

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the 5th Floor Conference Room of the Courthouse, City of Houghton with the public viewing in person and by Microsoft Teams.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tikkanen at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkanen.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call done by County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

Absent: Glenn Anderson, District 3.

Agenda/Additions:

No additions were added or voted on.

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

None.

Houghton County Board of Commissioners Work Session:

1. SWTS Repair

Commissioner Keranen discussed an email from Curt Judson along with an estimate from Bekkala's Diesel Repair, LLC of \$22,799.22. This would be a budget loss for the Transfer Station.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the last new vehicle was purchased in 2023 and discussed getting a price for a slightly used new truck.

Administrator Rheault stated this is not a budgeted expense, but the budget for the Transfer Station can afford it, but she will need to do a budget amendment. The last rate increase at the Transfer Station was in August 2025.

Faith Morrison questioned the budget loss at the Transfer Station and requested a printout showing this loss. Chairman Tikkanen stated the County operates on experience and may need to discuss an expansion at the Transfer Station in the future.

Chairman Tikkanen discussed the WUPPDR Regional plan. Commissioner Janssen stated she would contact the person in charge to get an update.

2. Copper Shores, Meals on Wheels Agreement

Chairman Tikkanen explained the Agreement in their packet. He stated the County is obligated to collect the millage.

Kevin Store, by Microsoft Teams, requested the Agreement have one (1) change. He asked the monthly report be changed to quarterly report. He also requested time to review the Agreement. He stated there are approximately 354 people receiving meals.

Faith Morrison suggested that the County be prepared knowing what their fiduciary responsibilities are.

Kevin Store stated that he will get a revision of the Agreement to the County by this Thursday at noon.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Board would take action at the next Board meeting.

3. GIS Update, Jaikob Djerf

Jaikob Djerf discussed the 4 RFP's.

Chairman Tikkanen requested the service going forward be user friendly.

Commissioner Britz requested Jaikob forward the presentation to the Board, and to add this to the next monthly Board meeting and have Jaikob make a recommendation.

4. Appraisal/Survey Canal View & Marina

Chairman Tikkanen stated they received information on the grants for the Marina. The grants require the County to operate for another 20 years. He requested Administrator Rheault forward the email to the Board. He questioned if the Board should wait for the DNR's response.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Canal View Board is not in support of a survey/appraisal.

Adam Laplander, Canal View Administrator, discussed the County Held Properties Committee meeting and expressed concern of there only being one (1) meeting and the pros and cons were not discussed. He expressed concerns on who was on the Committee.

Ed Jenich, Canal View Board member, explained the responsibilities of the Canal View Board.

Commissioner Keranen questioned Adam and Ed Jenich if the Canal View Board is acting in the best interest of the people of the County by not allowing the people to know the value of the Canal View property. He stated he never said the County was looking to sell the Canal View property.

Adam stated they are at 67% capacity and Portage Pointe is at full capacity.

Chairman Tikkanen stated that the concept of liquidating assets held by Houghton County is a good idea.

Commissioner Janssen asked why the County does not have a survey/appraisal for all County properties.

Faith Morrison explained how many times the three (3) new committees have met.

Commissioner Keranen requested the Canal View Board explain in writing why they are not willing to get the Canal View property appraised as he feels the people have a right to know the value.

Adam Laplander asked if the Transfer Station, Marina, Airport were paying for their own appraisals/surveys.

Administrator Rheault stated no survey/appraisals were discussed at budget meetings.

5. Transfer Station Parcel

Chairman Tikkanen discussed putting this on the Agenda for the next Board meeting.

Commissioner Britz stated Curt Judson has discussed an expansion at the Transfer Station in the future and recommends discussing this this email/inquiry at the next Board meeting and then responding to the email/inquiry.

Public Comment-*(3-minute limit):

Adam Laplander asked if the County was allowed to use the ARPA money to purchase the Sharon Avenue property. Chairman Tikkanen stated the previous Administrator verified they could use the money to purchase the property with the ARPA money.

Announcements:

Chairman Tikkanen stated the next Board meeting is at 6:00 pm next Wednesday in Circuit Court.

The next work session is on December 1st. Commissioner Janssen will not be able to attend.

Clerk Kelly reminded everyone that Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 11:51 a.m.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED_____

JK