

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2024**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 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 Microsoft Teams.

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 done by Chief Deputy County Clerk, Renee Cunningham:

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

Approval of Minutes -October 9th Special Meeting; October 15, 2024 Regular Meeting; October 16, 2024 Special Meeting; October 21, 2024 Special Meeting:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve all of the above-mentioned meetings as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to accept the Agenda as presented.

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

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

None.

Approval of Bills - \$3,318,998.34:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve paying the bills submitted of \$3,318,998.34 as presented.

The Motion CARRIED by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Keranen reported to the Board on the following:

He congratulated Sheriff Saaranen and stated the Transfer Station is running well with the compactor down.

Commissioner Janssen had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following:

He discussed monies being received for Northern Hardwoods for new equipment, discussed the MAC Convention, and he attended the Commissioners Conference in Escanaba.

Commissioner Britz reported to the Board on the following:

He attended the Portage Township meeting, and discussed the jail committee meeting.

Chairman Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following:

Congratulated Commissioner Keranen on his re-election. He discussed different building rehab projects.

County Officers:

Chris VanArsdale, Emergency Director, discussed a CVA mitigation plan in the UP for counties. WUPPDR applied in the past. Houghton County applied.

Bernard Kluskens, IT, discussed changes happening.

Renee Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Clerk, gave an update from the November 5th election.

Tim Gasperich, Calumet Township Supervisor, discussed the Blue Jacket location project.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Benefit E Cola Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the 2% cost of living agreement as presented.

The Motion CARRIED by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen 4.

NO: None 0.

ABSTAIN: Britz 1.

2. Amendment to Personnel Policy Article 32 regarding IT

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to update the Personnel Policy to have current standards and practices as presented.

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

3. Houghton County Road Commissioners Annual Compensation & Benefits

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Houghton County Road Commissioners Annual Compensation & Benefits as presented.

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

4. Letter of Support for Franklin Township DNR Grant Application

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to send a letter of support for the Franklin Township DNR Grant Application as presented.

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

5. Houghton County Planning Commission Reappointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to reappoint Tim Sears.

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

6. Houghton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Appointment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to appoint Chelsea Rheault to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Chelsea will replace Ben Larson.

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

7. County Clerk Request for Canvassers 3rd day partial pay

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve a third day pay rate of \$40.00 for the Houghton County Canvassers as requested by the County Clerk.

The Motion CARRIED by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

8. Sheriff's Office purchase of two patrol vehicles-\$89,412.00

The \$89,412.00 is a part of their budget.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the purchase of two patrol vehicles for \$89,412.00 as presented.

The Motion CARRIED by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Sheriff's Office OCV, LLC purchase-\$16,189.50

The Sheriff Office would like to purchase the IOS app that deals with inmates. Bernard was working on this. It would go on the County website. The current mobile app is not working. Commissioner Keranen requested more information.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the \$16,189.50 purchase for the Sheriff's Office as presented.

The Motion FAILED by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Anderson, 2.

NO: Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 3.

10. Sheriff's Office Solidcircle service purchase-\$19,253.76

This is for the CVA jail management system that is done every year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to renew the CVA jail management system as presented.

A Motion CARRIED by a voice vote. Ayes 5, Nays 0.

11. Sheriff's Office Solidcircle 3 year warranty-\$8,125.00

This is reimbursed by the Michigan Department of Health and Services.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve the Solidcircle 3 year warranty for \$8,125.00 with the understanding this amount will be reimbursed to Houghton County..

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

12. Travel

None.

13. Appropriations:

- a. **MAC 2024-2025 Annual County Dues \$5,242.64**
- b. **Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region 1st Qtr-\$3,717.75**
- c. **UPCAP 2025 Dues-\$1,100.00**

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the above-mentioned Appropriations as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Tim Gasperich requested a letter of support for a non-motorized trail.

The Board congratulated the Clerk on her win in the election.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Chairman Anderson to adjourn at 3:45p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk