

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
June 9, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing/Regular meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton and public viewing 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:

Commissioner Tikkanen requested a correction to the recycling section in the May 12, 2020 minutes per Carol Ekstrom's email.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 meeting with the one correction as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

The Board discussed adding #6 to the Agenda for the County Administrator position.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, 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 Hearing – Truth in Taxation

1. Open hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to open the meeting.

2. Discussion and comments

Cheryl Patrick addressed the board and discussed the numbers for the Truth in Taxation.

3. Close hearing

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

#### Public Hearing – Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund

##### 1. Open hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to open the meeting.

##### 2. Discussion and comments

Jeff Ratcliffe addressed the board and discussed the response loan program. The Committee received 38 inquiries and 22 applications for approximately \$600,000 in requests. The Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund approved \$204,000 in loans. 1 person withdrew their request. \$25,000 was approved for Cross Country Sports in Calumet.

##### 3. Close hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to close the meeting.

#### Public Comments:

None.

#### Correspondence:

None.

#### Reports:

#### Standing Committee:

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: Health Department.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: the 2020 Census, free WIFI locations.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission.

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

Commissioner Koskela did not comment.

#### County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, stated the contract was approved for the t-hanger, there is now a WIFI hot spot at the airport, and \$250,000 was received in grant money.

Brian McLean, Sheriff, stated the Sheriff Department is back to full service.

#### Old Business:

##### 1. Houghton County Jail

Commissioner Britz stated the property on Evergreen has water on it. A meeting is scheduled on Friday with the City of Houghton to discuss water and sewer hook ups and cost. He stated he felt the Evergreen property is the top site, and the cost is unknown.

New Business:

1. Resolution authorizing 2020 County millage rate

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the 2020 County millage rate Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

401 EAST HOUGHTON AVENUE

HOUGHTON, MI 49931

**RESOLUTION #2020-09**

**WHEREAS**, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners has the authority to establish the number of operating mills to be levied from within it's authorized millage rate,

**AND:**

**WHEREAS**, the additional millage rate will increase revenue from Ad Valorem Property Taxes by \$ 248,455 over such revenues generated by levies permitted without holding a public hearing,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the operating rate for the County of Houghton will increase by 0.2551 mill, yielding a total operating millage rate of 6.2860 mills in 2020 in accordance with Act 5, P.A., 1982, Act 2, P.A., 1986 and Act 264, P.A., 1987.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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ALBERT KOSKELA, CHAIRMAN

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JENNIFER KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

DATED: June 9th, 2020

2. Resolution authorizing collection of County's taxes

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Resolution imposing 2020 Summer property tax levy as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION #2020-010**

**RESOLUTION IMPOSING 2020 SUMMER PROPERTY TAX LEVY PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 357 OF 2004, AND NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION OF COUNTY ALLOCATED TAX LEVY.**

WHEREAS, Houghton County is authorized under the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended, to levy and collect County allocated property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act has been amended by Public Act 357 of 2004, being MCL 211.44a, to require all Michigan Counties to impose a summer tax levy of the total County allocated tax;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Public Act 357 of 2004, the Houghton County allocated tax shall be levied and collected on July 1, 2020 at the rate of 100% of the amount allocated after application of the “Headlee” millage reduction fraction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of each city and township in Houghton County is directed to account for and deliver all the County allocated tax collections for 2020 in accordance with the provisions of Public Act 357 of 2004; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall deliver a copy of the Resolution to the Treasurer of each city and township in Houghton County.

Moved: Commissioner

Supported: Commissioner

Carried: YES Commissioners  
NO None  
ABSENT None

Roll Call Vote

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners for the County of Houghton, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk  
County of Houghton

**3. Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund – Request for approval of loan**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen 5.  
NO: None 0.

**HOUGHTON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT  
AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION 2020-011**

The following is a copy of a resolution adopted by the Houghton County Board of Commissioners during the regular County Board Meeting held at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in the Houghton County Courthouse, located at 401 East Houghton Street, Houghton, Michigan.

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Britz,

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

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Cross Country Sports Finance Overhead Costs in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic will assist the retention of jobs in Houghton County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) offers revolving loan funds for assisting companies affected by the COVID 19 economic closure with the retention of jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Houghton County has requested Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding authorization from the Houghton County Revolving Loan Fund in the amount of \$25,000; 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 authorization, 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 Michigan CDBG Application for a \$25,000 COVID 19 Response Loan for the Cross Country Sports.

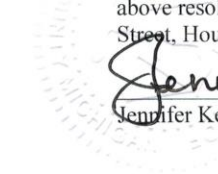
**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer is authorized to execute the Michigan CDBG application form and attachments on behalf of the County, sign the grant agreement and all amendments, and sign all loan and related documents.

Ayes: Commissioners Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen  
Nays: None  
Absent: None

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.**

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of the County of Houghton, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above resolution as adopted June 9, 2020 at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Street, Houghton, Michigan.

  
Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk



**4. Houghton County Recreation Authority Bylaws**

Commissioner Tikkanen thanked WUPPDR, KEDA, the visitors Bureau, and the Franklin Township.

Commissioner Anderson suggested asking the cities and townships to join, and they can withdraw.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Houghton County Recreation Authority Bylaws as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Tikkanen, Anderson, Koskela, Janssen, Britz 5.  
NO: None 0.

**5. Appropriations**

- a. NorthCare Liquor Tax - \$34,185.50

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. County Administrator position

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to offer Benjamin Larson the County Administrator position at the pay rate of \$79,125 with conditions of a background check and acceptance of the job offer.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Janssen 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSTAIN: Koskela 1.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 5:48 pm.

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

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk