

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

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:

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 Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 Organizational Meeting and the January 30, 2019 Special meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Chairman Koskela requested #6 be added to the Agenda for KEDA.

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:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,508,245.51 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

The Board discussed correspondence from DEQ regarding doing assessments on blocked culverts.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: KEDA, Upward Talent Council and the Solid Waste Committee.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: Dam Committee, Houghton County Arena, Western UP Health Department and the Emergency Management Plan.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District and the Western UP Health Department.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: UP 911 Authority. The Board had discussion regarding a letter from Under Sheriff, Kevin Coppo, regarding opting out of the UP 911 Authority.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept Kevin Coppo's letter and opt out of the UP 911 Authority.

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

Commissioner Britz further reported to the Board on the following: Dam Committee, Law Enforcement Board, and NorthCare Network. The Board had discussion regarding NorthCare Network. The Board agreed that Commissioner Britz will continue to work with NorthCare Network regarding the ongoing issue.

Chairman Koskela reporting to the Board on the following: Airport.

County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, discussed the National Flood Insurance Program. He stated the ones who are signed up with the County are Chassell (only flood plain map), Osceola, Franklin, and City of Houghton.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, stated the Airport received a \$30,000 Grant to do terminal modifications. The money will be used improve the baggage area.

Lisa Mattila, Houghton County Treasurer, introduced her new Deputy Treasurer, Karen Semmens, and informed the Board that Jason Coffey will begin working part-time in the Treasurer's Office on February 25, 2019.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Marina Grant – Scope of Work Changes

Eric Forsberg explained the changes to the Board. All of the piers will be re-decked.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the changes on the Resolution for the DNR Grant as presented.

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

2. Houghton County Land Bank Authority 2018 Annual Report

Lisa Mattila, Houghton County Treasurer, stated there were 38 parcels in the Houghton County Land Bank in 2018. 12 parcels were sold. 4 additional parcels were obtained. At the end of 2018 there were 30 available parcels. The parcels will be able to be viewed on the Treasurer's website in the near future, and on the bulletin board by the Treasurer's Office.

3. County Drainage Districts

John Pekkala, Drain Commissioner, gave an update to the Board on the Dam Committee. He explained the Dam Code Public Act 40 of 1956. He advised the Board that the drains are dealt with on a local level, not a County level. Local cities and townships can apply for a Drain District or local cities and townships can pass a Resolution. Further information is available on the Drain Commissioner's website. He advised that the expenses are paid by special assessments to the Water Shed.

He also advised that the Mining Companies set up Drain Districts years ago and were maintained, however, when the mining companies were no longer functioning, the Drain Districts were not maintained.

He stated there are Emergency Funds Grant monies available to apply for. There were no Drain Districts in place when the Father's Day flood occurred.

The Otter Lake Drain District cost approximately \$30,000.00.

#### 4. Appropriations

##### a. NorthCare Network - \$23,138.20

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained the breakdown of how he calculated the monies owed to NorthCare Network.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the payment of \$23,138.20 to NorthCare Network.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

##### b. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the payment of \$2,866.50 to WUPPDR.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

##### c. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission - \$150.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the payment of \$150.00 to Northwoods Rail Transit Commission.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

#### 5. Travel Requests:

##### a. MAC Conference

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve three (3) Commissioners and Eric Forsberg, Administrator, to attend the MAC Conference.

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

##### b. Brenda Cadwell – Friend of the Court

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Brenda Cadwell's travel request.

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

#### 6. KEDA

Commissioner Tikkanen stated the Board currently support and pays KEDA \$5,000.00 annually. He recommended increasing it to \$10,000.00 annually effective with our fiscal year.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve increasing the annual payment to KEDA to \$10,000.00 effective with our fiscal year.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk, advised the Board and the public that there will be a May 7, 2019 election for the townships of Adams, Elm River, Franklin, Hancock, Quincy and the City of Hancock.

The Board had discussion regarding the Committee of Whole meeting regarding the jail.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to schedule a Committee of Whole Meeting regarding the Jail on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

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

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 6:04 pm.

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

---

Albert Koskela, Chairman ,

---

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk