

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING/WORKGROUP SESSION
AUGUST 22, 2022**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting/Workgroup Session on Monday, August 22, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton and public viewing by Zoom and in person.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Tikkanen at 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

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.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

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

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

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

None.

Correspondence:

None.

Old Business:

1. American Rescue Plan (CSLFRF) \$6.8

Administrator Bjorn discussed invoices from Keweenaw Chevrolet and Northern Auto due to the County missing out on the purchase of the truck with the plow the Board previously approved. There were four (4) proposals in the Boards packets for used trucks.

Tom Bingham, Maintenance, stated he liked the \$43,000 option best that would have the plow and installed for \$7,500. There would be no trade in.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the truck with plow is necessary for clean-up of the property during the day. The Board previously approved \$35,000.00.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Codere to authorize up to \$47,000 for the 2019 Chevrolet with plow.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

New Business:

1. Work Group Session

Administrator Bjorn stated there is a remaining ARPA balance of \$4,725,313.78 after deducting the increase in the truck with plow purchase.

Commissioner Anderson discussed the courthouse and District Court security.

Tom Ressler, IT Director, gave revised numbers to the Board, and discussed his wish list with the Board. He discussed a new telephone system that should last 8-10 years. He would get bids.

Administrator Bjorn stated she wished to use \$130,000 in ARPA money to help the County due to wage increases.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to allocate \$180,000.00 to IT for the items discussed.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Codere to approve \$70,000.00 for the courtroom upgrades for all three (3) courts.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Administrator Bjorn discussed malicious software attacked. She recommended using \$130,000.00 of the ARPA Funds. She said she would look into fitting it into the budget.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve \$130,000.00 for courthouse cyber security as recommended by Administrator Bjorn and Tom Ressler. This would cover the fiscal year.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Anderson discussed if District Court will stay at the courthouse or if they would move to Sharon Avenue. He discussed an upgrade to the fuel or sewer system at the Airport, and the status of the Land Bank.

Commissioner Britz stated a proposal should come before the Board for the September 13th Board meeting for the Sharon Avenue property.

Commissioner Codere suggested getting the township to sign off on the proposal for the church. He asked where the highest levels of threat are in the courthouse.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve up to \$250,000.00 for the single point entry and courthouse security upgrade.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Administrator Bjorn discussed elevator upgrade, and stated the bearings went on the air conditioner's motor, and discussed maintenance LED lights.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve \$28,500 in upgrades for the courthouse to get LED lights.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Administrator Bjorn stated the elevators are good until December 2022.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve \$155,250 in elevator upgrades at the courthouse.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Administrator Bjorn asked Tom Bingham to do a report at the September Board of Commissioners meeting on the maintenance of the parking deck.

Chairman Tikkanen requested Dennis Hext to provide a new proposal to the Board.

Commissioner Anderson recommended getting an estimate for the courthouse roof repair.

Public Comments: (5-minute limit)

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 2:01 pm.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk