

MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, September 16, 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, September 16, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

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

GUESTS: Dale Peterson, Glenn Anderson, Kristine Weidner, Jared Hyrkas

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

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported 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 2023-2024 budget and the 2024-2025 budget.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to close the Budget Public Hearing at 1:32 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve payment of bills and payrolls in the amount of \$715,795.49 covered by AP vouchers #23/24-77, #23/24-79, #23/24-80 and #23/24-82, payroll vouchers #23/24-78 and #23/24-81. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2024 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 Lori Budweg and/or Rob Tarvis to attend the 2024 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 2023-24 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 2024-25 as presented. 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 partial property sale in Adams Township with the winning bidder, Backcountry Village, LLC and authorize the Chairman and Kevin Harju to sign the deed once we hear from our attorney on the property split, they wish to make. 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 as presented. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to change the November meeting to November 4, 2024 from the originally scheduled date of November 11, 2024. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to adopt the resolution and authorize Kevin Harju and/or Pete Torola to sign the contract for MDOT Job # 220664CON. (see attached) On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to use the P. A. 152 80/20 option for 2025, 2026 and 2027. 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. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to authorize Kevin Harju to proceed with the purchase of two additional sanders from Packer City International Truck. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve hiring Ernest Anthony for the Ripley Mechanic position. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve hiring Brandon Skewes for the Calumet HEO position. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Londo and supported by Mr. Siler, to give the full-time employees, excluding the commissioners, a \$150.00 holiday gift card. 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 a MERS HCSP Participation Agreement for the Union Employees as requested by the Teamsters Union Business Agent. 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 a service agreement with UPEA for inspection & testing on the Old M-28 project. 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 process to find and purchase a used excavator not to exceed \$100,000 and to report back at the next regularly scheduled meeting. 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 at 1:58 p.m. to discuss the Union Contract. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

The contract was discussed, according to closed meetings the minutes are filed elsewhere.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to go back into an open meeting at 2:31 p.m. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to approve the Union Contract and authorize Pete Torola and Kevin Harju to sign the contract with a condition that the Summer Schedule starting time of 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. be modified to 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting the second week of September through and including the second week of October with a Letter of Agreement. Kevin is authorized to work with the Teamsters Union Business Agent on the schedule change and sign Letters of Agreement for the change if the Union agrees. The wage adjustment to the non-bargaining unit employees as presented, is approved. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Moved by Mr. Siler and supported by Mr. Londo, to adjourn the meeting at 2:35 p.m., there being no further business. On a voice vote, the motion carried. Ayes 3, Nays 0.