

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARINGS/REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held two (2) Public Hearings and a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 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 Koskela at 5:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Koskela.

C. Roll call:

The following Commissioners responded to roll call done by the Deputy County Clerk, Renee Cunningham:

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

D. Public Hearing – Brownfield Authority-Lakes Building Supply Brownfield Plan Adoption

a. Open Hearing

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

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

b. Discussion and Public Comment

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, gave an overview of the Brownfield Plan.

Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA Director, discussed the project for property in Lake Linden with construction being done for two (2) single family homes. The Plan is a \$460,000.00 investment. This is the last step in the process. Schoolcraft Township and Village of Lake Linden are in agreement to the plan.

Horst Schmidt requested the annual property tax.

Jeff Ratcliffe stated that will be determined by the assessor. Eligible expenses will be captured and based on taxable value. Will not capture school mills.

c. Close hearing

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

E. Public Hearing – American Rescue Plan (CSLFRF) \$6.8 million

a. Open Hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to open the hearing.

b. Discussion and Public Comment

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed hearing input from the public on the spending of the ARPA funds.

Jeff Ratcliffe discussed the Houghton County Land bank inventory of buildings that need to be demolished. A proposal has been done by the Land bank to the state due to no state funding for demolition.

Horst Schmidt asked the purpose of tonight's hearing.

Commissioner Anderson stated there is no Resolution. All requests from department heads, and this public hearing is for public requests. The County is obligated to obligate the money by the end of 2027, however, the Board hopes to respond this year.

Horst Schmidt asked how much is obligated so far.

Commissioner Anderson stated five (5) police cars so far.

Horst Schmidt asked how the public can give input.

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, stated she posted on the County website and the Gazette.

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed information from Marquette County that Lisa Mattila shared on how the monies are to be spent. Elizabeth Bjorn stated the government has given guidelines on how the money must be obligated and spent.

Horst Schmidt requested where the guidelines are available to the public and if monies were being allocated throughout Houghton County.

Commissioner Anderson gave several examples of requests and stated the townships are having the same discussions if they received the funding.

c. Close hearing

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

F. Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting as presented.

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

G. Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Chairman Koskela asked for #11 be added for a waiver on a zoning ordinance for Portage Township. Bruce Peterson will be on zoom.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Agenda with the one (1) addition as presented.

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

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

None.

I. Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$965,848.74.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

J. Correspondence:

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, discussed a NorthCare Network letter for the opioid settlement for \$8 million that should be received in the U.P. Johnson & Johnson will release in April.

K. Reports:

1. Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District: Annual tree sale-people can pre-order online at hkconserve.com.

Health Department-a letter has been sent to the state to hurry up and approve Mr. Bradway's request.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Commissioner Anderson thanked the City of Houghton for the marijuana sales. The County receives the same amount as a city in downstate (Example: Detroit). There should be five (5) licenses by the end of next year.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Transfer Station: The recycling hours have been expanded. March had over 4 tons. In 2022 there have been 9 tons recycled.

Recreation Authority: A \$300,000 allocated for site development at the Houghton Douglas Falls to implement a parking area, an over look site, a bathroom, and a pedestrian bridge All would be funded. The Governor has more money in the bill for State parks. Articles of Incorporation will need to be adopted at the monthly meeting at all municipalities in Houghton County which must be done publicly during the May meetings. This will allow for an operating agreement with the DNR.

Commissioner Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

3. County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, informed the Board that Laughlin flight was canceled for April, and is cancelled for May also due to a pilot shortage. The MDOT put out a 30-day extension on bids.

He received one bid for #1331 runway for \$10.5 million. Project will begin in 2023. MDOT handled the bids.

SkyWest is still the carrier.

Commissioner Tikkanen commented on the 29 airports that SkyWest services. Houghton County is #3. He feels the chances are good that Houghton County will have a good resolution.

Dennis Hext said it is a pilot shortage. It is not based on our performance.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, stated he hired Chad Hammerstrom as the electrical inspector. He will be paid by permit. Calumet Electronics is complete. Harbor Freight will be moving into the old JcPenny’s building. The Extended Stay by the Rockhouse is near completion. They currently have 32 building permits waiting on road restrictions to be lifted.

Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer, commented on the 23 parcels that have been foreclosed. Lisa and Todd will be inspecting them in May.

Josh Saaranen, Sheriff, stated there have been 853 complaints for the year. They have received a new minivan for mental health transports. He has submitted three (3) quotes for ARPA funds. There are currently 16-20 inmates in jail.

L. Old Business:

- 1. Laurium Labs Cyber Security Training and Evaluation Summary

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, discussed the evaluation information in the Boards packets for internal viewing only.

M. New Business:

- 1. Brownfield Authority Resolution #22-3

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, gave a summary of the Brownfield Authority Resolution.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the Brownfield Authority Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

**APPROVAL OF FORMER LAKES BUILDING SUPPLY REDEVELOPMENT
BROWNFIELD PLAN
RESOLUTION #22-3**

Motion by: _____,
Supported by: _____

WHEREAS, the Michigan Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Act 381, P.A. 1996 as amended, authorizes municipalities to create a brownfield redevelopment authority to promote the revitalization, redevelopment, and reuse of contaminated, blighted, functionally obsolete or historically designated property through tax increment financing of eligible environmental and/or non-environmental activities; and

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners established the Houghton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority in accordance with Act 381; and

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority has reviewed the Brownfield Plan for the former Lakes Building Supply Redevelopment in the Village of Lake Linden and Schoolcraft Township at their February 7, 2022 meeting and recommends approval by the Houghton County Board of Commissioners and concurrence by the Lake Linden Village Council and Schoolcraft Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lake Linden reviewed the Brownfield Plan at their March 17, 2022 meeting and the Schoolcraft Township Board of Trustees reviewed the Brownfield Plan at their March 22, 2022 meeting and both have concurred with the Brownfield Plan, as required by Act 381; and

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has determined that the Brownfield Plan constitutes a public purpose of blight removal, additional private investment and housing and increased property tax value; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Brownfield Plan has been noticed and held on April 12, 2022 and notice to taxing jurisdictions has been provided in compliance with the requirements of Act 381;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the Brownfield Plan and finds, in accordance with the requirements of Section 14 of Act 381 that:

- (a) The Brownfield Plan meets the requirements of Section 13 of Act 381, Brownfield Plan Provisions as described in the Brownfield Plan, consistent with format recommended by the State of Michigan, including a description of the costs intended to be paid with tax increment revenues, a brief summary of eligible activities, estimate of captured taxable value and tax increment revenues, method of financing, maximum amount of indebtedness, beginning date and duration of capture, estimate of impact on taxing jurisdictions, legal description of eligible property, estimates of persons residing on the eligible property if applicable, and a plan and provisions for relocation of residents, if applicable.;
- (b) The proposed method of financing the costs of eligible activities, private financing arrangement by the developer is feasible and that the authority will not arrange financing, as described in Section 3.2 of the Plan;
- (c) The costs of eligible activities proposed are reasonable and necessary to carry out the purposes of Act 381, including meeting regulatory requirements and the cost estimates are based on evaluation from certified professionals, experience in comparable projects, and preliminary discussions with reputable companies, as described in Section 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 of the Brownfield Plan; and
- (d) The amount of captured taxable value estimated from the adoption of the Brownfield Plan is reasonable, as calculated in Table 2 of the Plan, based on calculations of the tax revenues derived from taxable value increases and millage rates approved and authorized by the taxing jurisdictions on an annualized basis and balances against the outstanding eligible activity obligation approved as part of the Brownfield Plan and expenses reviewed and approved by the Houghton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to the Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act, Act 381 of the Public Acts of 1996, as amended, being MCL 125.2651, *et seq*, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Brownfield Plan for the former Lake Building Supply Redevelopment.

Ayes: Commissioners
Nays:
Absent:

ALBERT KOSKELA
Houghton County Board of Commissioners Chairman

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of the County of Houghton, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above resolution as adopted April 12, 2022 at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Street, Houghton, Michigan.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

2. MMCE Grant Resolution #22-4

A Motion was made by Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the MMCE Grant Resolution as presented and apply for the Grant.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION – EGLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT GRANT 2022
#22-4

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) has issued a Materials Management County Engagement (MMCE) Grant opportunity, to help counties:

- Create partnerships within regions and counties
- Understand current materials management gaps and challenges
- Highlight future changes to the planning process
- Outline steps that can occur now at the county/regional level to assist with the development of future materials management programs and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a county is eligible to receive grant funds in the amount of \$10,000 when acting independently of other counties or \$12,000 when collaborating with other counties, with neither amount requiring a local matching share; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County has engaged in discussions about multi-county regional partnership and **has decided to pursue the grant in partnership with other Western Upper Peninsula counties** ; and

WHEREAS, any county in Michigan may apply and serve as awardee of a MMCE grant; and

WHEREAS, a county's Designated Planning Agency (DPA) will act as the responsible party for completing the activities of the grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners authorizes the application to EGLE for a MMCE Grant in the amount of \$10,000, and agrees to all assurances stipulated in the Grant Application; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WUPPDR is authorized to act as the DPA for the purpose of the MMCE grant, with Jerald Wuorenmaa, Executive Director, the point of contact and authorized signatory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all funds from the MMCE grant shall be payable to WUPPDR; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Albert A. Koskela, Chairman shall be the authorized representative and signatory for Houghton County for the purpose of the MMCE grant.

Ayes: Commissioners
Nays:
Absent:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

ALBERT KOSKELA
Houghton County Board of Commissioners Chairman

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of the County of Houghton, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above resolution as adopted April 12, 2022 at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Street, Houghton, Michigan.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

3. Building Department Establishment of Enterprise Fund Resolution #22-5

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, explained that this Resolution is for the Building Department to establish an enterprise fund that will be separate from the general fund.

A Motion was made by Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adopt the Building Department Establishment of Enterprise Fund Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Telephone: (906) 482-8307 Fax: (906) 482-7238

Chairperson
Commissioners
Albert Koskela
Glenn Anderson
Vice Chairperson
Gretchen Janssen
Tom Tikkanen
Roy Britz

RESOLUTION #22-5
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ENTERPRISE FUND FOR THE
HOUGHTON COUNTY BUILDING DEPARTMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The County of Houghton is hereby formally establishing an Enterprise Fund for the Houghton County Building Department, allowing for the separation and identification of the Building Department Program, people and resources independently from the General Fund programs, people and resources; and

WHEREAS, The County of Houghton Board of Commissioners designates the County Administrator as the Responsible Agent for management of the Programs and Funds; and

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves of and directs the County Administrator to establish an Enterprise Fund for the Building Department in an acceptable form consistent with all Federal, State of Michigan and external audit Laws and Regulations; ensuring that funds are properly stewarded, now, and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the separation of the Building Department from the General Fund and establishment of a separate fund, will allow for proper identification of building department revenue, collected fees and proper recording of capital improvements associated with the Building Department separately, allowing for compliance with Federal, State and audit laws and regulations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has formally established an Enterprise Fund for the Houghton County Building Department;

Moved: Commissioner
Supported: Commissioner
Carried: YES Commissioners
NO None
Absent None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners, the County of Houghton at the regular meeting held on the 12th day of April 2022, 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 hereunto affixed my official signature, this 12th day of April, 2022.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

4. Karhu Cyber Security Proposal FY 22 - \$30K

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, advised the Board of the items outlined in the proposal. The \$30,000 proposal is for the 2022 year. Houghton County is more proactive on cyber security. There will be a final report summary from Laurium Labs for the Board. Tom Ressler, IT Director, will provide a monthly report summary to the Board.

Commissioner Tikkanen commented on the hard work of Tom Ressler and the two (2) security companies.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the \$30,000 Karhu Cyber Security Proposal for 2022 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Sale of Airport Outlot #A-Resolution #22-6

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, explained the paperwork in the Board's packets for the Resolution.

A Motion was made by Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Sale of Airport Outlot#A Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Sale of Outlot A to Kirk Hammel, Tami Hammel
RESOLUTION #22-6

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners, as successor in interest to the dissolved Houghton County Airport Authority on July 24, 1989 is authorized to all rights of interest and statutory authority granted to the dissolved Houghton County Airport Authority.

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Memorial Airport Committee, created on July 26, 1989, under the Authority of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Act 73 of the Public Acts of 1970 and Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, and pursuant to the authority vested in the County of Houghton by the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan has the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the management, government and the use of said airport property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Albert Koskela, Houghton County Board Chairman, is authorized to sign all closing documents for the sale of Outlot A of Houghton County Airpark Plat, to Kirk Hammel and Tami Hammel, husband and wife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at a Houghton County Board of Commissioners Meeting held on April 12, 2022, a resolution was adopted to approve the conditions set forth in the purchase agreement presented on March 24, 2022 with final acceptance of March 31, 2022 from Kirk Hammel and Tami Hammel, husband and wife, for Outlot A, Airpark Plat, for the purchase price of \$14,943.00 pursuant to the Airport Industrial Park Covenants Section 5, Resale Rights, contained within the Houghton County Airpark Plat, September 12, 1973, in Liber 23 of Miscellaneous Records, Page 157, Houghton County Register of Deeds Records.

Motion Moved By:

Motion Supported By:

Roll Call Vote: Yes:_____

No:_____

Motion Carried:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Albert Koskela, 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 _____ day of April, 2022 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
_____ day of April, 2022.

JENNIFER KELLY, COUNTY CLERK
County of Houghton

6. Adult-Use Marijuana Payment record/per County

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, explained the 2021 payment of \$169,360.32.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the payment and the appropriate budget amendment for the Adult-Use Marijuana Payment record/payment as presented.

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

7. UPACC Spring 2022 Conference May 5th & 6th 2022

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, provided the registration in the Board’s packets for those who wish to attend.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to authorize those Commissioners who wish to attend the May 5th and 6th Conference.

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

8. Keweenaw Waters Resort Letter of Support

Commissioner Anderson discussed the letter of support to Karen Beauchamp, State Director, Representative Markkanen, and Senator McBroom in support of the Keweenaw Waters Resort for development.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to send a letter of support to Karen Beauchamp, State Director, Representative Markkanen, and Senator McBroom in support of the Keweenaw Waters Resort for development.

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

9. Memorandum of Understanding with MI Council 25, AFSCME, AFL-CIO

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with MI Council 25, AFSCME, AFL-CIO as presented.

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

10. County Equalization

Jaikob Djerf, Deputy Equalization Director, on behalf of himself and Cheryl Patrick thanked the Equalization Department staff for all of their hard work on the 2022 Equalization Report, and explained the differences in the assessed, state equalized, and taxable values. The top four (4) units for state equalized and taxable values were the City of Houghton, City of Hancock, Portage Township, and Calumet Township. For 2022, there was a total of \$1,420,545,752 in state equalized value (approximately 5.2% increase from 2021). And a total of \$1,070,386,165 in taxable values for 2022 (approximately 6.2% increase from 2021).

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the Equalization report as presented.

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

11. Bruce Peterson Waiver

Bruce Peterson requested a 30-day waiver for the Zoning for the Portage Township Planning Commission. The Portage Planning Commission had made requests in prior years to the Houghton County Planning Commission and received no reply.

Commissioner Anderson suggested sharing changes with the Houghton County Planning Commission.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve a 30-day waiver for a zoning ordinance for the Portage Township Planning Commission.

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

12. Travel

- a. Gabriel Holmstrom-Prosecuting Attorney's Office-\$350
- b. Melissa Schwenn/Hannah Dittmar-Friend of Court Training-\$888.24

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the travel request as presented.

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

13. Appropriations

- a. W.U.P.H.D. Quarterly \$66,584.50
- b. UPCAP Annual Dues-\$1,100
- c. 2022 RC&D Council Dues - \$350.00

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

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

N. Public Comments: (5 minute limit)

Sarah Heathmen requested an apology for the statements made at the last Board of Commissioners meeting.

O. Announcements:

None.

P. Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 7:25 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk