

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, November 13, 2020, in the 5th Floor Conference room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton. The public was able to attend by Zoom.

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 done by the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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 October 13, 2020 minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

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

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

Public Comments:

Bruce Woodry addressed the Board regarding the County Clerk's duties regarding the Houghton County Road Commission Board.

Evan McDonald addressed the Board regarding the transfer station.

George Eakin addressed the Board regarding the transfer station.

Carol Eckstrom addressed the Board regarding the transfer station.

Commissioner Tikkanen stated the Commissioners would be talking about the Old Transfer Station on the Agenda, not the existing Transfer Station.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 2,752,673.50 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Health Department.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: COVID, congratulated all elected officials, discussed an article in the Daily Mining Gazette, and the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission, and North Care Network.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Recreation Authority Steering Committee Meeting with the DNR, Solid Waste Committee, and the Airport.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: SmartZone, and the Sheriff Department.

County Officers:

None reported.

Old Business:

1. Old Transfer Station

Ben Larson, Administrator, informed the Board he recently visited the old transfer station, it is in tough shape and he was alarmed by the condition of the building. Commissioners Tikkanen and Janssen agreed to visit the offer an estimated value of the old transfer station and report back to the Board at the December meeting.

New Business:

1. MERS

Ben Larson, Administrator, informed the Board that MERS has asked for more detail and spelling out Houghton County's plans for this Fall's Addendums. A summary of the Addendums was presented to the Commissioners, with no changes from previous years, but simply more detail on each of our divisions.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Addendums.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the \$129,857.00 cost of living adjustment Benefit E COLA provision for the Sheriff Deputies Union retirees as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

YES: Tikkanen, Anderson, Koskela, Janssen 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSTAIN: Britz 1.

2. Houghton County Road Commissioner's compensation

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Houghton County Road Commissioners compensation as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

3. HCPC Appointment Expirations

The Board agreed to advertise in the Daily Mining Gazette with a December 4, 2020 deadline for three (3) applicants. The current Planning Commission Members having expiring terms are Allan Aho, John Larson, and Evan McDonald. The Board will seek applicants in the fields of Agriculture & Forestry Land Use, Education, and the Environment.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to advertise for the three (3) open positions on the Houghton County Planning Commission Board with a December 4, 2020 deadline.

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

Appropriations:

1. Western Upper Peninsula Health Department quarterly appropriation \$68,880.75

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the \$68,880.75 payment as presented.

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

2. Copper Country Mental Health ½ appropriation \$27,415.82

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the \$27,415.82 payment as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Chris Woodry addressed the Board regarding Coles Creek.
Bruce Woodry addressed the Board regarding Coles Creek.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk