

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 3, 2023**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton with the public viewing in person and by Zoom.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 3:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call:

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

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Tikkanen requesting adding the three (3) Resolutions to the Agenda.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the Agenda with the three (3) additions as presented.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Correspondence:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Administrator

Chairman Tikkanen stated Administrator Bjorn would be retiring on April 30, 2023.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to accept Administrator Bjorn's letter of resignation as presented.

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

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Board had asked Kurt Judson, Ben Larson and Becky Ylitalo to consider the Administrator's position. Becky Ylitalo declined.

The Board decided to interview Kurt Judson and Ben Larson.

Kurt Judson stated he has been the manager at the Transfer Station for 1 ½ years, and was an automotive manager for 25 years. He was a District Manager for 17 stores for 6 months. He has been the fire chief for Chassell for 11 years. He graduated from high school had has about 30 college credits.

Ben Larson stated he had 4 employees at his last job, worked at Finlandia and 16 years at MTU. He has a masters from NMU in business.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to post the Administrator position with an April 11, 2023 deadline.

Commissioner Britz feels the two applicants are qualified and stated time is limited for training with Administrator Bjorn.

Commissioner Keranen also felt time is of the essence.

The Motion failed by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Anderson 2
NO: Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 3

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to hire Ben Larson at a MP-12 level of \$86,000 with all other county benefits.

The Board had discussion about the Personnel Committee working with Administrator Bjorn to get a compensation package together and present it at the April 11th meeting.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

2. PFC Deficit Elimination Plan-Resolution #23-05

Administrator Bjorn stated the PFC Resolution must be voted on every year. The Treasury Department accepted the 5 year rolling balance, and there is 3 years left on the rolling balance.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adopt Resolution #23-05 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Keranen, Tikkanen, Janssen, Britz 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
Tom Tikkanen
Vice Chairperson
Roy Britz

Commissioners
Glenn Anderson
Gretchen Janssen
Joel Keranen

**HOUGHTON COUNTY PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION #23-05**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the timing of PFC monies are collected and expensed, as directed by the Federal Aviation Administration, dictate that the Fund will always have a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets; and

WHEREAS, the activity currently being posted to the PFC Fund was previously reported in the Airport Fund but was split out for internal accounting purposes only; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit balance in unrestricted net assets is an internal accounting number only.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognize that the PFC Fund will be in a perpetual state of deficit balance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budget for the years ending September 30, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 for the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund.

Motion Moved By: Anderson

Motion Supported By: Keranen

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Anderson, Keranen, Tikkanen, Janssen, Britz (5).

No: None (0).

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 its special meeting held on the 3rd day of April 2023, the original of which resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 3rd Day of April, 2023.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

3. SWT Deficit Elimination Plan-#23-06

Administrator Bjorn stated the deficit occurred during FY 23 for a period ending September 30, 2022. She recommended raising fees and a possible reduction on expenditures or a combination of both.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #23-06 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

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**HOUGHTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION
PROPRIETARY ENTERPRISE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
#23-06**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Solid Waste Transfer Enterprise Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, an increase of charges for services will cause an increase in operating revenue and an increase of net assets; and

WHEREAS, a decrease of contractual, personnel and repair and maintenance expenses will cause a decrease in operating expenditures and a decrease of net liabilities; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit balance in unrestricted net assets will be corrected to satisfy the budgetary requirements of the State of Michigan, Department of the Treasury

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognize that actions resulting in increases in revenue or decreases in operating expenses is warranted for this proprietary fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budgetary changes for the year ending September 30, 2024, for the Houghton County Solid Waste Transfer enterprise Fund.

Motion Moved By: Keranen

Motion Supported By: Britz

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Keranen, Britz, Tikkanen, Anderson, Janssen (5).

No: None (0).

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Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

4. Treatment Court Deficit Elimination Plan-#23-07

Administrator Bjorn stated she failed to capture \$37,000 and the budget was generated until 2026. She know has things in place for this to not happen again.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt Resolution #23-07 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

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Joel Keranen

**HOUGHTON COUNTY TREATMENT COURT (DRUG COURT)
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION #23-07**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Treatment Court; Nonmajor Government Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, expenses exceeded revenue resulting in a negative fund balance at the end of budgetary cycle for fiscal year ending September 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a decrease of expenditures and an increase in captured reimbursement revenue will correct this deficit; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit in Fund balance will be corrected to satisfy the budgetary requirements of the State of Michigan, Department of the Treasury

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognize that actions resulting in an increase in reimbursement revenue or a decrease in expenses is warranted for this Nonmajor governmental fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budgetary changes for the year ending September 30, 2024, for the Houghton County Treatment Court (Drug Court) Fund.

Motion Moved By: Anderson

Motion Supported By: Britz

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Keranen, Janssen (5).

No: None (0).

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

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Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

Public Comments:

Lisa Mattila, County Treasurer, stated she had 8 foreclosures last Friday.

Josh Saaranen, Sheriff, stated he has 2 fulltime correction officers starting.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk and Register, stated she is preparing for the May election.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 4:05 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk