

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL/PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly at 5:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly.

Roll call:

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

Election:

1. Chairman-A nomination was made by Commissioner Tikkanen for Commissioner Koskela to be the Chairman.

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

The meeting was turned over by Jennifer Kelly to Chairman Koskela.

2. Vice Chairman-A nomination was made by Chairman Koskela for Commissioner Tikkanen to be the Vice Chairman.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 Committee of a Whole meeting, and the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Koskela requested Franklin Township be added to #7.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the Agenda as presented and to add Franklin Township to #7 on the agenda.

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

Public Comments:

Rachel Pressley from WUPPDR addressed the Board and gave a brief update to the Board on the current Hazzard Mitigation Plan.

Public Hearing-Houghton County Recreation Plan Update

Open hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to open the public hearing.

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

Discussion and Public Comment:

Evan McDonald with Houghton County Planning Commissioner and Brad Barnett from WUPPDR both gave updates on the Recreation Plan to the Board. Board members stated they had not seen the Plan. Evan McDonald stated it was filed in the County Clerk's Office and it was available online. The Board had discussion regarding a possible Special Meeting in January to be able to review the Plan.

Close Hearing:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to close the public hearing.

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

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$2,359,290.35.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Eric Forsberg commented on the report from the Houghton County Fair. August 22-25, 2019 will be the next Houghton County Fair.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Chairman Koskela informed the Board that Commissioner Pintar's December report was in their packets.

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

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Resource Conservation and Development Council, MSU Extension, and the Houghton County Road Commission.

Commissioner Koskela reported to the Board on the following: Stated he would discuss his report further under #7 on the Agenda.

County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, addressed the Board regarding 2018 totals for the Building Department. He stated there were 310 building permits issued in 2018, 54 new homes built in 2018 compared to 52 in 2017, and 1,042 electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits. The cost of construction was \$25.2 million on permits.

Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer, informed the Board that she has appointed Karen Semmens as the County Deputy Treasurer and Carol Little will now be full time, and she will be hiring someone in the future for the part-time position in her office.

Late Additions:

None.

New Business:

1. Meeting dates/times.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the Schedule of Board Meetings 2019 as presented.

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

2. Rules of Order. The Board discussed several changes and Eric Forsberg stated 3 Committees can be deleted which are Commission on Aging, Renaissance Zone Committee, and Community Corrections. Trail Byways will now be known as Trails. Additions will be: Jail Committee. Solid Waste Committee will increase to 3.

Commissioner Janssen suggested that the Board meeting packets be online by Noon on the Friday before the Board meetings.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the Rules of Order with the changes and have the Board meeting packets available online by Noon on the Friday before the Board meetings. Eric Forsberg will be in charge of getting the packets on the website.

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

Commissioner Janssen discussed getting more information to the public regarding what each of the Committees do and to consider turning the Board meeting table to the public, and getting microphones.

Commissioner Anderson suggested getting road and aerial maps of Houghton County on the walls in the Board meeting room. Eric Forsberg will look into this.

3. Commissioner Committee Appointments.

District Health: Chairman Koskela nominated Commissioners, Janssen, Britz, and Anderson be appointed to the District Health Board. No other nominations.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Commissioners Janssen, Britz, and Anderson to the District Health Board.

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

Mental Health: Chairman Koskela stated he would like to remain on the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Britz to have Chairman Koskela be appointed to the Mental Health Board.

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

4. Department of Veteran's Affairs Committee Appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to reappoint Gene LaRoche and to appoint Paul Kitty to an unexpired term the Veteran's Affairs Committee.

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

5. NorthCare Network Contract

Eric Forsberg explained issues with NorthCare to the new members of the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to have Eric Forsberg write a letter to NorthCare. The new Commissioner who gets appointed to this Committee will follow up on this matter. The Contract was not approved at this time.

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

6. Marina Rental Agreement

Commissioner Janssen found a typo on page 2. Paragraph 1-lessor should be lessee. The Board discussed adding to paragraph #1 that it state the term be for 6 months or until the purchase is completed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Marina Rental Agreement with the changes.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Resolution regarding City of Houghton & Franklin Township/National Flood Insurance.

City of Houghton:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the City of Houghton National Flood Insurance, and approved the Resolution.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Franklin Township:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Franklin Township National Flood Insurance, and approved the Resolution.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. U.P. State Fair Board Appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to reappoint Steve Palosaari to the U.P. State Fair Board.

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

9. Houghton County Land Bank Grant Application

John Haeussler from the Houghton County Land Bank addressed the Board regarding the 4 parcels of blighted land for residential development in Lake Linden. The goal is to

clean up the land and develop the land for 3 single family residences to be built. The demolition grant is \$50,000.00. Commissioners Tikkanen and Anderson are on the Houghton County Land Bank Committee.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Houghton County Land Bank Grant Application and write a letter of support for the Grant.

10. Recreation Plan Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to table this matter until the Special Board meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 12:00 pm (Noon).

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

11. Appropriations

- a. Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance -\$500.00
- b. Copper Country Mental Health- \$41,123.72
- c. Western U.P. Health Department -\$65,147.50

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Public Comments:

Faith Morrison addressed the Board.

Announcements:

Chairman Koskela welcomed all 3 new Commissioners to the Board.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 6:07 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk