

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 14, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, in the 5th 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 April 23, 2019 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Tikkanen requested the Houghton County Land Bank and the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund be added to the Agenda under #8 & #9.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Agenda as presented with the two (2) additions.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 859,285.38 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, discussed a request from the Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce regarding their request for a Resolution of Support for the 148th Fighter Wing. The Board discussed the letter.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Resolution of Support for the 148th Fighter Wing as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission regarding a complaint in Chassell Township from George Rajala regarding flooding on his road.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, Houghton County Planning Commission, Keweenaw Economic Development Agency, MSU Extension, Health Department, and the UP Economic Development Alliance.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: Marina, MDOT, Houghton County Fair-provided handouts to the Board on the upcoming August 22-25, 2019 Houghton County Fair, and DEQ.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Solid Waste Committee, and the Houghton County Memorial Airport.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

County Officers:

No one had anything to report.

New Business:

1. Jail Task Force

The Board discussed the list of names for the Jail Task Force.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the names on the list for the Jail Task Force and add names as necessary, and scheduled the first Jail Task Force meeting on May 28, 2019 at 6:00 pm in the Houghton Circuit Court room. UP Engineering should have their report completed in June 2019. Eric Forsberg will prepare the Agenda and get some information on previous Jail elections for the organizational meeting.

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

2. Camp Kitwen

Commissioner Anderson commented on the tour of Camp Kitwen. He stated it is in need of a new roof and is not set up for a jail due to cells not being secure.

Sheriff McLean discussed other camps that were not able to be converted into a jail, the county seat issue, and staffing concerns.

Karin Cooper, UP Engineering, stated Camp Manistique was the best suited of all the State work camps, but was still not deemed to be practical to convert to a jail.

Sheriff McLean stated that no other counties have reached out to Houghton County stating they wish to have a regional jail.

3. NorthCare update

Commissioner Britz discussed his letter to the Board members explaining the history of the issues with NorthCare. He explained NorthCare agreed to \$37,000 being repaid to them from the 2020/2021 budget with paying \$18,500 the next two (2) years, and \$9,000 will be sent this year to our drug court.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying Northcare \$37,000 over the next two (2) years.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

4. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund Board application

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Ethan Johnson to the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund Board.

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

5. Airport resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Airport Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. Torch Lake Township flood insurance resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Torch Lake Township flood insurance Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Appropriations

a. WUPPDR - \$28,566.50

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Houghton County Land Bank Authority

The Board had discussion on the transfer property on the tax foreclosure rolls in the Village of Calumet being transferred from the tax foreclosure rolls to the Houghton County Land Bank. Jeff Ratcliffe stated the building is stable.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the transfer of the property in the Village of Calumet to the Houghton County Land Bank Authority.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the extension of 15 months to 60 months for the Quincy Wood Wright loan.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Travel Requests:

- a. MAC Regional Summits
- b. UPACC Spring Conference
- c. Dan Giachino, Toni Cleary, Heather Cote – Friend of the Court
- d. Dan Giachino – Friend of the Court
- e. Elizabeth Bjorn – Controllers Office

The Board agreed that Commissioners Koskela, Tikkanen, Anderson and Janssen would attend the MAC Regional Summit.

The Board agreed that Commissioners Koskela, Tikkanen, Anderson and Janssen would attend the UPACC Spring Conference.

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

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

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 5:58 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk