

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 31, 2025**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Friday, October 31, 2025 at 10:30 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 10:30 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 the Chief Deputy County Clerk, Renee Cunningham:

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

Absent: Gretchen Janssen, District 4.

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

Chairman Tikkanen asked to move #2 to #1 under New Business as Mr. Polkinghorne needs to leave the meeting early.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to change the Order of the Agenda items under New business.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Review & Approve the Hiring Recommendation for the Airport Manger

The Board reviewed a hiring recommendation for a new Airport Manger. Dennis Hext drafted a letter under the direction of the Airport Committee. Casey Polkinghorne is a local person per Chairman Tikkanen.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and second by Commissioner Keranen to approve the Airport Committee's recommendation and hire Casey Polkinghorne.

YES: Anderson, Keranen, Tikkanen, Britz 4.

NO: None. 0

Absent: Janssen

2. Authorizing Contract for District Court Security Renovations

Chairman Tikkanen stated District Court’s renovation is using ARPA funds. The Board needs to approve the contract to get the work done. The contractor is waiting to get started.

Commissioner Anderson asked about addendums. Todd LaRoux said he did not have any.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the safety upgrades are needed. Commissioner Anderson stated the renovations are up to \$200,000.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to accept the contract with MJO for District Court renovations \$172,813.00.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Keranen 4.

NO: None. 0

Absent: Janssen

Public Comments:

Faith Morrison encouraged the Board to continue to work on a solution for a new jail. She feels a new jail is needed and encourages the public to get involved.

Nickole Jollimore, Magistrate, thanked the Board for passing the vote to get the security upgrades made to the District Court offices.

Chairman Tikkanen welcomed Adam Laplander to the meeting.

Announcements:

Commissioner Keranen wishes everyone a Happy Halloween.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adjourn at 10:40 a.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

Approved at BOC Meeting:_____

Clerk’s Initials