingham stated the Clerk's Office counter/work stations are done.

Clerk Kelly thanked the Board for the beautiful counter/work stations in the Clerk's Office.

Chairman Tikkanen stated Dennis Hext could not attend the meeting, but wanted the Board to know the runways are improving.

**Old Business:**

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

Commissioner Britz stated all townships have submitted paperwork to the Houghton County Road Commission except for Duncan Township. The Road Commission will be ready for the construction season.

**New Business:**

**1. Canal View Childcare Initiative**

Kim Salmi stated families are having difficulty finding childcare. Iola Brubaker from KFRC stated Houghton County is short approximately 1,000 childcare spots at this time. She feels Houghton County needs high quality childcare centers. Four childcare centers have closed in Houghton County. Iola felt some families could not afford childcare.

Commissioner Janssen stated MI Works offers assistance.

Kim Salmi stated Canal View pays 1/3 of childcare. She informed the Board that CCISD has a classroom available for approximately 70-75 students, and a church is willing to donate land for a playground. The facility would be self-sufficient.

Iola stated she has someone interested to be the Director. Once a Director has been chosen, they would then work on obtaining additional staff. A business plan is being developed and Kim and Iola will work out partnerships. Kim felt she would be able to get 20-30 new employees with the new childcare center.

Chairman Tikkanen encourages other entities to join in.

Iola stated the State of Michigan has funding available on a first come first serve basis for start up costs and supplies.

**2. 2023 Waste Management Service Agreement expiration March 31, 2023**

Commissioner Janssen read Attorney Zappa's opinion. She stated she does not like the contract and recommended the Board negotiate different terms. She asked if any other company is available.

Chairman Tikkanen asked if the Board should put out a request for proposals.

Commissioners Janssen and Keranen will work with Administrator Bjorn.

**3. CCMH Services Board of Directors Appointment-Kathleen Johnson**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to appoint Kathleen Johnson to the CCMH Services Board of Directors for a three (3) year term.

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

**4. Resolution #23-02 Honoring Michigan Association of Counties 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #23-02 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

**Resolution to Honor the Michigan Association of Counties  
on its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION # 23-02  
HONORING the Michigan Association of Counties**

**WHEREAS**, Michigan’s 83 county governments play a central role in the proper delivery of, and oversight for, critical public services for the state’s approximately 10 million residents; and **WHEREAS**, Michigan county governments are led by Boards of Commissioners, who are elected from their communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the State Association of Supervisors of Michigan was formed by representatives of 16 counties on Feb. 1, 1898, in the Senate chamber of the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing; and **WHEREAS**, the association’s name was changed to the Michigan Association of Counties on July 17, 1969; and

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Association of Counties is the oldest association representing local governments in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, 48 of Michigan’s 83 counties have had at least one of their commissioners (or supervisors prior to 1968) serve as president of the association’s Board of Directors; and

**WHEREAS**, the association created the Michigan Counties Workers’ Compensation Fund in 1979 to help county members provide workplace safety and injury insurance services to its employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the association created the Michigan Association of Counties Service Corporation in 1986 to partner with service providers to help counties save money on everything from health insurance to telecommunications services; and

**WHEREAS**, the association hosts two major conferences every year to bring together county leaders for briefings on trending public policy issues and to hear from state newsmakers and others; and

**WHEREAS**, the association’s advocacy work in Lansing and beyond has advanced the interests of county governments and the residents they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, no fewer than five association presidents have served or are serving in the Michigan Legislature in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a testament to the culture of public service inculcated by the association

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that HOUGHTON COUNTY** wishes to commend and honor the Michigan Association of Counties on its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.

Adopted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

Motion Moved By: Anderson

Motion Supported By: Janssen

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz (5).

No: None (0).

Motion Carried:  
RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Tikkanen, Chairman  
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County of Houghton, Michigan at a meeting of its Board of Commissioners on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023 the original of which Resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that the meeting was held and the minutes therefore were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public acts of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereinto affixed my official signature this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Kelly  
Houghton County Clerk/Register of Deeds  
County of Houghton

**5. Houghton County Operating Polices-#23-03**

Administrator Bjorn stated the first item is an agreement that needed to be updated due to Lisa Mattila now being the Treasurer. The second is an ACH agreement. The third is a policy regarding space heaters.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt Resolution #23-03 and the attachments as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

**Resolution 23-03  
Authorizing ACH Agreement**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I hold the title of Clerk at County of Houghton, organized under the laws of the State of Michigan, and that a meeting of the governing authority of the County of Houghton duly held on February 14, 2023 at which time a quorum was present and acting throughout, the following resolutions were adopted and have not been rescinded, revoked, or modified, but are still in full force and effect; WHEREAS, from time to time, the County of Houghton wishes to request Range Bank Copper Country N.A. ("bank") by written instruction, telephone, terminal communication device, or otherwise, to originate ACH transactions to other financial institutions or to other accounts at Range Bank Copper Country N.A. as provided in an ACH Agreement; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that any 1 of those persons listed below (is) (are) hereby authorized to execute the ACH Agreement and any Exhibits attached thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
TYPED NAME AND TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
TYPED NAME AND TITLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the authority conferred hereby will continue in full force and effect until written notice of modification or revocation of this resolution by a duly appointed official of the County of Houghton will be received by Range Bank Copper Country N.A.. Range Bank Copper Country N.A. will be protected in acting upon any form of written notice that it in good faith believed to be genuine and what it purports to be.



NO: None. 0

**8. 2023 Houghton County E 911 Service Plan updates**

Commissioner Britz said the update on the 911 Service plan was necessary for administrative changes only.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Houghton County E 911 Service Plan updates as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

**9. January 2023 Karhu Cyber Security Report-(FOUO) not subject to FOIA.**

Chairman Tikkanen stated the report was for the Commissioners only and not subject to FOIA.

**10. Travel**

**a. 2023 Magistrate Conference**

Administrator Bjorn stated the travel request was for a February, June and September certification Court manager program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to authorize the travel request for Nicole Jollimore for the 2023 Magistrate Conference.

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

**11. Appropriations:**

- a. WUPPDR 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023**
- b. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission-\$350.00**
- d. 2023 UPCAP Dues \$1,100**

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

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

**c. UPEA Professional Services Agreement-Courthouse \$46K ARPA Funds**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the \$46,000 to UPEA with ARPA Funds.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

**Public Comments:**

Leander Somero encouraged the Board to look into the proposed Health Code.

Derek Bradway encouraged the Board to look into the proposed Health Code.

Pete Barry from the Health Department explained some of the Health Codes.

Horst Schmidt commented on the Micros Grant.

**Announcements:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 5:30 p.m.

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

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Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk