

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 15, 2021**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting/Public hearing on Tuesday, June 15, 2021, in the 5th Floor Conference room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton. The public was attending by Zoom and in person.

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, County Clerk:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Koskela stated there was a correction on Page 4, and it should say Army Corps of Engineers, not Amy Corps of Engineers.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the May 11, 2021 minutes as presented with the one (1) correction.

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

Public Hearing – Truth in Taxation

a. Open Hearing

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

b. Discussion and Public Comment

Cheryl Patrick, Equalization Director, discussed the previously approved 6.3 Allocation that was approved in August 2020. Cheryl Patrick addressed the board and discussed the 2021 numbers for the Truth in Taxation.

c. Close hearing

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

The Public Hearing was not officially closed.

Public Comments:

Charlie Markham addressed the board regarding the wind turbines.
Dan Holcomb addressed the Board and requested moving the Board meetings to Circuit Court.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 826,976.71 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly, advised Chairman Koskela the Agenda was skipped.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Chairman Koskela said there was one (1) addition. #11 was added for Jake Djerf for a travel request.

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

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

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

1. Standing committee

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Solid Waste Committee: Single stream drop off for recycling on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays. 2 full tons have been recycled. He thanked the staff and the Copper Country Recycling Initiative for their hard work.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Agreed to move future Commissioner meetings to Circuit Court.

Expressed sympathy for the passing of Debbie Bradford. He thanked Senator McBroom for his hard work in the House Bill passing the Senate on changing the Commissioners terms to 4 year terms effective in the election year 2024. He stated a 5th company has acquired purchasing UPPCO.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Health Department: The Board toured a new lab that had Covid machines. This is the only lab like this in the Western U.P. Community health needs assessments, and those should be coming soon. Covid cases are low, and about 60% have received their second dose of the vaccine. Campground and fair fees have been approved to be waived for this upcoming year.

UPEDA: She watched a presentation on the work place future.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following:

He had a meeting with Pastor Aaron from St. Peter and Paul Church, regarding the Sharon Avenue property. Pastor Aaron requested the trees be left between the properties, and stated the Pastor was positive about the change in properties.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

2. Special Committee

None.

3. County Officers

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, addressed the Board regarding the Airport. He stated they are having several inspections, and are at a 50% load factor. There is a rental car shortage nationwide. The T hanger is complete and full.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, addressed the Board regarding the Building Department. He stated there have been 35 new homes built this year, and 140 building permits have been issued.

Kate Beer, Health Department, addressed the Board regarding Covid. She stated the numbers are down in Houghton County. There was another Covid death on Tuesday. They are working with the schools to develop a plan for the fall. Vaccines are still available for the public.

Old Business:

1. Election Results Concerns – Senator Ed McBroom via Zoom

Senator McBroom stated his report should be released in the next week on their Committee's investigation of the November 2020 election.

Commissioner Anderson asked about the numbers changing in Houghton County.

Senator McBroom stated Antrim County's numbers are explainable. He stated the tabulator tapes and hand count verified their numbers to be accurate. He further stated that the videos have been made up. He discussed the audits, and risk limit audits that were done after the election that confirm the tabulator tapes again to be accurate.

Commissioner Tikkanen questioned the videos and asked if the switching of the numbers was not true in Houghton County. Senator McBroom replied that the video is not true.

Ben Larson, Administrator, thanked Senator McBroom for his work on the Trails in Houghton County, and for him and other Congressmen and Senators coming to Houghton County.

New Business:

1. Third Quarter Budget Amendments

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt the Third Quarter Budget Amendments as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Tax Millage Authorization Resolution #21-07

This was previously voted on under the Public Hearing. A second Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the Tax Millage Authorization 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 #21-07

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

AND:

WHEREAS, the additional millage rate will increase revenue from Ad Valorem Property Taxes by \$ 228,927 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 0.2268 mill, yielding a total operating millage rate of 6.2691 mills in 2021 in accordance with Act 5, P.A., 1982, Act 2, P.A., 1986 and Act 264, P.A., 1987.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ALBERT KOSKELA, CHAIRMAN

JENNIFER KELLY, COUNTY CLERK

DATED: June 15th, 2021

3. Summer Property Tax Levy and Allocated Tax Levy Resolution #21-08

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the Summer Property Tax Levy and Allocated Tax Levy Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION #2021-08

RESOLUTION IMPOSING 2021 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, 2021 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 2021 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 Tikkanen

Supported: Commissioner Janssen

Carried: YES Commissioners Tikkanen, Janssen, Koskela, Anderson, Britz.
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 15th day of June, 2021, 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 15th day of June, 2021.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

4. Enduring Gifts Fund Resolution #21-09

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt the Enduring Gifts Fund Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Britz, Tikkanen, Koskela, Anderson 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 #21-09
RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH AN ENDURING GIFTS FUNDS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, The County of Houghton is hereby formally establishing an Enduring Gifts Funds Program, to consider and encourage donations from those who are interested in supporting and benefiting County facilities, programs and people; and

WHEREAS, The County of Houghton Board of Commissioners designates the County Administrator as the Responsible Agent for management of the Program and Funds; and

WHEREAS, The County of Houghton hereby approves of and directs the County Administrator to establish an Enduring Gifts Committee to which the committee will be charged with setting policies and guidelines for the program, relaying activity and generating required reports and data, while verifying that gifts are received in an acceptable form and consistent with all Federal, State of Michigan and external audit Laws and Regulations; ensuring that donors are properly stewarded, now, and in the future; and

WHEREAS, The County Enduring Gifts Fund and Committee opportunities and policies will be posted for the public to review and consider on the County website and on printed media; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such program will allow for donations to support immediate and short-term needs; as well as longer term, planned and estate gift considerations to include endowed funds that can have impacts over time and even to perpetuity; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has formally established an Enduring Gifts Fund Program.

Moved: Commissioner Janssen

Supported: Commissioner Britz

Carried:	YES	Commissioners Janssen, Britz, Tikkanen, Koskela, Anderson
	NO	None
	Absent	None

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Roll Call Vote

AYES: 5

NAYS: 0

ABSTENTIONS: 0

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting County 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 it's regular meeting held on the 15th day of June 2021, 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
15th
Day of June, 2021.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

5. Partial Sale of Lot 21 to Copper Island Academy Resolution #21-10

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the Partial Sale of Lot 21 to Copper Island Academy Resolution as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

Partial Sale of Lot 21 to Copper Island Academy

RESOLUTION #21-10

WHEREAS, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners, as successor in interest to the dissolved Houghton County Airport Authority on July 24, 1989 is authorized to all rights of interest and statutory authority granted to the dissolved Houghton County Airport Authority.

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Memorial Airport Committee, created on July 26, 1989, under the Authority of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, pursuant to Act 73 of the Public Acts of 1970 and Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, and pursuant to the authority vested in the County of Houghton by the Aeronautics Code of the State of Michigan has the authority to adopt rules and regulations for the management, government and the use of said airport property.

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners previously authorized the sale of Lots 19 and 20 of the Houghton County Airpark Plat, as well as the northerly portion of a private road designated as Industrial Drive North, located directly between Lots 19 and 20; and

WHEREAS, Copper Island Academy Real Estate, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company who is developing Lots 19 and 20 has discovered a need to purchase additional land consisting of the North Forty Feet (40') of Lot 21 of Houghton County Airpark Plat.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the sale of the North Forty Feet (40') of Lot 21 of Houghton County Airpark Plat, Franklin Township, Houghton County, Michigan, according to the recorded plat thereof, said plat being recorded in Plat Cabinet 1, Folio Number 88-93, Houghton County Records, for the sum of \$2600.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Albert Koskela, Houghton County Board Chairman, is authorized to sign all closing documents for the sale of the above-described property to Copper Island Real Estate, LLC, a Michigan limited liability company. This conveyance shall be subject to any and all restrictions, reservations, easements, rights-of-way, and covenants, including Section 5, Resale Rights, contained within the Houghton County Airpark Plat, September 12, 1973, in Liber 23 of Miscellaneous Records, Page 157, Houghton County Register of Deeds Records.

Motion Moved By: Commissioner Britz

Motion Supported By: Commissioner Tikkanen

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

Motion Carried:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Albert Koskela, Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Date

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County of Houghton, Michigan at a regular meeting of its Board of Commissioners on the 15th day of June, 2021, 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 15th day of June, 2021.

JENNIFER KELLY, COUNTY CLERK
County of Houghton

6. Calumet 5th Street Fire Update

Commissioner Tikkanen thanked the first responders and fire fighters for their hard work at the 5th Street fire. He stated there was no loss of life or injury. The 4 firemen that were injured, were treated and returned to the fire to work. These workers saved the community. He wanted to clarify that there was no insurance on the parcels. The sites do have asbestos that needs to be removed. He thanked Senator McBroom and Representative Markkanen for trying to get funding for the cleanup.

Commissioner Janssen commented on the great community support that assisted the 41 people who lost their homes.

7. Wind Turbines Discussion

Charlie Markham addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
Bill Manderfield addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
Maddie Manderfield addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
James Mihelich addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
Jim Johnson addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
Dan Holcomb addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
John Chiles addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
Erik Kiilunen addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.
Bill Manderfield again addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.

Commissioner Tikkanen commented on how the company is coming into municipalities that are not zoned. He stated the zoning cannot be done on the County level. The Zoning must be done on the township level.

Chairman Koskela stated the townships can write ordinances, the County cannot.

Commissioner Britz stated that the wind turbines have been discussed at the Stanton Township meetings.

Commissioner Tikkanen commended everyone for their efforts.

8. Health Department New Points Program

Kate Beer talked about the two (2) year old program that was started in September 2019.

Gail Ploe stated it is a syringe service program for someone using IV drugs. The program was started to offer already addicted users an opportunity to join the program and get syringes and a place to dispose of the syringes. The program offers counseling,

references for health care and treatment, and testing. Out of 10 people, 3 people went to treatment.

Commissioner Tikkanen asked who funds this program. Kate Beer stated they received a grant to fund the program. No local money is used to operate the program.

Chairman Koskela stated the New Points Program is a bad idea.

Kate Beer stated the program is a harm reduction program.

9 & 11. Travel Requests

- a. Harry Herman & Wayne Karvonen Elect Insp IAEI Conference-Bay City \$1100
- b. Jake Djerf-Equalization Department

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to approve the above-mentioned Appropriations as presented.

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

10. Appropriations:

1. Michigan Townships Association - \$460.00

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments:

Jay Ruohonen addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.

Roger Sullivan addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines, and a complaint.

Tim Timmonen addressed the Board regarding the election.

Erik Kiilunen addressed the Board regarding the Health Department.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 7:20 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk