

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton. The public was able to attend 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 the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly (By Zoom):

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

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve 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 Britz to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 2,523,915.50 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Moment of Silence for Recently Passed Away Board Member Dennis Barrette

The Board had a moment of silence.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Transfer Station-waiting on a RFP from Attorney Zappa.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: Dennis Barrette, WUPDH, Census, and Justin Kasieta

Commissioner Koskela had nothing to report.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: UP RC & D Council.

County Officers:

None reported.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Road Commission Board Position

The board discussed scheduling a special meeting. Commissioner Anderson questioned whether Tim Gasperich can serve on the Road Commission Board and the Calumet Township Board as Supervisor. Ben Larson would look into this.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to schedule a special meeting on Friday, October 16, 2020 at 12:00 pm regarding the appointment of a Houghton County Road Commission Board position. Mattila.

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

2. State of Michigan House Bill 5396

Ben Larson, Administrator, gave an explanation to the Board.

3. US House Bill 8406 HEROES Act

Ben Larson, Administrator, gave an explanation to the Board.

4. Public Act 152 Opt Out for Reduced Healthcare Costs, 2021 Renewal with 44N

Ben Larson, Administrator, stated this is done every year for the County to opt out.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to Opt Out for Reduced Healthcare Costs as presented.

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

5. Tonnage Reports from Transfer Station, Rate increase of \$5/ton starting January 1

Ben Larson, Administrator, recommended the rate increase of \$5/ton beginning January 1, 2021.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the \$5/ton rate increase on January 1, 2021 as presented.

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

6. County Designated Assessor Applications Open, Apportionment Report

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, discussed the opening for a County Designated Assessor. She stated one (1) person, Tom Novascone, is interested. The State must agree with who Houghton County picks, and it is a five (5) year agreement.

Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to follow through with Tom Novascone for the County Designated Assessor.

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

Apportionment Report:

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, explained the 2020 Apportionment Report to the Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the 2020 Apportionment Report as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Tikkanen commended the Equalization Department for their hard work.

#### 7. Recreation Authority Fall Meeting

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed a meeting with KEDA, WUPPDR, and the Visitors Bureau in November regarding the DNR trails.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Articles of Incorporation for the Houghton County Road Commission as presented.

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

#### 8. Coles Creek Discussion

Commissioner Anderson discussed the artisan well, the flood damage, and the pictures in the Boards packet. He stated there was no notice to the residents for losing their water, and the residents were drilling for water. He stated there is no sinking fund to maintain the site.

Bruce Woodry addressed the Board.

Peter Mackin addressed the Board.

Amy Soumis addressed the Board, and the Board had a hard time hearing her speak.

Tiffany Lam addressed the Board.

Bruce Woodry addressed the Board.

Commissioner Anderson recommended speaking to legal counsel on what the County Clerk is legally responsible in receiving from the Houghton County Road Commission.

Chris Woodry addressed the Board.

Chairman Koskela recommended people contact the Escanaba Health Department regarding water, and the Board cannot spend money on private properties. The County cannot drill a public water supply.

Commissioner Anderson stated Adams and Stanton Township would need to agree to drill a public well.

Tiffany Lam addressed the Board.

Old Business:

#### 1. Update on Flood Recovery Road Funding

Commissioner Anderson discussed emergency loans for the flood damaged roads. He stated \$4 million has been approved and praised McBroom and Markkanen.

2. Update on UP Manpower Gogebic Pension plan funding issue

Commissioner Anderson thanked McBroom and Markkanen for their hard work on this issue.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adjourn.

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

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk