

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JAIL TASK FORCE
JULY 8, 2019**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Jail Task Force meeting on Monday, July 8, 2019, in the 3rd Floor Circuit Courtroom of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Tom Tikkanen at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Koskela to approve the minutes from the June meeting as presented.

Horst Schmitt questioned if there were 2 different typos.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Koskela, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

New Business:

1. Cost estimates

Tim Seppanen spoke on behalf of UP Engineering. John Arnold from UP Engineering was also in attendance. He informed the Task Force of the six (6) different estimates that UP Engineering submitted. There were no environmental studies included in these estimates, and that the estimates do not include County costs.

Norm Shimp asked why construction costs were not used from local contractors to maybe lower costs, and why the estimates used comparable square footages from Indiana and Nebraska, and why the Delta Jail in Escanaba wasn't used instead. Mr. Seppanen was unsure since UP Engineering did the estimates. Mr. Sutton stated there could be a 10-15% increase or decrease in construction costs due to the unknown costs for building and electrical materials.

2. Break into group discussion

The Task Force broke off into the four (4) separate committees at 6:20 p.m.

3. Reconvene – summarize group discussion

The Task Force reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

2018 Jail Addition

The committee chose Ray Smith as the Chairman. They agreed to meet on 7/22/19 at 6:00 pm on the 5th floor of the courthouse for a meeting.

Kitwen Remodel

The Committee chose Susan Boxer as the Chairman. The Committee requested a tour of Camp Kitwen. They have concerns over personnel costs.

Jail across Dodge Street

The Committee chose Jared Hyrkas as the Chairman. Jared stated they wished each option had the same number of beds. They discussed operating costs. No future meeting date as set. They will be making a list of pros and cons.

New Courthouse and Jail

The Committee chose Evan McDonald as the Chairman. Evan stated they need an assessment. They requested to tour the Courthouse. Evan will let Eric Forsberg know when the Committee will meet next.

4. What's next

Chairman Tikkanen discussed a meeting in August. Eric Forsberg will send out an email to the Task Force and set up a tour or tours of Camp Kitwen.

Task Force Comments:

Valorie Troesch discussed the Task Force meetings being open to the public, and if they are posted so the public can attend or if the Task Force meetings are in violation of the Open Meetings Act. Chairman Tikkanen stated the Task Force is supposed to be representing the public from all of the cities, townships and villages. If anyone has concerns or questions, they should be talking to the members of the Task Force. Eric Forsberg stated that the Committees are not in violation of the Open Meetings Act as there is only 1 Commissioner per Committee. Future Jail Task Force meetings will be posted.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adjourn.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk