

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 12, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, by Zoom.

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 done by the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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 14, 2020 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, discussed how the Board wished to handle the interviews for the County Administrator position. The Board agreed to add this to #8 on the Agenda.

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 \$ 717,498.76 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: the 2020 Census, five (5) legislative meetings, and the Health Department.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Revolving Loan Fund, and the Health Department.

Commissioner Tikkanen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Koskela had nothing to report.

County Officers:

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Director, updated the Board on the COVID testing.

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, stated the contracts have been signed for the hangers at the airport.

Old Business:

1. Houghton County Jail

Commissioner Britz stated that Commissioner Janssen and himself have a meeting scheduled with UP Engineering.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Director, explained the 2020-2025 Plan to the Board. Rachael Pressley was available at the meeting, but had nothing further to explain.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Houghton County Hazard Mitigation Plan and Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY
2020 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE
ADOPTION RESOLUTION #20-07**

WHEREAS, Houghton County, Michigan has experienced disasters that have damaged commercial, residential, and public properties; displaced citizens and businesses, closed streets and bridges, and threatened the health and safety of the general public; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County has prepared a Hazard Mitigation Plan that outlines options to reduce overall damage and impact from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County has reviewed and updated the Hazard Mitigation Plan on the five-year cycle as required; and

WHEREAS, opportunities to review and comment on Hazard Mitigation Plan have been provided to the public, and local, state and federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the Hazard Mitigation Plan pending adoption by Houghton County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The updated HOUGHTON COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN dated April 2020 is hereby adopted as an official plan of Houghton County, Michigan.

The Emergency Management Coordinator shall submit a written report to the Board of Commissioners when updates, revisions, or other actions are recommended or required, at a minimum once every five years.

Albert Koskela, Chairperson

Date

Houghton County Board of Commissioners

2. Houghton County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Houghton County COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Houghton County Recreation Authority Articles of Incorporation

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed not taking any action on this item tonight, and he will schedule a Trail Committee meeting soon.

4. Houghton County Tax Allocation Board Resolution

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, explained that the Houghton County Tax Allocation Board has met, and this Resolution is done every four (4) years, and needs a Resolution approved by the Board. The Board also needed to approve the language to go on the August ballot.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Houghton County Tax Allocation Board Resolution, and to approve the ballot language for the August 2020 ballot as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL AND ALLOCATION OF OPERATING
MILLAGE WITHIN THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
RESOLUTION #2020-09**

WHEREAS the Houghton County Allocation Board signed a Resolution for a period of 4 years (2021-2024) for 8.0 mills; and

WHEREAS the Houghton County Board of Commissioners agreed to put the 8.0 mills on the August 4, 2020 ballot; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approves the following ballot language as presented:

Shall a renewal of separate tax limitations be established for the period of 4 years (2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 inclusive) for the County of Houghton and the Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 8.0 mills as follows:

	MILLS
County of Houghton	6.3
Townships	1.3
Intermediate School District	<u>0.4</u>
Total	8.0

Motion Moved by: Commissioner Janssen

Motion Supported by: Commissioner Britz

Roll Call Vote: Yes: Commissioners: Janssen, Britz, Tikkanen, Koskela, and Anderson.
No: None.

Motion carried.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution for Renewal and Allocation of Operating Millage Within the County of Houghton, Michigan at a regular meeting on the 12th day of May, 2020, 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature this 13th day of May, 2020.

JENNIFER KELLY, COUNTY CLERK
County of Houghton

5. Copper Country Recycling Initiative Survey

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed the Countywide survey. Carol Ekstrom with the Copper Country Recycling Initiative stated 295 surveys were completed giving the survey a 95% confidence level. The results of the survey indicate that 70.5% of county residents outside the “twin cities” are strongly interested in a more comprehensive recycling program. There is a willingness to pay for recycling. 34% of people agreed to transform the transfer station into a recycling center. 76% agreed to pay \$5.00 per month for curbside pick up of recycling. 64% were willing to drive 10 miles to drop off at the facility.

Evan McDonald with the Copper Country Recycling Initiative said people had a lack of information when they completed the survey.

6. Airport Deficit Elimination Plan

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adopt the Airport Deficit Elimination Plan and Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Telephone: (906)482-8307 Fax: (906)482-7238

Chairperson
Albert Koskela
Vice Chairperson
Tom Tikkanen

Commissioners
Glenn Anderson
Gretchen Janssen
Roy Britz

Resolution #2020-08

**HOUGHTON COUNTY AIRPORT FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Airport Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2019 of \$189,157.00; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan, and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan, could result in a reduction of State Revenue Sharing.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the transfer of \$189,157.00 from the Houghton County General Fund to the Airport Fund to eliminate the deficit balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budget for the year ending September 30, 2020 for the Houghton County Airport Fund.

AYES: Anderson, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen, Britz

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the County of Houghton, state of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its regular meeting

held on the 12th Day of May, 2020, the original of which resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 13th Day of May, 2020.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

7. Appropriations
 - a. Copper Country Mental Health - \$41,123.73
 - b. Northwoods Rail Transit Commission - \$200.00

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Interviewing for County Administrator position

Eric Forsberg, Administrator, stated there have been five (5) applicants. The Board agreed to do a closed session on June 2, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., to discuss the applicants and schedule interviews.

Eric Forsberg stated he was retiring August 31, 2020, and would work with his replacement for one (1) month.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 5:52 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk