

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2022**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special meeting on Friday, September 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton and public viewing in person and by Zoom.

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 Chief Deputy County Clerk, Renee Cunningham:

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

Absent: Gretchen Janssen, District 4.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Codere requested to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> possible Resolution #22-13B.

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

The Motion carried by a voice vote: Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Canal View Board of Directors were in attendance.

Dr. Terry Kenzel addressed the Board. He has been a geriatric doctor for 40 years.  
Mary Sears addressed the Board. She has concerns on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Resolution put on the table.  
Evan Dixon, Attorney, addressed the Board.  
Jonathan Pachan, Rehab, addressed the Board.  
Mike Salmi, addressed the Board and stated the van drivers are wearing masks.  
Lynn Taavola, addressed the Board and felt the CMS requirements take a toll on staff and patients.  
Sarah Butler, social worker, addressed the Board.  
William Lahti, retired military, addressed the Board.  
Maddie Manderfield stated her mother is in the nursing home and needs to see faces.  
Wendy Weigart, a herbologist, addressed the Board.  
Dan Niemela addressed the Board.  
Joan Suits, Nurse Practitioner, addressed the Board.  
Cal Zastro addressed the Board.  
Kristy Lynn Seppala addressed the Board.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the effort at hand is to adopt a Resolution, and that a Resolution passed by the board is powerful and is a grass roots effort to communicate thoughts.

Craig Bekkola, addressed the Board.

Emily Turronen addressed the Board.

Adam Gill stated there is a limited opportunity due to staffing.

Ivan Niemela requested ministry in the nursing home to attend to the sick.

Sally Givens stated the need for her autistic son to see faces.

Dell Heikkinen stated she worked at nursing homes and people were wearing dirty masks when they entered Canal View.

James Chisock stated one size fits all medical care is wrong, and Covid is used to control the population.

Angel Bates stated residents deserve to be treated like being in their own home.

Jerome Niemela stated he believes the Board has control.

Jim Tervo read a letter from patriot's daughter.

Julie Carlton addressed the Board.

Correspondence:

Commissioner Anderson put on file.

Renee Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Clerk, read a letter sent to County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly from Mark Wisti against the Board approving a Resolution.

Administrator Bjorn read a letter from Commissioner Janssen for support of a modified Resolution.

Old Business:

1. Revisit Canal View Resolution #22-13

Commissioner Britz supports Kim Salmi.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve Resolution #22-13.

The Motion FAILED by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Tikkanen 2.

NO: Codere, Anderson 2.

ABSENT: Janssen 1.

Commissioner Codere thanked everyone for coming. He stated he agrees with public comments, and stated he supports Canal View. He discussed lobbying mandates to change or remove. He also discussed the original Resolution. Nowhere does the Resolution say lobbying. He stated he can see Canal View relaxing the Covid policy. He read the Resolution to the public and discussed a loss of 50% of the work force. He asked how do they get the work done. He stated his problem with the language on the letter from Canal View. He knows about contracts and how words matter. He stated that the Board cannot get rid of mandates and will not sign a contract if he believes the contract is illegal. He asked that Resolution be cleaned up so he can understand it as some sentences contradict each other.

Chairman Tikkanen pointed out last week's letter that was published and released publicly and sent to the Board Chair. He suggested redrafting it into a Resolution. There were good public statements of support given he felt. He also felt Kim Salmi gave a concise document that was well written. He stated he is in support of what the people of Houghton County want and applauded everyone who reached out to him. He said they have never had a more qualified Director at the Medical Care and this is a serious heartfelt issue and that we the people make the changes not the other way around. Government is the servants of the people.

Commissioner Codere agreed with what Chairman Tikkanen said.

Commissioner Britz stated he supports the Resolution.

A Motion was again made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve Resolution #22-13.

The Motion FAILED by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Tikkanen 2.

NO: Codere, Anderson 2.

ABSENT: Janssen 1.

Commissioner Anderson discussed Resolution B.

New Business:

2. Resolution #22-13(A)

A Motion was made by Commissioner Codere and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve Resolution #22-13A as presented.

Commissioner Codere read Resolution #22-13A.

Commissioner Codere asked Administrator Salmi if the Resolution accomplishes what she wants.

Kim Salmi stated she has been the Administrator 5 years. She needs overall support from the Board. She stated no Houghton County Commissioner has reached out to Canal View since Albert Koskela was the Commissioner. She complimented the employees for doing an amazing job, but they have lost their voices and felt Houghton County was their employer. She encouraged the Commissioners to talk to fellow Commissioners at the MACC Conference. She suggested the Commissioners come and sit at resident council meetings and talk to residents and staff. There are 2 different parties. Encourages the Board to talk to staff, and the ones who did not feel comfortable coming to the Special Meeting. They have had exceptions due to staff shortages and there are sheltered residents in the facility. If they follow government, more residents become ill.

Chairman Tikkanen asked if Resolution A accomplishes Kim Salmi's tasks.

The Motion PASSED by the following vote.

YES: Codere, Anderson, Tikkanen, Britz 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSENT: Janssen 1.

Commissioners Codere and Anderson were thanked for coming up with a new version of the Resolution.

Commissioner Anderson thanked Kim Salmi.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz for a vote of confidence in Kim Salmi and for the County to do a written statement of support for Kim Salmi.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Chairman Tikkanen asked Administrator Bjorn to work on the details of scheduling a joint meeting between Canal View and the Houghton County Board.

Public Comments:

Maddie Manderfield asked the Board to do the same with mandates as they did with the Resolution.

Jim Tervo stated he hoped there would be 2 Commissioner at the Canal View meetings as the County always had a representative.

Jerome Niemela stated the Canal View is short staffed.

Mary Sears thanked the Commissioners and Kim Salmi for being brave, and being the first to stand up.

Announcements:

Commissioner Britz stated he hoped Kim Salmi would rescind her resignation.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 2:45 pm.

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

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Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk