

MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, September 18, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan, was held at the office in Ripley, Michigan on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Pete Torola Chairman
William H. Siler Vice Chairman
Gene Londo Member
Kevin P. Harju County Engineer
John Cima Assistant Engineer
Lori Budweg Secretary
Roy Britz County Commissioner

GUESTS: Dale Peterson, Tim Gasperich, Jim Siira, Jared Hyrkas

The meeting was called to order by the chairman, Pete Torola at 1:30 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Londo and seconded by Mr. Siler, to open the Budget Public Hearing at 1:30 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Kevin Harju explained to the board and public, amendment # 1 to the original 2022-2023 budget and the 2023-2024 budget.

Moved by Mr. Siler and seconded by Mr. Londo, to close the Budget Public Hearing at 1:36 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to approve payment of bills and payrolls in the amount of \$920,300.01, covered by AP vouchers #22/23-72, #22/23-74, #22/23-75 and #22/23-77, payroll vouchers #22/23-73 and #22/23-76 and to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2023 monthly meeting. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Correspondence was read and discussed.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to approve posting, and advertising as needed, to fill an opening at the Elo garage, or another garage if an employee transfers, beginning January 2024 when William Heikkinen's resignation is effective. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to approve the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club to use the Wolverine #4 Mine Pile on September 16, 2023. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve Lori Budweg and/or Rob Tarvis to attend the 2023 UPRC F&HR conference in Munising. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve amendment #1 to the 2022-23 budget as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve the recommended budget for 2023-24 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to authorize Kevin Harju to sign and submit the Application for Disaster Assistance to the Homeland Security Division for Section 19 Funds. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to authorize Kevin Harju to sign the USDA Equipment Grants and proceed with ordering 2 motor graders and 2 sander/plow trucks. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve the updates to the Section 125, Cafeteria Plan as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to acknowledge the MCTWF Notification Letter dated August 28, 2023 regarding the Opt Out and Reinstatement Process and authorize Kevin to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to give the full-time employees as of today, excluding the commissioners, a \$150.00 holiday gift. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve the surplus equipment bid. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve hiring six seasonal drivers, 3 – Ripley, 2 – Calumet, 1 – Alston, and to advertise if necessary. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to authorize Kevin Harju to proceed with the purchase of two new patrol vehicles from Copper Country Ford. The new Government pricing became available through Sourcewell as of September 14, 2023. Bids were originally opened on May 23, 2023 with Copper Country Ford being the low bidder. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to authorize Kevin Harju to proceed with the sale of the Park & Ride Property to Stanton Township and authorize Kevin to sign the deed. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to go into a closed session meeting to discuss a legal matter at 2:11 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Legal issue discussed, according to closed meetings the minutes are filed elsewhere.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to go back into an open meeting at 2:32 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to accept a defendant's settlement proposal of \$80,000.00 and authorize Kevin Harju to sign the documents. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Torola, to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m., there being no further business. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.