

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 4, 2018**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, December 4, 2018, in the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert Koskela at 12:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Koskela.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call:

Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Albert Koskela, District 2; Gretchen Janssen District 4; Tim Palosaari, District 5.

Absent: Anton Pintar, District 3.

Approval of Agenda:

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 4, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Linda Belote addressed the Board.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Jail

Chairman Koskela advised the Board on the November election results for the jail. It was defeated.

The Board had some discussion.

Commissioner Tikkanen stated he would like feedback from the people of Houghton County, hold meetings and get the public involved.

The Board discussed the 6 public meetings that were held before the November 2018 election.

Commissioner Janssen requested getting more input on why people voted no.

Faith Morrison addressed the Board and requested more than one (1) plan be presented regarding the jail.

The Board had discussion.

Evan McDonald addressed the Board.

Chairman Koskela advised the Board and the public that people are walking the street that should be in jail due to the overcrowding.

Linda Belote stated Richard Gee from Finlandia University is willing to be a consultant for the County to look into alternative options.

Sheriff, Brian McLean, stated they are trying to manage the population of the jail.

Faith Morrison addressed the Board.

Valorie Troesch addressed the Board.

Roy Britz addressed the Board and stated the Board needs to look at the future, talk to the City of Houghton, and stated the previous plan had no plan for expansion.

Kevin Coppo, Undersheriff, advised the Board and the public that after Colorado legalized marijuana, all crimes went up. He stated we will see more crime in Houghton County.

Commissioner Tikkanen recommended that the Board start forums, and talk to Delta County on what they did for their jail.

Commissioner Janssen stated a public survey or forum should be done, and then analyze that data.

Linda Belote addressed the Board.

Glenn Anderson addressed the Board and stated he would like to see a conclusive review of Camp Kitwen, plans for a new facility, and more information on the jail addition that was just on the November 2018 ballot.

Commissioner Palosaari stated the jail is a public safety issue and is not safe.

Barry Fink addressed the Board. She stated the marketing approach was not good enough in 2010, and the Board needs look at the future.

Faith Morrison addressed the Board.

Chairman Koskela stated the Board should look at the costs of options for a jail addition, Camp Kitwen, and a new facility.

Public Comments:

Linda Belote requested the Board give the public choice and input regarding the jail.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Palosaari and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 1:05 pm.

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

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Albert Koskela, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk