

MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
Monday, May 20, 2024 – 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, May 20, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

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

GUESTS: Tim Gasperich, Jim Siira, George Eakin, Kristine Weidner, Jared Hyrkas, John Wallace

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Pete Torola at 1:32 p.m.

Moved by Mr. Siler and seconded by Mr. Torola, to open the Public Hearing for the Absolute Abandonment for a portion of Bear Creek Road (P108) at 1:33 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Kevin Harju explained to the board and public, the Absolute Abandonment for a portion of Bear Creek Road (P108).

Moved by Mr. Siler and seconded by Mr. Torola, to close the Public Hearing for the Absolute Abandonment for a portion of Bear Creek Road (P108) at 1:34 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to approve payment of bills and payrolls in the amount of \$539,839.87, covered by AP vouchers #23/24-48, #23/24-51, #23/24-52, #23/24-54 and #23/24-55, payroll vouchers #23/24-49, #23/24-50, #23/24-53, #23/24-56 and #23/24-57 and to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2024 monthly meeting. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Correspondence was read and discussed.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to allow the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club to host their field trip at HCRC's Wolverine rock pile on August 8, 2024. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, authorize passing a resolution for the Absolute Abandonment of a portion of Bear Creek Road (P108). (see attached) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to approve payment of the CRASIF Quarterly Invoice in the amount of \$13,835. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to request a personal property millage for 10-years (2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033) County Road Mileage on personal

property at 1.3427 mills be adopted by resolution and submitted to the electors for the November 5, 2024 Election. (See attachment) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to approve holding the 15th Annual Employee Appreciation Day on August 8, 2024 at 4 PM at Hancock Beach. Costs not to exceed \$1,500. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to adopt the resolutions and authorize Kevin Harju and/or Pete Torola to sign the contracts for MDOT Job #'s 220652CON, 220663CON, 220665CON, 2220647ON, 220648CON, 220649CON & 220651CON. (see attached) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to appoint Kevin Harju as HCRC's publicly employed Licensed Professional Engineer and request \$10,000.00 reimbursement from MDOT. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to authorize Kevin Harju to proceed with the sale of the Millworks partial property sale process as required. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Torola, to adjourn the meeting at 2:06 p.m., there being no further business. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 2, Nays 0.

RESOLUTION  
FOR  
ABSOLUTE ABANDONMENT

At a regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan, held at its office in Ripley, Hancock, Michigan, on Monday, May 20, 2024, the following matter was considered and a resolution unanimously adopted by said Board as follows:

Upon receipt of a petition for Abandonment and Discontinuance containing the names of all the owners and occupants abutting below described street and upon receipt of a certified list of the names and addresses of the aforementioned owners and occupants whose number exceeds that required by Michigan Statute, the Houghton County Board of Road Commissioners therefore determines "That it is in the best interest of the public that said street shall be absolutely abandoned and discontinued."

Description: portion of Bear Creek Road (P108) further described as follows:

Beginning at a point 0.86 miles South of Donken-Tapiola Road (P108), thence running southerly 0.14 miles along the centerline of Bear Creek Road (P108) to the end of the road in the Charter Township of Portage

RESOLVED, that a copy of said resolution be sent to the clerk of Houghton County, the Charter Township of Portage, and Michigan State Transportation Commission.

AYES: Siler, Torola  
NAYS: None

Motion Carried.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan, held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.

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Kevin Harju, Secretary

**BOARD OF**  
**County Road Commissioners**  
**HOUGHTON COUNTY**

PETE TOROLA, Chairman  
Chassell Township  
WILLIAM H. SILER, Vice Chairman  
Torch Lake Township  
GENE LONDO, Member  
Calumet Township

20140 Gagnon Circle, M-26, Ripley  
P.O. Box 269  
Hancock, MI 49930  
Office • 1-906-482-3600  
Fax • 1-906-482-9600  
Web • [www.houghtoncountyroads.org](http://www.houghtoncountyroads.org)

KEVIN P. HARJU, P.E.  
County Highway Engineer  
ROBERT P. TARVIS  
Office Manager

May 20, 2024

Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Houghton County Courthouse  
401 E. Houghton Ave.  
Houghton, MI 49931

Dear Chairman Tikkanen:

On behalf of the Houghton County Road Commission, I would like to request that the attached renewal of county road millage on personal property be adopted by resolution and submitted to the electors for the November 5, 2024 election.

Please advise me of what the cost will be to the road commission as a result of this addition to the November ballot.

I have also attached information that shows how the millage is distributed to the Road Commission and seven city and villages in the County.

Very truly yours,

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS

Kevin P. Harju  
County Highway Engineer

KPH/lb  
Enclosures

cc: Houghton County Clerk

## **County Road Millage (PERSONAL PROPERTY)**

Shall the ad valorem tax rate of Houghton County for roads, streets, and highways on personal property assessed therein be renewed in the amount of 1.3427 mills (\$1.3427 per \$1,000 of taxable value) and increased in the amount of 0.0263 mills (\$0.0263 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a total of 1.3690 mills (\$1.3690 per \$1,000 of taxable value) during each of the years 2024 – 2033, inclusive?

This levy will produce tax revenue of an estimated \$103,354 for 2024.

All revenue will be used solely for the purpose of paying the general operating and maintenance expenses of the Houghton County Road Commission and the incorporated cities and villages of the County of Houghton in maintaining roads, streets, and highways. The money derived from the renewed and increased millage shall be allocated, distributed, and spent according to Act No. 133 of the Public Acts of 1968.

RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Siler, supported by Mr. Torola, that the following resolution be unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Road Commissioners should enter into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the purpose of fixing the rights and obligations of the parties in agreeing to the following:

Control Section:	STUL 31000
Job Number:	220652CON; 220663CON; 220665CON
Project:	24A0373; 24A0368; 24A0369
CFDA No.:	20.205(Highway Research Planning & Construction)
Contract No.:	24-5139

PART A – ER 31000; JOB #220652CON; 24A0373; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION  
Culvert replacement with a concrete box culvert along Old Mill Hill Road approximately 200 feet north of Spring Brook Lane, including earthwork, aggregate base, culvert bedding, riprap, hot mix asphalt pavement and aggregate shoulders; and all together with necessary related work.

PART B – ER 31000; JOB #220663CON; 24A0368; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION  
Culvert replacement with a reinforced concrete culvert and concrete end sections along Tapiola Road approximately 1,955 feet west of Chassell-Painesdale Road, including earthwork, aggregate base, hot mix asphalt pavement and aggregate shoulders; and all together with necessary related work.

PART C – ER 31000; JOB #220665CON; 24A0369; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION  
Culvert replacement with a precast concrete box culvert along Otter Lake/Tapiola Road approximately 300 feet north of Old Road, including concrete headwalls and wingwalls, earthwork, aggregate base, culvert bedding, riprap, hot mix asphalt pavement and aggregate shoulders; and all together with necessary related work.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairman, Pete Torola, and/or engineer, Kevin P. Harju, be authorized to sign said agreements, proposals and/or construction contracts for the above project.

AYES: Torola, Siler  
NAYS: None

Motion Carried.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan held on the 20th of May, 2024.

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Kevin Harju, Secretary

RESOLUTION

Moved by Mr. Siler, supported by Mr. Torola, that the following resolution be unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Road Commissioners should enter into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the purpose of fixing the rights and obligations of the parties in agreeing to the following:

Control Section:	STUL 31000
Job Number:	220647CON; 220648CON; 220649CON; 220651CON
Project:	24A0433; 24A00434; 24A0430; 24A0431
CFDA No.:	20.205(Highway Research Planning & Construction)
Contract No.:	24-5176

PART A – ER 31000; JOB #220647CON; 24A0433; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

Hot mix asphalt and aggregate shoulder rehabilitation along Canal Road approximately 1,350 feet north of Gedvillas Road, including earthwork, subbase and aggregate base, guardrail and riprap; and all together with necessary related work.

PART B – ER 31000; JOB #220648CON; 24A0434; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

Hot mix asphalt road rehabilitation of one lane for approximately 150 feet along Larson Road approximately 600 feet south of Asumaa Road, including aggregate base, aggregate shoulder and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

PART C – ER 31000; JOB #220649CON; 24A0430; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

Hot mix asphalt pavement repair for approximately 250 feet along Obenhoff Road approximately 0.6 miles north of Juntikka Road, including earthwork, aggregate base, aggregate shoulder and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

PART D – ER 31000; JOB #220651CON; 24A0431; FEDERAL PARTICIPATION

Hot mix asphalt pavement repair for approximately 950 feet along Old Mill Hill Road approximately 800 feet north of F Street/Stanton Avenue, including earthwork, aggregate base, aggregate shoulder and permanent pavement markings; and all together with necessary related work.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chairman, Pete Torola, and/or engineer, Kevin P. Harju, be authorized to sign said agreements, proposals and/or construction contracts for the above project.

AYES: Torola, Siler  
 NAYS: None

Motion Carried.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution made and adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Houghton County, Michigan held on the 20th of May, 2024.

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Kevin Harju, Secretary