

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2023**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room on the 5th Floor of the Courthouse, City of Houghton with the public viewing in person and by Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

Roll Call:

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

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

Absent: Glenn Anderson, District 3.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments-Agenda Items only (5 minute limit):

None.

Correspondence:

Administrator Larson discussed the Gazette ad for finding a replacement for Horst Schmidt on the Houghton County Planning Commission. It is a Recreation/Culture position.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Janssen wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Scott Blake received \$20,000 in rap grants for IT security. It will be implemented in December 2023.

Old Business:

1. Emergency Watershed Protection Program Agreement.

Chairman Tikkanen stated Administrator Larson and Commissioner Keranen have been working with the Village of Lake Linden and Schoolcraft Township to address the flooding concerns and 7 sites that have been identified by the EWPP Federal program.

Administrator Larson said that the County would accept the grant money totaling \$180,495, and that there is a local share required of \$45,125.75. The local share can be made up of in-kind services, and the County Road Commission has agreed to offer services and possibly rock that will be used to secure some of the 7 sites EWPP has identified. The Village of Lake Linden and

Schoolcraft Township are also considering small investments to join the County.

Commissioner Keranen stated Josh Loukus from Schoolcraft Township will be reaching out to the land owners to notify them of the possible work and get their agreement to have the work done.

Chairman Tikkanen asked if the repairs could be done this year. Commissioner Keranen said yes to the most pressing of needs, and then in the spring of 2024 to address the rest.

Administrator Larson stated the sinkhole should be taken care of this year. He discussed having the Drain Commissioner come to the future meetings and to participate in the planning and execution.

Chairman Tikkanen discussed Chris VanArsdale and the Drain Commissioner work on this. Commissioner Britz stated he is concerned if the County would be obligated to fix other things if the County approves the agreement.

Commissioner Keranen stated the projects fit the requirements that have been identified by EWPP.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Emergency Watershed Protection Program Grant Agreement using the in-kind services and not County funds.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Keranen, Britz, Tikkanen, Janssen 4.

NO: None. 0

ABSENT: Anderson 1.

New Business:

None.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

Commissioner Keranen wished a happy anniversary to Chairman Tikkanen and his wife.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Tikkanen to adjourn at 10:14 a.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk