

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Circuit Courtroom on the 3rd Floor of the Courthouse, City of Houghton with the public viewing in person and by Zoom.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 6:00 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 the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

Approval of Minutes: October 14, 2025:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the October 14, 2025 minutes as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Commissioner Britz asked that #17 under New Business be added for the Wifi at the Sharon Avenue property.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve the agenda with the one (1) addition as presented.

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

Public Comments-Agenda Items only *(3 minute limit)

Faith Morrison stated she opposes selling Canal View

Approval of Bills-\$4,324,083.91

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$4,324,083.91 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Correspondence:

None discussed.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Keranen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Janssen stated it was strange no one was online for the meeting.

Commissioner Anderson reported to the Board on the following: He discussed the Skyline Project and stated the House may restore the budget. Almost 5,000 people in Houghton County receive SNAP benefits. He attended the Fall Commissioner's Conference and stated Houghton County Road Commission will receive more money through the gas tax. There are 9,078 residents receiving Medicaid with 36.7 children on Medicaid. If cuts happen, they may be effective January 2027.

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report.

Chairman Tikkanen reported to the Board on the following: He discussed the survey on the Urban Policy for approximately 1,3000 municipalities.

County Officers:

Dennis Hext, Airport Manager, gave a report to the Board. Her introduced Casey Polkinghorne.

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, gave a report to the Board.

Unfinished Business:

1. SWTS Repair

Curt Judson, Transfer Station Manager, stated the estimates were in the Board's packet. The estimate came in \$1,000 less. He has 2 backups. They have done 774 runs to the landfill this year. He is waiting on quotes for a new truck but estimates it to be between \$160,000 and \$170,00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the repair bill.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

2. Copper Shores, Meals on Wheels Agreement

Commissioner Anderson stated that #9 should indemnify the County as the County is the Fiduciary. Administrator Rheault will inform Kevin Store that the County does not indemnify them, Copper Shores indemnifies the County.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt the revisions on the Copper Shores Meals on Wheels Program with changing to indemnify the County.

Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 1.

3. GIS Selection

Jaikob Djerf, Equalization Director, stated their department currently uses Coleman. Schneider would be his recommendation with Coleman continuing until Schneider takes over. The website should be ready between January and February 2026.

Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to switch to Schnieder Geo and authorize Jaikob Djerf to make the arrangements.

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

4. Appraisal/Survey of Canal View

Commissioner Anderson stated that at the Sharon Avenue Property Committee meeting, Adam Laplander did say we should have Canal View appraised and they would pay for it to look into the value of the business.

Commissioner Keranen feels that both the appraisal and business evaluation are important and that the County residents deserve to know the value of Canal View with Canal View paying the expenditures.

Commissioner Britz stated the Canal View Board is not in favor of an appraisal.

Chairman Tikkanen stated an appraisal could be \$6,500 and does not include a business evaluation.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to direct the Canal View Board to get a RFP for the cost of an appraisal and business evaluation.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Keranen, Anderson, Janssen,3.

NO: Tikkanen, Britz 2.

5. Survey of Marina

Chairman Tikkanen stated an RFP was issued and will be discussed at the January Board meeting. He recommended rescinding the previous RFP and to do a new RFP.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson for the RFP to be due in January 2026.

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

6. Transfer Station Parcel

Chairman Tikkanen discussed the email inquiring about purchasing acres at the Transfer Station property. They would like 5-7 acres with the option to expand in the future.

Curt Judson stated he felt it is not logical to sell any of the property because the Transfer Station should expand the facility in the future and include more recycling. The Transfer Station property is 25-26 acres.

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen that the County Board is not interested in selling any acres at the Transfer Station property at this time, and for Administrator Rheault to respond to the email inquiry.

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

New Business:

1. Michigan State University Extension Update, Paul Putnam-District Director

Paul Putnam was not in attendance. Will Croner gave the Board an update on tourism, short term rental properties, and the Citizen Planner Program coming to Houghton County in 2026.

Commissioner Janssen will arrange for the Board to get a presentation on the short term rental properties.

2. Copper Country Mental Health Services Update, Mike Bach-Executive Director

Mike Bach stated there will be a hearing on the RFP in December. He will keep the County Board updated. He discussed the handouts that he provided to the Board in their packet.

Chairman Tikkanen discussed creating a task force to look into having a facility here or in Marquette.

3. Canal View, Adam Laplander

Adam Laplander and Bobbi Jo Bonini addressed the Board. Adam provided a handout to the Board. He discussed admissions. They are at 134 beds right now. Their goal is to be to 145. They have a 16 unit bed rehab program. They employ 250 people, and have a contract with Keweenaw County for 15 beds, 8 are currently occupied. They also have 17 beds for veterans. If Canal View was privatized, according to information he has received, the staff would be reduced by 1/3.

Bobbi Jo read a letter from a family on the wonderful treatment their family member received at Canal View.

4. Equalization Annual Apportionment Report, Amended

Jaikob Djerf discussed the .8 change for Franklin/Quincy Townships. It is on page 1 under other in the Board's packet.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adopt the Amended Annual Apportionment Report as presented.

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

5. VC3 Contract

Commissioner Keranen requested clarification whether the 2 signed contracts, 1 signed by Administrator Rheault, and 1 signed by Chairman Tikkanen are legal. One (1) contract says information about a Board meeting, but there are no minutes that the VC3 Contract was ever discussed.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to have Prosecutor Helmer do an Opinion to determine if the VC3 Contract(s) are legal or not.

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

6. Tri-County Public Defenders September 2025 Payment Request-\$72,806.41

David Gemignani, Attorney, stated money will be coming soon from the State.

Administrator Rheault stated \$800,000 will be coming with \$500,000 reverting back to the County. The County has enough to pay the requested amount.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve paying \$72,806.41 to the Tri-County Public Defenders as requested.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

7. Dell Quote

Administrator Rheault discussed the 30 old computers in the courthouse. Computers need to be Windows 11 compatible.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve \$18,839.10 for new Dell computers for the courthouse.

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

8. SOPP: Fiduciary Fees

Administrator Rheault recommended the SOPP.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt the SOPP of 1% as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

9. Copper Country Community Mental Health

The Board discussed the handout on mental health transport that was in their packet.

10. Sheriff's Office Patrol Cars Purchase Request

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to purchase two (2) Dodge Durango's for \$92,434.00 and \$51,350 for equipment as presented.

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

11. Sheriff's Office sinks & toilet Purchase Request

Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the purchase for the sinks and toilet for the Sheriff Department.

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

12. Resolution #25-029 Naming Trustee and Alternate

Administrator Rheault recommended herself as the Trustee and Alex as the alternate.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #250-029 and appoint Chelsea as the Trustee and Alex as the alternate.

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



RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Governing Body of
Houghton County (the Member)**

RESOLUTION NAMING TRUSTEE AND ALTERNATE TRUSTEE

**Resolution # 25-029
PREMISES**

- A. Article 6.1 of the Bylaws of the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool (“WMHIP”) requires that each member entity name a Trustee and Alternate Trustee to serve on the Board of Trustees for the WMHIP.
- B. The Governing Body of the Member has chosen individuals in accordance with Article 6.1 to serve as Trustee and Alternate Trustee.
- C. The Governing Body of the Member believes that these individuals will represent the interests of the Member in the WMHIP.
- D. Neither of these individuals are an owner officer, or employee of any third-party administrator or any other third-party providing services to WMHIP.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of the Member hereby resolves:

- 1. The Governing Body hereby confirms its appointment of the following persons as Trustee and Alternate Trustee to serve as Trustee when the initial Trustee is not available or in attendance to carry out the Trustee’s duties:

[Insert Trustee’s Name]

[Insert Alternate Trustee’s Name]

The Trustee and Alternate Trustee shall serve until replaced by action of the Governing Body of the Member. Failure of the Member to designate a Trustee, or the failure of that Trustee/Alternate Trustee to participate on the Board of Trustees, shall not affect the responsibilities or duties of the Member under the Amended Trust Agreement.

- 2. Once these appointments are made known to WMHIP, the above-named individuals shall remain in office until WMHIP receives evidence of appointment of other persons.
- 3. Evidence of these appointments shall be communicated to WMHIP by providing a certified copy of this Resolution.
- 4. All Resolutions and parts of Resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this Resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Governing Body of the Houghton County Commissioners, Houghton County, State of Michigan, at a Regular Monthly meeting held on November 12, 2025, and that this meeting was conducted and public notice of this meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of this meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by this Act.

I further certify that the following Members were present at this meeting:

Tikkanen, Keranen, Anderson, Janssen, Britz and that the following Members were absent: None.

I further certify that the foregoing Resolution was moved by Member _____ and seconded by Member _____.

I further certify that the following Members voted for adoption of the foregoing Resolution:

Tikkanen, Keranen, Anderson, Janssen, Britz and that the following Members voted against adoption of this Resolution: None.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 12th day of November, 2025.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

13. Resolution #25-028 Requesting That the Michigan Department of Health And Human Services Release Additional Funds From The National Opioid Litigation Settlements

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #25-028 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0



**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
RELEASE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE NATIONAL
OPIOID LITIGATION SETTLEMENTS**

Resolution # 25-028

WHEREAS, communities across Michigan, including Houghton County, have been negatively impacted by the opioid crisis, resulting in increased substance use disorders (SUD), overdose deaths, family disruptions, and strain on public health, safety, and social service systems; and

WHEREAS, that the State of Michigan has received \$1.6 billion in settlement funds from the National Opioid Litigation, intended to remediate and address the widespread harm caused by opioid manufacturers, distributors, and related entities; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) serves as the primary administrator of settlement funds on behalf of the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, Houghton County and the area's SUD service providers jointly bear the responsibility of implementing prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction strategies and programs, yet are limited in scope and impact due to the slow and insufficient release of funds from MDHHS; and

WHEREAS, the timely release and distribution of additional settlement funds to counties and service providers is essential for ensuring resources are available to expand treatment capacity, strengthen prevention programs, support recover housing, provide mental health services, and reduce the ongoing burden of opioid misuse in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, THAT the Houghton County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services promptly release additional funds from the National Opioid Litigation settlements to SUD service providers, and counties, including Houghton County, in order to ensure that resources are available where the need is most urgent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners directs the Houghton County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Governor of the State of

Michigan, the Director of MDHHS, the Michigan Association of Counties, State Senator Ed McBroom, Representative Gregory Markkanen, and Representative Jack Bergman.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:
Moved by Commissioner: Britz
Supported by Commissioner: Janssen
Roll Call Vote:
 Yes: Britz, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Anderson (5)
 No: None (0)
Motion carried.

_____ Tom Tikkanen, Chairman Houghton County Board of Commission	_____ Date
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RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.
STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified County Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its Regular meeting held on November 12, 2025, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 12th day of November, 2025.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

14. WUPPDR-Housing Invoice

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve paying the WUPPDR Housing invoice of \$165.00 as presented.

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

15. District Court Substitute Magistrates

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to authorize the recommendation of the 97th District Court Judge and appoint Nada Wakeham and David Lamerand as substitute Magistrates.

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

16. Re-appointment of Houghton County Rec Authority Board Members

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to reappoint Commissioners Anderson and Keranen to the Houghton County Rec Authority Board.

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

17. Wifi for Sharon Avenue property

Alex Radke, IT, discussed a quote for internet and surveillance cameras at the Sharon Avenue property for \$65 per month.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to authorize Alex Radke, IT, to proceed.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

Chairman Tikkanen asked for a marina internet update. Alex stated Tom Bingham was working on the project. Alex will follow up with Tom.

Other Business/Communications

None.

Travel

1. Sara Huuki, Building Dept - \$600.00

Todd LaRoux wanted it corrected the travel is not for Sara Huuki, it is for Brian Kangas.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve \$600 in travel for Brian Kangas.

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

Appropriations:

- 1. Michigan State University Extension FY2026 Payment Request-\$48,410.00**
- 2. Copper Country Community Mental Health 1/12th Approp.-\$13,707.91**
- 3. Western UP Health Department-\$69,556.50**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to pay all the above Appropriations as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Dan Holcomb addressed the Board about political signs put out in 2025 that the Republican Party did not approve.

Faith Morrison addressed the Board and agreed the signs were not put out legally.

Teresa Kariniemi addressed the Board regarding the Health Department taking her off the Freedom to Work program that she paid for. The Health Department did reimburse her.

Announcements:

The next Jail Committee meeting is on December 8th at 4:00 pm in the Conference Room on the 5th floor.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 8:31 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____

Clerk: _____