

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 11, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, requested the Houghton County Land Bank be added to #4 a. Commissioner Tikkanen requested the Jail Task Force be added to #8.

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

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

Public Hearing-Truth in Taxation

Open hearing:

Chairman Koskela opened the meeting.

Discussion and Public Comment:

Jaikob Djerf, Deputy Equalization Director, explained the 2019 property tax levy. The 2019 County millage rate is 6.2911 which is the same as last year.

Close Hearing:

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

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 Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 718,886.95 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, discussed letters and rebate checks from Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA). He stated this is our third year with them, and if we had the previous insurance company, things would not have been covered when the flood occurred last Father's Day. He also mentioned about a tax foreclosure lawsuit.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission, and the 911 Committee.

Commissioner Janssen had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: UP Association of County Commissioners Conference, and the UP Association of Counties Summit.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Memorial Airport, UP Association of County Commissioners Conference, and the UP Association of Counties Summit, and Hancock Township.

Chairman Koskela informed Commissioner Tikkanen that he was elected to be the UPAC Chairman, and he praised the Commissioners for attending so many meetings.

County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, addressed the Board regarding a tower being built on the M-38 corridor.

New Business:

1. Resolution authorizing 2019 County millage rate

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Resolution authorizing the 2019 County millage rate of 6.2911 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Resolution authorizing collection of County's taxes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Resolution authorizing the collection of the County's taxes as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

### 3. CDBG Income

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the requirements for the receipts of Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), grant repayments as dictated by the State and that Houghton County exceeds the threshold for those receipts, so the funds either need to be sent back to the State or put into an emergency repair program. WUPPDR will continue to manage the program. Commissioner Anderson requested a report from WUPPDR showing how the money has been spent. Eric Forsberg, Administrator, will request a report.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the CDBG Income as requested.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

### 4. Houghton County Land Bank request

Lisa Mattila, Houghton County Treasurer, addressed the Board regarding three (3) parcels of land on the tax foreclosure list in Laurium, Calumet and Laird Township and requested authorization to transfer those parcels to the Land Bank.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson seconded by Commissioner Britz to transfer the parcel of the tax foreclosed property to the Land Bank.

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

#### a. Houghton County Land Bank discussion

Commissioner Tikkanen praised Lisa Mattila for her hard work on the Houghton County Land Bank.

### 5. Road Commission office sale

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. Appropriations

a. NorthCare Liquor Tax - \$18,652.50

b. Michigan Townships Association Dues - \$385.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the above-mentioned appropriation as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Travel Requests

- a. Buck Foltz and Brenda Cadwell – Friend of Court Office
- b. Jennifer Kelly – Houghton County Clerk
- c. MAC Annual Conference

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

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

The Board agreed 3 Commissioners and Eric Forsberg will attend the MAC Annual Conference.

Commissioner Anderson praised Eric Forsberg, Administrator, for his hard work.

8. Houghton County Jail Task Force

The Board had a discussion on setting a future meeting date, and discussed splitting the Task Force into four (4) separate groups to do research on the four (4) options. Commissioner Anderson recommended getting the pros and cons for all 4 options after the cost estimates are received. Commissioner Janssen suggested getting a list of jobs for the Task Force. Commissioner Britz stated the Task Force should listen to the public on other possible options in the City of Houghton limits. Commissioner Anderson stated there should be an option to expand in the future. Commissioner Janssen suggested putting something on the County website for the public to know where to voice their concerns to questions. Eric Forsberg will put a list of the Task Force Members on the County website.

The Board agreed to the next Task Force meeting date to be held on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Circuit Courtroom.

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, will send the Task Force an email regarding splitting up into four (4) groups, and having the groups split before the July meeting if the cost estimates arrive before the July meeting.

Commissioner Anderson requested an update be done on the 2010 occupancy data for the jail.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to schedule the next Task Force meeting for Monday, July 8, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Circuit Courtroom.

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

Public Comments:

Horst Schmidt addressed the Board.

Commissioner Janssen congratulated Hans Tolkkinen and Angela Miles who were recently recognized by the Michigan Sheriff's Association for their hard work during the 2018 Father's Day Flood in Houghton County.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 5:55 pm.

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

---

Albert Koskela, Chairman

---

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk