

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 12, 2023

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on the 5th Floor of the Courthouse, City of Houghton with the public viewing in person and by Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 4:00 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; Joel Keranen, District 2; Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Roy Britz, District 5.

Approval of Minutes-November 14th Regular Meeting and November 22nd Special Meeting:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the minutes of the November 14th and November 22nd meetings as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen 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):

Benjamin Naasko addressed the Board and asked the Board to approve the Childcare Initiative on the Agenda.

Approval of Bills -\$2,481,037.54:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve paying the bills submitted of \$2,481,037.54.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Keranen, Janssen 5

NO: None 0

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Land Bank: The City of Hancock submitted an application for blight elimination for the old hardware store.

He congratulated the MTU Smart Zone on receiving a \$3.246 Million Grant and a \$750,000 Grant.

Douglas Houghton Falls: He discussed phase 1 of the 2024 construction that will cost \$600,000 for the parking lot and the trail development and the scenic site will fall under the leadership of McLain State Park.

Brownfield: He discussed a 2024 potential project. Also, that a RFQ would be going out for service and possibly Brownfield Development plans for both sites.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

She praised Curt Judson for getting the Transfer Station back up and running after a scale failure. There was 3.43 tons in recycling in November and 1334.31 tons of trash.

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Tikkanen had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext updated the Board on the Airport.

Chris VanArsdale updated the Board on the sink hole project that should be completed this year.

Josh Saaranen updated the Board on the Sheriff Department.

Todd LaRoux updated the Board on the Building Department.

Jennifer Kelly updated the Board on the Early Voting Center.

Old Business:

1. Remaining ARP Obligations

Chairman Tikkanen stated the balance of unobligated ARPA funds is \$781,563.78.

Administrator Larson stated the funds must be obligated to get the full State Revenue Sharing and an additional \$7,000 for Houghton County if we do.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to obligate any remaining ARPA funds to County general obligation use.

Commissioner Janssen asked if this was allowed. Administrator Larson said yes.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Keranen, Tikkanen, Anderson, Janssen 5

NO: None 0

2. Childcare Initiative

Iola Brubaker addressed the Board and explained the in-home programs for childcare. She shared a needs assessment, and that we would be able to take a program that was started in

Marquette and implement it here. A 17-year veteran will coach new childcare providers. Her hope is to encourage 12 new providers, but there is no plan to sustain this effort and longer-term plans will need to be made. There 12 new providers would hope to serve 100-200 children. Iola shared that she has an active email and Facebook list of interested parents (600 each), and she hopes to help address this need if approved for her 3 year plan and ask.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve \$79,000 a year for a 1 year plan for the Childcare Initiative.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Janssen 4

NO: Keranen 1

New Business:

1. HKCD Support Letter

Rachel Tarpey addressed the Board regarding the Forest Assistance Program and asked the BOC to consider writing a letter of support for the grant application.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve a Resolution and a letter of support for the Forest Assistance Program.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Keranen, Tikkanen, Anderson, Britz 5

NO: None 0



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUGHTON KEWEENAW CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S LETTER TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT REQUESTING FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS

#23-24

WHEREAS: The forested counties in Michigan currently have Forestry Assistance Program Foresters through their Conservation Districts, or have had the FAP program in the recent past. No grant application is needed for this program; MDARD distributes FAP funds (approximately \$250,000 every five years) directly to Conservation Districts across the state; and

WHEREAS: With FAP funds, HKCD would hire or support a manager to administer the Program, and a Forester to implement the Forestry Assistance Program to Houghton and Keweenaw Counties, providing technical assistance to private forest landowners, and conservation education to the community; and

WHEREAS: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District has been asking MDARD to reallocate or redistribute FAP funds to include Houghton and Keweenaw Counties since 2018. MDARD responded that they cannot increase the pot of funding for FAP, but that HKCD should work with our legislators. Representative Markkanen and Senator McBroom have responded with support for HKCD seeking FAP funds. They are committed to talking with MDARD and finding a solution to include Houghton and Keweenaw Counties in the FAP program; and

WHEREAS: Official support from the Houghton County Board of Commissioners demonstrates local support to HKCD, and strengthens our state legislators’ and HKCD’s case in requesting FAP funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Houghton County Board of Commissioners formally proposes to support HKCD, by supporting HKCD’s letter to MDARD requesting FAP funding for Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.

Moved by Commissioner:

Supported by Commissioner:

Roll Call Vote:

Yes:

No:

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commission

Date

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of Houghton County, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above Resolution as adopted December 12, 2023, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

2. WUPPDR Materials Management Planning Process Presentation

Lisa McKenzie gave a presentation to the Board regarding the new part115 Materials Management Plan through EGLE. She said that WUPPDR would be happy to coordinate a Countywide or multi-county plan. This can take 3-5 years to develop, and we will be learning more about this effort from the State and EGLE.

3. Remonumentation Application 2024

Joe Foster explained the 2024 \$66,075 grant application for Remonumentation for Houghton County. He talked about the work of the Remonumentation Team of Surveyors, and that they are working near Otter Lake as they move South through the County.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the 2024 Remonumentation Application as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 5

NO: None 0

4. Land Bank Authority Vacancies

There are 2 vacancies on the Land Bank Authority Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to appoint John Haeussler and Tom Tikkanen to the Land Bank Authority Board for 3 year terms.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Keranen, Janssen 5

NO: None 0

5. Allocation Board Vacancy

The Board had discussion and tabled this for a future Agenda.

6. Draft 5 Year Master Plan & 5 Year Recreational Plan

Administrator Larson advised the Board that both plans are on the County website under Houghton County Planning Commission. Anyone with questions or feedback may contact Administrator Larson by telephone or email.

Commissioner Janssen commented on some typographical errors.

7. Reschedule January 2024 Meeting to January 16th

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to move the January meeting from January 9th to Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

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

8. Brownfield Redevelopment Appointees

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the list of appointees to the Brownfield Redevelopment Board.

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

9. Resolution #23-23 Repurchase Outlot A Airport Industrial Park

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve Resolution #23-23 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0



RE-PURCHASE OF OUTLOT A FROM KIRK HAMMEL AND TAMI HAMMEL

RESOLUTION #23-23

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, as successor in interest to the dissolved Houghton County Airport Authority on July 24, 1989, is authorized to all rights of interest and statutory authority granted to the dissolved Houghton County Airport Authority.

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Memorial Airport Committee, created on July 26, 1989, under the authority of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Act 73 of the Public

Acts of 1970 and Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, and pursuant to the authority vested in the County of Houghton by the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan, has the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the management, government and use of said Airport property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Tom Tikkanen, Houghton County Board Chair, is authorized to sign all closing documents for the re-purchase of Outlot A of Houghton County Airpark Plat from Kirk Hammel and Tami Hammel, husband and wife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, at a Houghton County Board of Commissioners meeting held on December 12, 2023, the conditions set forth in the Re-Purchase Agreement executed by the County on December 5, 2023, and by Kirk Hammel and Tami Hammel on November 30, 2023, are reaffirmed, and the County of Houghton is hereby authorized to re-purchase Outlot A, Airpark Plat, for the purchase price of Fourteen Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Three and 00/100 Dollars (\$14,943.00) pursuant to the Airport Industrial Park Covenants Section 5, Resale Rights, contained within the Houghton County Airpark Plat, September 12, 1973, in Liber 23, Page 157, of Miscellaneous Records, Houghton County Register of Deeds.

Motion Moved By:

Motion Supported By:

Roll Call Vote: Yes:

No:

Motion Carried:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Dated: _____

Tom Tikkanen, Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.

COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County of Houghton, Michigan, at a meeting of its Board of Commissioners on the 12th day of December, 2023, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that the meeting was held and the minutes therefore were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

10. Appropriations:

1. National Association of Counties Dues-\$733

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve \$733 for the National Association of Counties Dues as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Faith Morrison addressed the Board regarding missing items on the Agenda compared to what is on the County website.

Craig Waddell addressed the Board regarding glass recycling.

Commissioners Janssen and Keranen will follow up with Craig Waddell.
Commissioner Janssen will do research.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 5:16 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk