

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing & Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room 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.

Public Hearing-CDBG Loan Program (CLP)

a. Open Hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to open the meeting.

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

b. Discussion and Public Comment

Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA Director, discussed the loan request from Peak Metal Roofing Products, LLC for \$45,000 from the Houghton County RLF. It will be a 7% loan for 10 years with a 5-year balloon.

c. Close Hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to close the meeting.

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

Approval of Minutes January 17, 2024 Regular Meeting:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Tikkanen requesting adding #13d for Northwoods Rail Transit Commission for a \$350.00 annual renewal bill.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the Agenda as presented with the one (1) addition.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,807,555.75.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Keranen had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Houghton County Fair, Marina, MTEC Smart Zone, Houghton County Brownfield.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Senator Stabenow did a recommendation for Kyle Primeau to go to West Point, a 2 day EGLE Webinar, and the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report to the Board.

Chairman Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Veterans Grant. Vet Fest will be on June 24, 2024 at the SDC from 12:00-5:00 pm.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, updated the Board on the operations at the Airport.

Jaikob Djerf, Equalization Director, updated the Board on the GIS map.

Jon Giachino, Undersheriff, updated the Board on the Jail. Maximum is 28, and they were as high as 34, but currently have 30 inmates.

Clerk Kelly thanked the Board for the beautiful counter/work stations in the Clerk's Office.

Todd LaRoux, Building Department, updated the Board on the Building Department.

Tim Gasperich, Supervisor of Calumet Township, stated there will be a celebration of life for Paul Lehto on February 16th from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Siskiwit Club in Calumet.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. HCRLF Committee Recommendation & 2. Resolution 24-02 CLP Authorizing Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #23-02 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0



HOUGHTON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT LOAN PROGRAM (CLP) AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION #24-02

WHEREAS, assisting the startup, expansion, or location of companies that create new jobs is a priority for Houghton County; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Peak Metal Roofing Products, LLC will assist the creation of new manufacturing jobs in the County; and, **WHEREAS**, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) offers loans for assisting companies with permanent working capital; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County has requested Community Development Block Grant Loan Program funding authorization in the amount of \$45,000 from the MEDC; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the local community development plan as described in the application and that at least 51% of the beneficiaries of the proposed project would be low and moderate income persons; and,

WHEREAS, no project costs will be incurred prior to a formal loan award, completion of the environmental review procedures and a formal, written authorization to incur costs is received from the MEDC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners authorizes submission of a CDBG Application in the amount of \$45,000 for the Peak Metal Roofing Products, LLC project.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer, is authorized to execute the application form and attachments on behalf of the County, sign the Loan agreement, and serve as the certifying officer for the environmental review.

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 February 13, 2024, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

3. Lot 2 Repurchase Agreement & 4. Resolution 24-03 Repurchase Lot 2

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Repurchase Agreement and Resolution #23-03 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Houghton County Courthouse
401 East Houghton Avenue
Houghton, MI 49931
(906) 482-8307



Tom Tikkanen *Chairman*
District 1
Roy Britz *Vice Chairman*
District 5
Joel Keranen *Commissioner*
District 2
Glenn Anderson *Commissioner*
District 3
Gretchen Janssen *Commissioner*
District 4

REPURCHASE OF LOT 2 FROM ROYALE AIR SERVICE, INC. # 24-03

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 documents necessary to complete and close upon the repurchase of Lot 2 of Houghton County Airpark Plat from Royale Air Service, Inc., a Minnesota corporation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the terms and conditions of a Repurchase Agreement presented to and considered by the Houghton County Board of Commissioners at its February 13, 2024, meeting are approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that at a Houghton County Board of Commissioners meeting held on February 13, 2024, the County of Houghton was hereby authorized to repurchase Lot 2 of the Airpark Plat for the purchase price of forty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$40,000.00) pursuant to the foregoing Repurchase Agreement and pursuant to the Airport Industrial Park Covenants Section 5, Resale Rights, contained within the

Houghton County Airpark Plat, recorded September 12, 1973, in Liber 23, Page 157, of Miscellaneous Records, Houghton County Register of Deeds.

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

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of Houghton County, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above Resolution as adopted February 13, 2024, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

5. Fire Alarm Bid

Administrator Larson stated employees at the courthouse could not hear the fire alarm in some offices during a recent fire drill. An open bidding session was done through UPEA, and KPL won the bid. 65 alarms and 2000 feet of cabling will

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to pay \$59,865 with ARPA funds to upgrade the courthouse fire alarm system.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

6. River Trails LLC Letter of Support Request

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to have Administrator Larson endorse the letter of support and send it to EGLE.

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

7. Copper Country Mental Health Re-Appointments

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to appoint Barry Fink, Pat Rozich, James Tervo, Richard Herrala, and Julie Farmer to a 3 year term on the Copper Country Mental Health Board.

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

8. Resolution 24-04 Renaming Portion of M-26 in Honor of Private Wesley Karna

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adopt Resolution 24-04 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

9. County Designated Assessor

Jaikob Djerf, Equalization Director, discussed the Interlocal Agreement and the Designated Assessor that is required by the State. 9 of the cities/townships have endorsed this selection.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the County Designated Assessor of TAG Consulting (Mildred Ann Gasperich) as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

10. MDNR Stanton Township Letter of Support for Recreational Trail Repairs to Freda Grade

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to send a letter of support for the Freda Grade Trail Repairs.

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

11. None.

12. Travel

a. District Court-Certified Court Manager’s Program (Multiple Parts) \$2,459.00

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the \$2,459.00 for District Court as presented.

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

13. Appropriations:

- a. NorthCare Liquor Tax Oct. Dec 2023 \$9,048.50**
- b. UPCAP 2024 Dues -\$1,100.00**
- c. KEDA 2024 Membership Support-\$20,000.00**
- d. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission \$350.00**

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

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

Public Comments:

Jeff Ratcliffe addressed the Board.

Announcements:

Administrator Larson stated he would be gone for a MMRMA Board Meeting and Conference from February 26-28 in Lansing. There is no cost to the County.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 5:03 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk