

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, in the 5th 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 November 13, 2019 meeting as presented.

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

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:

Linda Belote addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 1,043,257.14 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Jail, and stated he would report more later on in the Agenda.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Health Department, Houghton-Keweenaw Conservation District, and Upward Talent Council.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: Portage Lake Multi Group, the 2020 Census. The Census increased the pay for Houghton County workers from \$14.00 to \$21.00 per hour plus \$.58 per mile for mileage. He also commented on the Portage Township Master Plan.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Solid Waste Committee and the Trails Committee.

Chairman Koskela informed the Board that the DNR awarded a 4 wheeler to the Houghton County Sheriff Department due to Phil Helminen's outstanding service.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, informed the Board that this year's numbers for the airport are ahead 2%. He also discussed the T hanger construction.

Old Business:

1. Houghton County Jail

Commissioner Britz stated that they have several properties in the City of Houghton and Portage Township. Steve Mattson is selling a 7 acre parcel for \$230,000 behind the Sears building. There is a parcel on Portage Street near the water tower also for sale. The Apostolic church on Sharon is also for sale for \$1,000,000.

Commissioner Anderson suggested Commissioners Britz, Janssen and Karin Cooper have a recommendation and cost estimates to the Board within 1-2 months.

Commissioner Britz was asked for his opinion as to what he felt are the best options so far from looking at the properties. He stated that the Portage Street property and Steve Mattson's property on Evergreen are the best options so far.

New Business:

1. Michigan Indigent Defense 2019/20 Grant

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the second year Grant to the Board which is for Houghton, Keweenaw and Baraga counties.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Michigan Indigent Defense 2019/20 Grant agreement as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Tri-County Public Defenders 2019/20 Contract

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Tri-County Public Defenders 2019/20 Contract as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Compliance with Michigan Act 270

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the Act for employees contributing for insurance. The two (2) options for contributing towards those costs, either pay 20% for their health insurance premiums or that the employees pay for the amount that their health insurance premium exceeds a hard cap established by the State. The caps for 2019 are \$6,818.87 for single, \$14,260.37 for two person and \$18,596.96 for family coverage.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to opt out for one (1) year according to the Compliance with Michigan Act 270.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Appointment to the Houghton County Planning Commission

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen seconded by Commissioner Anderson to appoint Melissa Davis (Economic and Development) and Rachel Pressley (Zoning) to the Houghton County Planning Commission.

The Motion failed by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Anderson 2.

NO: Tikkanen, Koskela, Britz 3.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen seconded by Commissioner Britz to appoint Eugene Londo (Zoning) and Diane St. Amour (Economic Development) to the Houghton County Planning Commission.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Britz, Koskela 3.

NO: Anderson, Janssen 2.

5. Appointment to DHHS Board

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to appoint James Tervo to the DHHS Board.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Britz, Britz 3.

NO: Anderson, Janssen 2.

6. Houghton County Land Bank Authority application

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Glen Anderson and James Hainault to the Houghton County Land Bank Authority.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Request to allow MERS purchase of service

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the Resolution for William Voght to buy additional times with MERS.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Appropriations

- a. UPACC - \$1,100.00
- b. NACo dues - \$733.00
- c. UPEDA - \$500.00
- d. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,123.73

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

- e. Complete Count Committee - \$2,000.00

Commissioner Anderson stated he would like to do marketing for snowbirds and students. He would like to do radio, ads in the Gazette and do posting on Facebook.

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Travel Requests

- a. Jennifer Kelly – Houghton County Clerk
- c. Derek Poyhonen – District Court Probation

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.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, informed the Board that the funding came in for two (2) patrol cars for the Houghton County Sheriff Department.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 5:54 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk