

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held an Organizational/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. 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.

Election:

Vice Chairman-A nomination was made by Commissioner Britz, and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to have Commissioner Tikkanen stay on as the Vice Chairman.

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

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Meeting.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Janssen requesting adding discussion for the Houghton County Planning Commission appointments. Chairman Koskela stated it would be added to #7 on the Agenda.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to accept the Agenda with the one (1) addition as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Paul Mitchell addressed the Board.

Justin Kasieta addressed the Board.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,209,537.71.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

The Board mentioned a letter from Gogebic regarding unfunded liability that was in their packets.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following: Houghton County Road Commission, Emergency Planning, and the 911 Advisory Board.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following: MSU Extension Office and the Houghton County Planning Commission.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census.

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: Solid Waste Committee, Copper Country Recycling Initiative, and the Recreational Trail Committee. There will be a presentation by Brad Austin on the 5th floor of the courthouse on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report.

County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, gave a report to the Board on the building department's numbers for 2019. There were 327 building permits in 2019, 44 new homes, and 94 new addresses were created for 911.

Old Business:

1. Houghton County Jail

Commissioner Janssen met with Eric Waara, City of Houghton Manager, and he stated they are not willing to sell the property on Portage Street. Commissioner Britz spoke with Steve Mattson regarding the 23 acres he has for sale on Evergreen Street that is located behind the Sears building. He is willing to sell 7 acres. Commissioner Britz stated his opinion is to wait to put this matter on the ballot until 2021.

Commissioner Anderson discussed doing an option to purchase the Mattson property with a 2 year option, and his opinion is to put it on the November 2020 ballot.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to negotiate a 2-3 year option to purchase the Mattson property.

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

Karin Cooper, UP Engineering, stated once the land is decided on, she will provide a site plan and cost estimate to the County.

New Business:

1. Meeting dates/times.

Chairman Koskela advised the Board the October meeting date may need to be changed at a later date.

County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly, requested the Board change the March 10th meeting date due to the Presidential Primary election being on that date. The Board agreed to change the meeting date to March 11th.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to accept the Schedule of Board Meetings 2020 with changing the March meeting from March 10th to March 11th as presented.

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

2. Rules of Order. The Board discussed different committees, but no changes were made.

A Motion to adopt the Rules of Order as presented was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen.

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

3. Commissioner Committee Appointments.

District Health: A nomination/Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to appoint Commissioners Janssen, Britz and Anderson to the District Health Board.

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

Mental Health: A nomination/Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen to nominate Albert Koskela, which was seconded by Commissioner Anderson to have Chairman Koskela be appointed to the Mental Health Board.

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

4. Houghton County Remonumentation Program

Joe Foster, Representative of the Houghton County Remonumentation Program explained the Remonumentation Program to the Board. He stated the program is paid through grant money. In 2018, there was \$80,822 in grant money to survey the lands. This was supposed to be a 20 year program. There are approximately 4,000 corners in Houghton County, and 1,468 corners have been monumented. In 2018, 53 corners were done. In 2019, 35 corners were done.

New planning is required by the State. Mr. Foster stated he would be back to the Board in February 2020 with a report on what is being done, what needs to be done, and present a plan. A Completion report is sent to the State every year.

5. Houghton County Allocation Board appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to appoint Mike Lahti to the Allocation Board.

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

6. Appropriations

- a. Western Upper Peninsula Health Department- \$66,680.75
- b. NorthCare - \$15,239.21 Liquor Tax revenue
- c. WUPPDR - \$2,866.50

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve paying the above-mentioned appropriations.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

7. Houghton County Planning Commission Appointments-Discussion

Commissioner Janssen discussed who is eligible to be on the Houghton County Planning Commission, and requested the Board get a legal opinion.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to get a legal opinion from Attorney Roger Zappa on who is eligible to be appointed on the Houghton County Planning Commission.

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

Public Comments:

Horst Schmitt addressed the Board.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 6:28 p.m.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk