

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing/Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5th 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 Jennifer Kelly (By Zoom), County Clerk:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Roy Britz (By Zoom), District 5.

Public Hearing – Houghton County 2021-21 Budget

a. Open Hearing

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

b. Discussion and Public Comment

The Board discussed the deficit, and the limited travel requests. Administrator, Ben Larson, stated all travel requests will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for considerations. He also stated the Circuit Court needs updates. The Board discussed the two (2) Sheriff Department vehicles that are purchased every fiscal year. Commissioner Anderson discussed the future jail and administrative buildings, and suggested purchasing property for the future. Chairman Koskela recommended paying down MERS before spending money anywhere else.

c. Close hearing

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

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Agenda as presented.

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

Public Comments: The Chairman did not address this.

Correspondence: None was discussed.

New Business:

1. 2020/2021 General Appropriations Act

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the 2020/2021 General Appropriations Act Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

**COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT
OCTOBER 1, 2020 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021
RESOLUTION #20-14**

A resolution appropriating monies and adopting the 2020-2021 Houghton County Budget including: the General Fund Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Budgets and other Proprietary Fund Budgets.

It being the finding and opinion of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners:

The committee of the Whole has had under consideration the taxes for the local units of government and the needs of various County departments/budgetary units.

The Committee of the Whole after considerable deliberations has recommended adoption of the budgets and reports attached and made a part of this Appropriations Act.

In recognition of the above-listed findings and opinion:

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves to adopt the attached 2020-2021 General Fund Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Budgets and other Proprietary Fund Budgets, and appropriate monies from various County revenues and equity reserves to authorize expenditures in accordance with the Account Group Detail of the various funds.

The Board further resolves that an appropriation is not a mandate to spend but shall limit the amount which may be spent for such purposes as are defined by the Board of Commissioners and which shall be limited to the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2021. All Special Revenue fund balances at year end are to be considered the initial allotment under the Appropriations Act for the new fiscal year. If a budgetary unit contends that part of its year end fund balance is either obligated or otherwise restricted from being considered as an initial allotment of County monies under the new fiscal year appropriations, it will be incumbent upon that unit to demonstrate the obligation or restriction to the satisfaction of the County Board of Commissioners.

In recognition of the need to consider appropriation of monies from time to time to agencies or institutions outside of general operations the Board of Commissioners further resolves to review requests from such agencies when and as funds are available for such purposes. Any County department, agency, board, commission or unit whatsoever and any organization, public or private, which accepts a County appropriation shall do subject to an agreement which provides for inspection and/or audit by Houghton County Board or its designee. The Board, or its designee, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination, to any and all books, documents, papers and records of the recipient organization.

he Board further resolves that the budget may be amended as conditions indicate upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee provided the budget remains in a balanced state. It further authorizes the County Administrator to make certain budget transfers in accordance with the Board's Budget transfer policy up to ten percent of departmental expenditures. In addition, the Board instructs the County Administrator to incorporate into the 2020-2021 departmental general fund budgets, wages and related fringe benefits for the county elected and appointed employees as authorized by the Board of Commissioners.

The Board further resolves that in administration of the adopted budgets, budgetary control shall reside at the most detailed level of budget adopted by the Board, i.e., department, program or activity. Unlimited transfers among line items without prior approval within the ASupplies@ and AOther Services and Charges@ account groups may be made by the Administrator/Department.

I, Jennifer Kelly, Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the above-stated Appropriations Act was taken under consideration at the budget hearing on September 29, 2020 of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, and the following action taken. It was moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Tikkanen, and carried by a roll call vote that the resolution be passed.

Ayes: Anderson, Tikkanen, Koskela, Janssen, Britz.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Sworn to me on this 29th day of September, 2020

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

2. Budget Amendments 2019-20

Administrator, Ben Larson, recommended the Board review the Budget Amendments quarterly instead of yearly.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen review the Budget Amendments quarterly.

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

3. COVID-19 Wastewater Grant Application-Roy Britz

Commissioner Britz discussed the Wastewater Grant. No action was taken.

4. Sheriff's Dept Support Resolution

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Sheriff's Dept Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.

Chairman Albert Koskela, District 2
Vice Chairman Thomas Tikkanen District 1
Commissioner Glenn Anderson District 3
Commissioner Gretchen Janssen District 4
Commissioner Roy Britz District 5

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUGHTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, MICHIGAN STATE POLICE, ALL UPPER PENINSULA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS NATIONWIDE

RESOLUTION #20-15

WHEREAS, the mission statement of the Houghton County Sheriff's Department is to serve the people of Houghton County, strive to reduce crime and provide a safe county by recognizing its goal is to help people and provide assistance at every opportunity, and WHEREAS, in achieving this mission, the men and women of the Houghton County Sheriff's Department conduct themselves in an ethical manner, and respect and protect the rights of citizens as determined by law, and

WHEREAS, the men and women of our nation's law enforcement agencies wear their uniforms with honor, dedication and integrity as they protect and serve their communities they were sworn to uphold, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Houghton County stand with the families and colleagues of the fallen officers nationwide. The Board strongly supports the officers of the Houghton County Sheriff's Department, the Michigan State Police, and all members of the local law enforcement in all cities and townships across the nation, and

WHEREAS, as law enforcement officers around the nation put their lives on the line for our protection every day, we encourage public officials, communities, and the media to refrain from jumping to conclusions regarding events that occur until a complete investigation of the incident has been conducted, and

WHEREAS, in light of the current events around the nation, we as citizens need to stand together to show support and respect for our men and women in law enforcement, and recognize that the vast majority of law enforcement personnel protecting and serving our communities are examples of honesty and integrity in their professional and personal lives, and comply with the spirit and letter of the Code of Conduct.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners supports the Houghton County Sheriff's Department and every officer, the Michigan State Police and their officers around the state, and all law enforcement officers in the Upper Peninsula and in our state and nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, Speaker Lee Chatfield, and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

Date: _____ Board Chair: _____
Albert Koskela

Houghton County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

5. Covid 19 Safety Measures

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Covid 19 Safety Measures Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote:

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

NO: None 0.



**Resolution for the Promotion of COVID-19 Safety Measures
AT A MEETING OF THE HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION #20-16**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan, does hereby find as follows:

WHEREAS, the County of Houghton has seen a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases in the preceding two weeks, with an infectivity rate nearly 50%-100% HIGHER than Wayne County, Kent County, or Oakland County at the PEAK of their respective outbreaks;

WHEREAS, the simple, cheap, and effective methods to slow the spread of COVID-19 are readily known and available, such as wearing a mask, practicing social distancing, frequent hand washing, and limiting gathering sizes indoors and outdoors;

WHEREAS, some members of the Community have practiced good prevention methods, while a small minority of people continue to refuse, despite the risk to themselves and others;

WHEREAS, efforts to trace the contacts of people who have tested POSITIVE for COVID-19 are being hampered by some Residents' refusals to disclose who they may have spread the virus to, causing FURTHER SPREAD of the virus;

WHEREAS, the impact to the local economy do to COVID-19 so far will PALE IN COMPARISON to a second wave of shutdowns by the State of Michigan, should the caseload in Houghton County not be brought under control by its OWN RESIDENTS;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Houghton, Michigan, that the Board of Commissioners REQUESTS that ALL members of the Community in the County of Houghton CONTINUE to practice, and INCREASE their adherence to, the public health guidelines for MASK WEARING, SOCIAL DISTANCING, FREQUENT HAND WASHING, and LIMITED GATHERINGS to reduce the continued spread of COVID-19 in Houghton County. And FURTHER, REQUEST that ALL members of the Community COOPERATE with contact tracing efforts to arrest the spread of COVID-19.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the ONLY way through this pandemic will be for the WHOLE COUNTY to ACTIVELY WORK to keep themselves, their friends, and their family safe.

Dated:

Albert Koskeka
Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Public Comments:

Chairman Koskela asked if the public had any comments on the budget twice.

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 5:24 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk