

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 10, 2021**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, in the 5th Floor Conference room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton. The public was attending 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.

New Business

1. Moment of Silence for Sheriff Brian McLean and his family

The Board and the public in attendance had a moment of silence for Sheriff Brian McLean and his family.

Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the July 13, 2021 minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

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

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

Public Comments-Agenda Items Only (5 minutes per participant):

None.

Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve paying the bills submitted of \$ 2,048,908.23 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

1. Standing committee

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Health Department-NorthCare Network is encouraging the Health Department to apply for a grant for a mobile unit.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Discussed the passing of the Canal View and City of Hancock millages at the August 3rd election. Anderson also discussed the Bridge Construction

Commissioner Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Solid Waste Committee. Tikkanen stated there were 8 tons of recycling currently collected to date. There is a \$5 user fee and a \$10 truck load fee. Tikkanen thanked the Copper Country Recycling Initiative workers for their work.

MI Works-Tikkanen attended a MI Work Force meeting. Tikkanen discussed the \$800 million opioid lawsuit.

Tikkanen discussed the Governor's Michigan Housing money that is available, and the cleanup in Calumet from the fire.

Chairman Koskela had nothing to report to the Board.

2. Special Committee

None.

3. County Officers

None.

New Business-Continued

2. Transfer Station Mini Excavator Purchase \$38,200

Chairman Koskela informed the Board that the lease on the excavator was running out.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to purchase the excavator for \$38,200.00.

Commissioner Janssen asked if the excavator has three (3) years of life yet. Administrator Larson stated the mechanic has advised him that this machine will. The excavator will need new tracks eventually, but recommends to the Board that it is a good idea to purchase the piece of equipment.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Resolution for Annexation of Sharon Ave. Property Purchase

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to sign the Resolution for the Annexation of the Sharon Avenue Property purchase.as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

RESOLUTION 21-12

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST ANNEXATION OF PARCEL 31-010-252-007-00 FROM THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PORTAGE INTO THE CITY OF HOUGHTON.

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has entered into a contingent Purchase Agreement to acquire two abutting parcels bearing tax identification numbers 31-052-185-015-70 and 31-010-252-007-00, which collectively have a street address of 19741 West Sharon Avenue, Houghton, Michigan, and which are more particularly described in Exhibit A attached to this Resolution, and which are depicted in Exhibit B;

WHEREAS, parcel 31-052-185-015-70 is currently located in the City of Houghton, and parcel 31-010-252-007-00 is located in Portage Township;

WHEREAS, the Purchase Agreement is contingent upon the parcel not located in the City of Houghton being annexed from Portage Township into the City of Houghton;

WHEREAS, the proposed Annexation, if approved, would move the parcel 31-010-252-007-00 into the City of Houghton and the County Seat, as required by State Law for the housing of specific County Facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Houghton and its Board of Commissioners formally request that the City of Houghton and The Charter Township of Portage consider the Annexation into the City of Houghton and out of the Charter Township of Portage for parcel 31-010-252-007-00.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk shall deliver a copy of this Resolution to the City of Houghton and to The Charter Township of Portage for their consideration.

Moved: Commissioner

Supported: Commissioner

Carried: YES Commissioners
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 10th day of August, 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 10th day of August, 2021.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

4. Building Department Fee Increases

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the increase in the Building Department fees as presented.

The Board had a lengthy discussion.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, stated it would be an increase of \$55.00 per house.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Britz 4.

NO: Koskela 1.

5. Enduring Gifts Fund Update and Documents Approval

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

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

6. Travel Requests

- a. Ben Larson, MMRMA Annual Conference (no cost) Traverse City
- b. Elizabeth Bjorn, MACAO County Administrative Officers \$609 Traverse City
- c. Todd LaRoux, Code Officials Conference of Michigan \$975 Traverse City

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the above-mentioned travel requests as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

7. Appropriations:

- a. Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region \$2,866.50
- b. Copper Country Community Mental Health \$41,123.73
- c. Western Upper Peninsula Health Department \$66,680.75

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Public Comments (5 minutes per participant):

Martha Dugdale addressed the Board regarding the wind turbines.

Commissioner Tikkanen discussed the importance of zoning.
Teresa Kariniemi addressed the Board regarding her FOIA to the city and township clerks, provided handouts to the Board to review and return to her, and discussed her experience with BS&A software.
Horst Schmidt addressed the Board regarding being an election inspector.
Teresa Kariniemi addressed the Board regarding the election.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Tikkanen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 5:45 pm.

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

Albert Koskela, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk