

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2021**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, in the 5th Floor Conference room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton. The public was attending in person.

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 Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; and Roy Britz, District 5.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the October 12, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Tikkanen requested #13 be added to the Agenda for discussion regarding an additional bridge.

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

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

Public Comments-Agenda Items Only (5 minutes per participant):

Horst Schmidt addressed the Board regarding the Secure MI Vote Petition. Chairman Koskela informed him this was not an Agenda Item.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 3,769,804.56 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

1. Standing committee

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

He discussed the Veteran Affairs programs. The City of Hancock Transit is offering free transportation to the Veterans on a six (6) month trial.

Mike Bjorn is retiring, and Amy Gregersen will be his replacement.

There were 109 visits in September 2021 to the Veteran's Office by Veterans.

Transfer Station: Scott Reed is the new Manager of the Transfer Station. They are still in need of one (1) or two (2) drivers. There has been approximately 15 tons of recycling done for the year, and there was 2.3 tons in October 2021.

Commissioner Anderson had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Janssen had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following:

Jail: He is meeting monthly with Chairman Koskela, and Sheriff Saaranen regarding the requirements of the jail. They will meet next week for their monthly meeting.

Chairman Koskela reported to the Board on the following:

He will discuss his report under the Agenda items.

2. Special Committee.

None.

3. County Officers

None.

Old Business:

1. Resolution #21-13

The Appropriations Act was voted on in September 2021. The Board did not do a voice vote on the Resolution.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the General Appropriations Act Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT
OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022
RESOLUTION #21-13**

A resolution appropriating monies and adopting the 2021-2022 Houghton County Budget including: the General Fund Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Budgets and other Proprietary Fund Budgets.

It being the finding and opinion of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners:

The committee of the Whole has had under consideration the taxes for the local units of government and the needs of various County departments/budgetary units.

The Committee of the Whole after considerable deliberations has recommended adoption of the budgets and reports attached and made a part of this Appropriations Act.

In recognition of the above-listed findings and opinion:

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves to adopt the attached 2021-2022 General Fund Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Budgets and other Proprietary Fund Budgets, and appropriate monies from various County revenues and equity reserves to authorize expenditures in accordance with the Account Group Detail of the various funds.

The Board further resolves that an appropriation is not a mandate to spend but shall limit the amount which may be spent for such purposes as are defined by the Board of Commissioners and which shall be limited to the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2021 and ending September 30, 2022. All Special Revenue fund balances at year end are to be considered the initial allotment under the Appropriations Act for the new fiscal year. If a budgetary unit contends that part of its year end fund balance is either obligated or otherwise restricted from being considered as an initial allotment of County monies under the new fiscal year appropriations, it will be incumbent upon that unit to demonstrate the obligation or restriction to the satisfaction of the County Board of Commissioners.

In recognition of the need to consider appropriation of monies from time to time to agencies or institutions outside of general operations the Board of Commissioners further resolves to review requests from such agencies when and as funds are available for such purposes. Any County department, agency, board, commission or unit whatsoever and any organization, public or private, which accepts a County appropriation shall do subject to an agreement which provides for inspection and/or audit by Houghton County Board or its designee. The Board, or its designee, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination, to any and all books, documents, papers and records of the recipient organization.

The Board further resolves that the budget may be amended as conditions indicate upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee provided the budget remains in a balanced state. It further authorizes the County Administrator to make certain budget transfers in accordance with the Board's Budget transfer policy up to ten percent of departmental expenditures. In addition, the Board instructs the County Administrator to incorporate into the 2021-2022 departmental general fund budgets, wages and related fringe benefits for the county elected and appointed employees as authorized by the Board of Commissioners.

The Board further resolves that in administration of the adopted budgets, budgetary control shall reside at the most detailed level of budget adopted by the Board, i.e., department, program or activity. Unlimited transfers among line items without prior approval within the ASupplies@ and AOther Services and Charges@ account groups may be made by the Administrator/Department.

I, Jennifer Kelly, Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the above-stated Appropriations Act was taken under consideration at the budget hearing on September 29, 2021 of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, and the following action taken. It was moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Janssen, and carried by a roll call vote that the resolution be passed.

Ayes: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Koskela, Britz

Nays:

Absent:

Sworn to me on this 16th day of November, 2021

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

New Business:

1. 2021 Houghton County Personnel Policy

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the 2021 Houghton County Personnel Policy as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone who worked on the Personnel Policy.

2. Airport Lot #21 Parcel B Sale

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, stated the Copper Island Academy wants to purchase the 1.4 acre parcel for \$5,000.00. He stated the Airport Committee approved the easement.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to sell the 1.4 acre parcel to Copper Island Academy.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. 2022 Healthcare Renewal

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, informed the Board that the 2022 Healthcare Renewal is a decrease of 1.88.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the 2022 Healthcare Renewal as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Sale of SWT Bailer-Bids

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, stated she did not receive any sealed bids.

5. Houghton County BOC Meeting Schedule

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the 2022 BOC meeting schedule as presented.

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

6. AFSCME & Airport Union Tentative Agreements

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, informed the board about the changes for the AFSCME contract for leave, bereavement, and the wage increases over the next three (3) years of \$.80, \$.60, and \$.50.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve both contracts as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Houghton County Road Commissioners' Compensation

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Houghton County Road Commissioners' Compensation as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Houghton County Planning Commission Appointments

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to reappoint Horst Schmidt and Dr. Timothy Sears to the Houghton County Planning Commission.

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

9. ARP Funds-Purchase of #5 Sheriff Department Patrol Cars

The Board discussed using the American Rescue Plan (ARP)/Spending Cares money to purchase five (5) patrol cars for the Sheriff Department. The Sheriff Department will go through Michigan My Bid.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to purchase five (5) patrol cars for the Sheriff Department with the Spending Cares Money.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Equalization Department 2021 Township millage rate revision

Jacob Djerf, Assistant Equalization Director, explained a millage rate revision was required due to three (3) revisions needed for the townships of Chassell, Duncan, and Osceola.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the 2021 Township millage rate revision as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Commissioner Tikkanen thanked the Equalization for their hard work.

11. Laurium Labs Cyber Security Solution Proposal

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Laurium Labs Cyber Security Solution Proposal for \$3,360.00 as presented. Commissioner Tikkanen thanked Tom Ressler and stated this proposal will get Houghton County additional security.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

12. Appropriations

- a. Western UP Health Department -\$68,584.50
- b. W.U.P.P.D.R. - \$2,866.50
- c. MIDC Tri-County Public Defenders 1st 50% payment - \$60,119.00

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

13. New Bridge

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed the Rebuild Initiative and the \$10 Billion to be distributed to Counties in Michigan. He discussed a single span additional bridge being built due to the approximate 20,000 residents living on Hancock's side of the bridge. The Board agreed to have Elizabeth Bjorn draft a letter to the legislatures, MDOT, and the Governor to advocate for an additional bridge.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to have Elizabeth Bjorn write a letter on behalf of the Board of Commissioners to the Legislatures, the MDOT, and the Governor.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments (5 minutes per participant):

Horst Schmidt addressed the Board regarding churches being eliminated as polling places if the MI Secure Vote passes.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk, read an email from Dick (Storm) Tuisku to the Board requesting Zoom be reinstated for County Board meetings.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk