

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARINGS/REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

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:

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

Public Hearing-Houghton County 2019/20 Budget

Open hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to open the public hearing.

Discussion and Public Comment:

Eric Forsberg discussed revenues, expenses for wages and benefits.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to close the public hearing.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Hearing-Houghton County Emergency Repair Program

Open hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to open the public hearing.

Discussion and Public Comment:

Eric Forsberg explained this is program is managed by WUPPDR for \$5,000.00 worth of emergency roof repairs for home owners and has income requirements. Last year the CBG grant was \$38,000, and this year it is approximately \$41,008. Gerald Wuoramaara suggesting raising the amount to \$10,000 per home.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to close the public hearing.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

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

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

Public Comments:

Cindy Barth addressed the Board.

Jeff Ratcliff addressed the Board.

Guy St. Germain addressed the Board.

Kristin Lortie addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 3,192,546.38 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, read a letter from the owner of the Hampshire to the Houghton County Harbor Master stating what a wonderful experience he had in Houghton County.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Sheriff Department. Sheriff McLean stated the Union is giving awards on September 18th at 4 p.m. in the Circuit Court room. Deputies will get awards from their assistance from the Father's Day Flood. The Board congratulated those deputies receiving awards.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: MAC Conference, UP Resource and Conservative District, Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, and the Heath Department.

Commissioner Anderson had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Solid Waste Committee and the Jail Task Force.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the following: UPCAP, MDOT, and a railroad hearing.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, stated the new plow truck was purchased through a grant for \$550,000.00. The Airport is looking at building T hangers for 7 customers, and they are preparing for the arrival of the two (2) planes for Hockeyville. They are also preparing for a job fair. There are seats available for the October Laughlin trip.

New Business:

1. 2019/2020 General Appropriations Act

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the 2019/2020 General Appropriations Act as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. 2018/2019 Budget Amendments

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the budget amendments to the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the 2018/2019 Budget Amendments as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Houghton County Airport Essential Air Service Grant – Letter of support

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed the need for more direct flights to Detroit and Minneapolis. SkyWest is the only bid for our Airport. He requested a letter to be sent to the USDOT to change the hub to Detroit as Houghton County travelers wish to go through Detroit or Minneapolis.

Chairman Koskela discussed the need to wait to send the letter until after 9/17 when the bids are received.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, discussed SkyWest considering different hubs. He stated the USDOT cannot hold SkyWest here in Houghton County.

Commissioner Tikkanen stated this is not the first try to change the hub, but it would be the first letter coming from the Houghton County Board of Commissioners.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to send a letter of support

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Jeff Hawkins - Envirologic

Jeff Hawkins gave a handout to the Board members and gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding the Brownfield Authority. He encouraged the Board of Commissioners to get the word out that Houghton County is active in the Brownfield Authority.

5. Solid Waste Committee – Recycling Surveys

Carol from CCRI stated they received 300 responses to surveys in 2 weeks, and will be extending the time to complete surveys. She provided the surveys to the Board. A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to allow Eric Forsberg, Administrator, to be the signator for the sale of the Road Commission Office space on behalf of the County.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. Houghton County Board of Canvassers

The Board voted on secret ballots for the 2 openings on the Houghton County Board of Canvassers. The ballots were then turned over to the County Clerk.

7. Schoolcraft Township Flood Insurance Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Schoolcraft Township Flood Insurance Resolution as presented.

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

8. Reschedule October meeting

The Board agreed to reschedule the October month Board of Commissioner's meeting from October 15, 2019 to October 24, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

9. Appropriations

- a. 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 appropriation as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Travel Requests

- a. Friend of Court – Melissa Baroni
- b. Houghton County Building Department - \$Todd Laroux
- c. UPACC Fall Conference
- d. Prosecutor's Office – Staci Kochan

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

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

Public Comments:

Kristin Lortie addressed the Board.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 6:28 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk