

ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 3, 2021

The Houghton County Election Commission held a meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 12:00 pm in the Conference Room on the 5th floor of the Courthouse, Houghton, Michigan. The meeting was for the purpose of approving all of the ballot languages for the August 3, 2021 election.

Before the meeting began, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk read a statement to the public on Zoom with instructions for recording the Zoom meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Strome at 12:00 am.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Judge Strome led everyone in attendance for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call:

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk, did a voice roll call and the following board members were present: Fraser Strome-Probate/Family Court Judge, Lisa Mattila-Houghton County Treasurer and Jennifer Kelly-Houghton County Clerk/Register of Deeds. There were sufficient members for the quorum.

Public Attendance:

Teresa Kariniemi, and by Zoom-Kristin Lortie.

Approval of Minutes-September 30, 2020 and May 21, 2021:

Lisa Mattila, Treasurer, stated there was a typo on the minutes from May 21, 2021 that had an incorrect date of May 21, 2020.

A Motion was made by Lisa Mattila, and seconded by Fraser Strome to approve the minutes from September 30, 2020 and May 21, 2021 as presented with the one (1) date correction being corrected.

The Motion carried by the following voice:

AYES: Lisa Mattila, Fraser Strome and Jennifer Kelly (3).

NAYS: NONE (0).

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Lisa Mattila, Treasurer, stated there was an error on the Agenda with the May 21,2021 minutes date. Jennifer Kelly, Clerk, will correct the error.

A Motion was made by Lisa Mattila, and seconded by Fraser Strome to approve the Agenda with the one correction as presented.

The Motion carried by the following voice:

AYES: Lisa Mattila, Fraser Strome and Jennifer Kelly (3).

NAYS: NONE (0).

Public Comment:

Kristin Lortie stated she would send an email to Jennifer Kelly on the screen shots she wanted to present to the Election Commission but was not able to due to technical issues. Jennifer Kelly will then forward the email to Fraser Strome and Lisa Mattila.

Kristin requested that her previous email be included in the meeting today. She wanted to discuss how poorly educated and uninformed voters are for August elections. She felt the notices in the Daily Mining Gazette were a waste of money.

Kristin wished to Petition the Election Commission Board to encourage other boards to only have a November election, and provide a mailing to all voters at least 6-8 weeks prior to any election.

Kristin commented on the Village of Calumet website. She stated it mentions an August election, but has no information on what the election is about.

Kristin commented about a collaboration of all board share in cost for mailings, and stated that the Canal View, townships, city, and villages work together, and provide information to the voters in the summer tax mailings.

Kristin requested the Election Commission send a letter to the Secretary of State and Ed McBroom requesting the cancellations of all elections other than November elections. And, to make mailings mandatory for voters. She is sending a letter to them from herself and other tax payers.

Fraser Strome informed Kristin that he appreciated her letter and the matters she discussed today were well taken. However, her request is beyond what the Election Commission is capable of doing. He explained that the Election Commission approves ballot languages and ballots.

Teresa Kariniemi, a former Clerk from Copper City, informed Kristin how she posted election notices on the Copper City Office windows for voters to be informed.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Approve ballot languages for Special Election on August 3, 2021

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk, stated the ballot languages are on the county website, and everything is transparent.

A Motion was made by Lisa Mattila, and seconded by Fraser Strome to approve the ballot languages and ballots for the August 3, 2021 election as presented.

The Motion carried by the following voice:

AYES: Lisa Mattila, Fraser Strome and Jennifer Kelly (3).

NAYS: NONE (0).

Public Comment:

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk, informed the public that the city and township clerks along with herself are putting election languages and election information on their websites, and put election notices on news letters or bills going out to voters and taxpayers. Jennifer further stated that she reaches out to the media, but cannot force the media to do stories on elections.

Adjournment:

Motion was made by Fraser Strome, seconded by Lisa Mattila to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 pm.

The Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Fraser Strome
Probate Court Judge

Jennifer Kelly
County Clerk/Register of Deeds

Lisa Mattila
County Treasurer