

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
JULY 12, 2022**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton and public viewing in person and by Zoom.

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 5:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

C. Roll call:

The following Commissioners responded to roll call done by the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

D. Approval of Minutes:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2022 meeting as presented.

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

E. Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Britz requested to add #6 for discussing of renaming Airpark Road for Albert Koskela. County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly, asked for #8 e be added for her for travel.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz, seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Agenda with the two (2) additions as presented.

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

F. Public Comments-Agenda Items only \*(5 minute limit):

Craig Waddell addressed the Board regarding #4 on the Agenda.  
Mary Babcock addressed the Board regarding #1a on the Agenda.

G. Approval of Bills:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve paying the bills submitted of \$3,788,275.35.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

H. Correspondence:

Elizabeth Bjorn, Administrator, discussed the upcoming Michigan County Conference. The deadline is August 10, 2022. Early bird registration is from September 18-20. The Board agreed to put it on the Agenda.

Administrator Bjorn discussed a letter regarding George Rajala's road, and discussed correspondence regarding the WUPHD 7 property owners on Little Traverse Road, and finally a letter from the Family Court Judge regarding an increase of \$250.00 in the rate for Bay Pines Center for delinquent youth. Treatment is for youth up to the age of 20.

I. Reports:

1. Standing Committee:

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Transfer Station: There has been 27 tons of recycling done to date this year.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following:

Airport: He had a zoom meeting with Dennis Hext, Commissioner Codere, and himself regarding Team Peninsula.

Jail: He and Commissioner Codere did a walk through at the Apostolic Church on Sharon Avenue.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

Adams Township: He attended the Adams Township Board meeting.

Trails: It is estimated to cost \$1.5 million to repair the Bill Nicholas Trail. The DNR is working with UP Engineering.

Houghton County Land Bank: He discussed the \$75 million that was approved for blight elimination. Houghton County could get \$200,000. The Governor still has to sign the House Bill yet that would be effective October 1, 2022.

Commissioner Codere reported to the Board on the following:

Schoolcraft Township: He attended the Schoolcraft Board meeting where they approved a Resolution to fix Trail #3.

Jail: He toured the Apostolic Church with Commissioner Britz, and proposed discussing the jail property at the next work session and have it on the Agenda.

Chairman Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Courthouse security: He thanked the department heads and workers for their hard work.

3. County Officers:

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, discussed the building permits that were issued.

Joshua Saaranen, Sheriff, stated there has been 1600 complaints this year, and there are currently 21 inmates. Kevin Coppo has resigned and the Sheriff accepted his resignation. There was a flood in the basement of the jail building and he is working on getting estimates. He will be meeting with the school superintendents for training on the new radios for the schools. There are three (3) inmates at the work camp. The Jail can have a maximum of ten (10) females, and a maximum of 28. He believes the new jail should have 50-70 beds.

J. Old Business:

1. American Rescue Plan (CSLFRF) \$6.8 million

a. City of Hancock-Road Work Request

Mary Babcock, City of Hancock Manager, addressed the Board and requested support from the Board for ARPA funds for fixing roads.

The Board agreed to add this to the work Agenda for Thursday.

New Business:

1. PT IT Department Position

Administrator Bjorn stated Tom Ressler, IT, needs help. A part time IT position would be for 28 hours per week.

2. Recreation Authority Articles of Incorporation

A Motion to approve the Recreation Authority Articles of Incorporation was made by Commissioner Anderson and supported by Commissioner Codere as presented. It will be sent to the Secretary of State.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Karhu Cyber Security Report (For Official Use Only) not subject to FOIA

Administrator Bjorn stated the report was in the Boards packet and was not subject to FOIA.

4. Resolution #22-11 UPCAP

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #22-11 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**RESOLUTION #22-11  
U.P. AREA AGENCY ON AGING  
2023-2025 MULTI-YEAR PLAN FOR SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY**

**WHEREAS UPCAP, which serves as the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, is required to develop a Multi-Year (FY 2023-2025) Area Plan that provides development and funding for programs to serve older adults in the Upper Peninsula; and**

**WHEREAS, during the Multi-Year Area Plan development process, UPCAP conducted needs surveys, two public hearings, and received input from service providers, older adults, county officials, human services organizations, and other interested parties; and**

**WHEREAS, each U.P. county is represented by a county official on the UPCAP Board of Commissioners; and**

**WHEREAS, the UPCAP Board of Directors has unanimously approved the proposed Multi-Year Area Plan; and**

**WHEREAS, the AAA Multi-Year Plan also requires review by individual county boards.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has received and hereby supports the U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2022-2023 Multi-Year Plan.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted to UPCAP and placed on file.**

Ayes: Commissioners: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Codere, Britz (5).

Nays: Commissioners: None (0).

Absent: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**Authorized Signatory** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Tom Tikkanen, Chairman, Houghton County Board of Commissioners)**

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of the County of Houghton, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above Resolution as adopted July 12, 2022 at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Street, Houghton, Michigan.

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

5. WUPHD FY 23 Local County Appropriation request

Administrator Bjorn stated the Board can take action today on the appropriate request or wait until the Budget is approved.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Board will wait until the Budget is approved.

6. Dedication of Airpark Road in memory of Albert Koskela

Commissioner Britz discussed dedicating Airpark Road to Albert Koskela. There are no issues with the Road Commission.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to dedicate Airpark Road in memory of Albert Koskela.

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

8. Travel

- a. Tom Ressler – IT Symposium 3-days \$568.00
- b. Rebecca Wakeham-October 2022 PA MFSC Conference \$1,428.92
- c. Brenda Cadwell-October 2022 FOC MFSC Conference x 4 attendees \$3,758.75
- d. Nickole Jollimore-October DC Court Managers Conference \$850.00
- e. Jennifer Kelly-County Clerks Summer Conference-CPL Fund \$600.00

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

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

9. Appropriations
  - a. WUPHD - \$66,584.50
  - b.

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

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

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve travel for any Board members wishing to attend the MAC Conference .

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

- L. Public Comments: (5 minute limit)

Dan Holcomb requested the Board move the Board meetings to Circuit Court.

Todd LaRoux, Building Inspector, thanked the Board.

- M. Announcements:

None.

- N. Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Codere to adjourn at 6:05 pm.

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

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Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk