

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARINGS/REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 14, 2022**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 14, 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 Tikkanen at 5:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

C. Roll call:

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

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

D. Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the minutes of the May 10th, May 16th, May 26th and June 3, 2022 meetings as presented.

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

E. Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner requested to add #7 for the classification of the Building Inspector and #7a for 911 sign fees. Commissioner Codere asked for #1a be added for Osceola Township

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

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

F. Public Hearing-Truth in Taxation

a. Open Hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, 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

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, gave an overview of the 2022 tax amounts to be collected for an increase of 3.118 mills.

c. Close hearing

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

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

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

Mark Halkola addressed the Board. He will discuss further under Old Business.

H. Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,010,885.97.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Codere, Anderson 5,

NO: None 0.

I. Correspondence:

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, discussed Chassell Township starting a Master Plan.

J. Reports:

1. Standing Committee:

Road Commission: Commissioner Britz reported the Road Commission reported the County received 282.6 inches of snow this past year compared to 205" the previous year.

911 Board: Commissioner Britz stated there is 1 tower left that the County owns. The equipment is old and failing. They are considering moving it to Bumbletown Road and run fiber optic, have a new antenna installed, and have a structural analysis done. Undersheriff, Jon Giachino, is looking into cost.

Chairman Tikkanen suggested Commissioner Janssen look into selling the County owned property.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Health Department: There have been confirmed cases of the bird flu in Gogebic and Ontonagon Counties. There have been reports of deceased birds, and people are encouraged to not touch them, however, there is no risk in eating the birds if they are prepared properly.

She discussed the What's up in your neighborhood grant.

City of Houghton: Discussed the cruise ship that visited Houghton.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Fair Board: The Houghton County Fair will be from August 25th to August 28th. The motor cross will be on Thursday, Off Road on Friday night, Monster trucks on Saturday night, and the demolition derby on Sunday afternoon.

ARPA Funds: Commissioner Anderson discussed scheduling a future special meeting/work session. He discussed adding an officer to the UPSET team, and Brittany Bulleit, Prosecutor, discussing needing another Prosecutor and an additional staff person. Administrator Bjorn stated she had not received anything from Prosecutor Bulleit. Two (2) part time deputies may be hired at the Sheriff Department, however, that is contingent on the funding through the marijuana license.

Chairman Tikkanen suggested getting an update from Prosecutor Bulleit at the next work session, and to put it on the next Agenda.

Commissioner Anderson stated the Houghton County Arena will be submitting a request at the next work session for ARPA funds. He stated the City of Hancock may make an offer at the July or August for the Houghton County Arena property.

Commissioner Codere reported to the Board on the following:

He has been visiting the townships in his District for their monthly meetings. He discussed Osceola Township not being on the list for ARPA funds with the Osceola Township Supervisor.

Recreation Authority: Trail 3 will not be done as planned this year. There is an opportunity to get a trail to Lake Linden. 1 ravine needs to be constructed. He has encouraged the DNR to get it done and asked the Board to lobby the DNR.

3. County Officers:

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, stated her office has been working on state reports, printing tax bills, and looking into mapping.

Doug Hebner, Captain Sheriff Department, stated there are currently 26 inmates, and the work camp is open and has 8 inmates there. He stated getting future employees is contingent on funding.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, informed the Board that there have been 138 electrical permits, 248 plumbing permits, and 200 soil and erosion permits.

Chairman Tikkanen commented on setting up a meeting with department heads for security upgrades.

K. Old Business:

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

Administrator Bjorn stated information was in the Commissioners Packets for a County wish list, and the running totals for their obligation binders.

Commissioner Codere stated Osceola was not approved for matching road monies as Supervisor Halkola was waiting on communication from the County.

Mark Halkola, Osceola Supervisor, discussed the letter from the Road Commission in March. He questioned matching the ARPA monies to the millage monies with the Road Commission. He asked to be included in the ARPA funds and to be able to utilize the funds for township needs for recreation and a baseball field.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve Osceola Township be included in the right to request matching funds for road repairs.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

New Business:

1. City of Houghton-Eric Warra-Pewabic Street Right-of-Way

Eric Warra, City of Houghton Manager, discussed the sale of the Houghton High School side of the lot over 14 years ago, and the establishment of the Community Garden on Pewabic Street that currently has a right of way. The City of Houghton would like the right of way back since the project did not happen.

Commissioner Anderson discussed a future site for a jail, and a long term lease.

Chairman Tikkanen stated no action should be taken until property is secured for a jail and the Board discussed the Sharon Avenue property and the Mattson property.

Commissioner Britz stated Portage Township agreed to a 425 Agreement with the County having 9 years to build. The Mattson property would give the County 20+ years to build.

Commissioner Anderson suggested securing a property by this fall.

Eric Warra discussed the City of Houghton updating the DDA plan, and has a public hearing scheduled for the end of the month. He discussed new opportunities coming to the City of Houghton such as the cruise lines. The cruise ship will be back June 24th.

2. Resolution #22-8 Authorizing 2022 County millage rate

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, discussed the deficit elimination on the Airport for improvements,

A Motion to adopt Resolution #22-8 Authorizing the 2022 County Millage rate was made by Commissioner Anderson and supported by Commissioner Janssen as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

401 EAST HOUGHTON AVENUE

HOUGHTON, MI 49931

RESOLUTION #22-8

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish the number of operating mills to be levied from within it's authorized millage rate,

AND:

WHEREAS, the additional millage rate will increase revenue from Ad Valorem Property Taxes by \$ 333,606 over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the operating rate for the County of Houghton will increase by 0.3118 mill, yielding a total operating millage rate of 6.2220 mills in 2022 in accordance with Act 5, P.A., 1982, Act 2, P.A., 1986 and Act 264, P.A., 1987.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TOM TIKKINEN, CHAIRMAN

JENNIFER KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

DATED: June 14th, 2022

3. Resolution #22-9 Authorizing Collection of the County's taxes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Codere to approve Resolution #22-9 Authorizing Collection of the County's taxes as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 2022-009**

RESOLUTION IMPOSING 2022 SUMMER PROPERTY TAX LEVY PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 357 OF 2004, AND NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY ALLOCATED TAX LEVY.

WHEREAS, Houghton County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended to levy and collect County allocated property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004, being MCL 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy of the total County allocated tax;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, the Houghton County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2022 at the rate of 100% of the amount allocated after application of the "Headlee" millage reduction fraction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of each city and township in Houghton County is directed to account for and deliver all the County allocated tax collections for 2022 in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 357 of 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall deliver a copy of the Resolution to the Treasurer of each city and township in Houghton County.

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

Roll Call Vote YES

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED
STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Houghton, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 14th day of June, 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 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 14th day of June, 2022.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

4. Resolution #22-10 Passenger Facility Charge Fund Deficit Elimination

Administrator Bjorn stated this Resolution would be done for the life of the fund, and it is a five (5) year forecasted budget.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve Resolution #22-10 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Codere, Janssen 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
Tom Tikkanen
Glenn Anderson
Vice Chairperson
Gretchen Janssen
Roy Britz
Kevin Codere

**HOUGHTON COUNTY PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE FUND
TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION 22-10**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the timing of PFC monies are collected and expensed, as directed by the Federal Aviation Administration, dictate that the Fund will always have a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets; and

WHEREAS, the activity currently being posted to the PFC Fund was previously reported in the Airport Fund but was split out for internal accounting purposes only; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit balance in unrestricted net assets is an internal accounting number only.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognize that the PFC Fund will be in a perpetual state of deficit balance.

Commissioner Britz discussed the Building Inspector's classification be changed from a MP9 to MP10 for an increase of \$2,200 per year. The increase would be within the budget.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Building Inspector Classification to be changed from a MP9 to a MP10 retroactive to June 1, 2022.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

a. 911 sign fees

Commissioner Britz requested the cost for the 911 sign fees be changed from \$25 to \$40 per sign, and suggested mailing the sign to the person requesting the sign.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the increase of the 911 sign fees to \$40.00.

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

8. Travel

a. Jennifer Kelly-CPL meeting Travel \$117.00

b. Buck Foltz-FOC Annual FOCA Conference \$1300.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the above-mentioned travel requests.

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

9. Appropriations

a. NorthCare Liquor Tax - \$31,218.50

b. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,123,73

c. MI Townships Association-\$505.00

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

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

L. Public Comments: (5 minute limit)

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, thanked the Board.

M. Announcements:

None.

N. Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Codere to adjourn at 6:45 pm.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk