

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
May 12, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Circuit Courtroom 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 County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

Absent: None

Approval of Minutes: Mapril 6, 2026 Work Session; April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2026 Work Session and the April 14, 20026 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the agenda as presented.

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

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

None.

Approval of Bills-\$1,693,163.79:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,693,163.79 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Keranen reported to the Board on the following:

He thanked Curt Judson for his years of service at the Transfer Station.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

She thanked Curt Judson for his years of service at the Transfer Station. She may have a group do a presentation on data centers next month as she feels the County needs to be prepared for them.

Commissioner Anderson had nothing to report.

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report.

Chairman Tikkanen had nothing to report.

Special Committees:

Jail Committee: Faith Morrison discussed the Committee discussing the reasonings for the previous no vote on the last election in trying to get a new jail for our County.

County Officers:

Adam Laplander, Canal View Administrator, stated they have 134 beds occupied and received a four (4) star facility.

Casey Polkinghorn, Airport Manager, stated they are implementing a new parking system due to more traffic. The FAA inspectors will be at the airport next week. He discussed the 3rd flight with SkyWest until September 21, 2026. He discussed the projects being done at the airport.

Jaikob Djerf, Equalization Director, stated they are getting information to the cities, townships and schools on their new software. He discussed upcoming technical changes for state reporting.

Lisa Mattila, Treasurer, stated they had 320 parcels for tax foreclosure for the 2024 taxes for \$552,000. She stated the Land Bank met 5 times, and the April report is done. They had 39 parcels in inventory and 1 sold in 2024. She thanked Jeff Ratcliffe and welcomed Easton Laitila and Tim Gasperich to the Land Bank. She stated she provided a copy of the report to the Commissioners, and it is available on the County website.

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, stated they have done 100 building permits and even more than 100 for mechanical and electrical. There have been 28 new homes this year.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business:

1. Houghton County Planning Commission Recommendation, Rec Plan

Commissioner Keranen will get together with Jerry Wurrihama.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the agreement with WUPPDR to update and prepare the Houghton County Recreation Plan and to pay \$4,200.00 to WUPPDR.

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

2. Jaikob Djerf, Enhanced Public Access Policy

Jaikob Djerf gave 3 examples from Gratiot, Ogemaw and Eaton Counties. He requested the Board approve the Data Sharing Agreement and the 2025-26 fee schedule.

Commissioner Anderson asked if our fees are in line with other counties. Jaikob said no. Other counties are higher. He asked the Board to wait to look at any increases until 2027. He would like to follow Gratiot County and use that as our policy in Houghton County.

Commissioner Keranen asked how many appraisers ask for copies. Jaikob stated some appraisers do ask for paper copies.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the agreement and fee schedule as presented by Jaikob Djerf.

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

3. Canal View Split Application, Commissioner Janssen

Commissioner Janssen requested tabling this until the June meeting.

4. Building Department Sealed Bids

Chairman Tikkanen stated they had received 2 sealed bids. He opened the envelopes.

#1-Keweenaw Chevrolet-2026 Chevrolet Silverado LT \$50,014.00.

#2-Copper Country Ford-2026 F150 \$50,466.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the bid from Keweenaw Chevrolet for no higher than \$50,014.00 with no warranty.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0

5. Houghton County Fair Board, Payment Request \$10,000.00

Commissioner Anderson explained various County Fair operations and the Counties involvement in them.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to authorize \$10,000 appropriation that was budgeted for the Houghton County Fair.

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

6. Extended Warranty on Houghton County Vehicle

Administrator Rheault discussed adding extended coverage to the 2026 Chevy Equinox. The current warranty is for 5 years or 30,000 miles. The cost for extended coverage for \$4,023.00 would cover another 84 months or 100,000 miles. She stated there is an average about 12,000 miles per year put on a vehicle.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve \$4,023.00 for an extended warranty on the 2026 Chevy Equinox.

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

7. Set the Truth in Taxation Date for the Regular June Meeting

Jaikob Djerf explained the reasoning for needing the Truth in Taxation hearing.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to set the Truth in Taxation hearing for the June 9, 2026 meeting.

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

8. Marquette Community Corrections

Chairman Tikkanen stated that District Court and Circuit Court have approved this program. There is no cost to Houghton County.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to join the Marquette Community Corrections program and one (1) Commissioner will sit on their Board.

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

9. FOIA Appeal

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #26-09.

Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

10. Canal View Appraisal Update

Chairman Tikkanen stated the appraisal has been received and is available to all Commissioners.

Adam Laplander stated the appraisal was sent on May 7th by Health Trust based on approximately 145 beds for \$14.4 million. There have been a lot of updates to the facility. The State would capture \$5-7 million, \$3 million in pension, PTO \$600,000 and an estimated \$4.8 million left.

Commissioner Anderson asked why the appraisal was not based on 197 beds that are licensed. Adam stated it was based on occupancy.

Commissioner Keranen questioned page 79 that shows the operation at a loss. Adam stated for 12 years, the majority of those years the facility operates at a loss. He stated they need more staff and commented on MTU's nursing program and how it is growing. They had 6 RN's graduate this year.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to not offer Canal View to be sold.

Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Anderson, Tikkanen, Janssen 4.

NO: Keranen 1.

11. Tri-County Monthly Reimbursement Request-\$70,149.73

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the \$70,149.73 payment to Tri-County as presented.

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

12. Sharon Ave Renovation

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, stated OHM has been working on a schematic design creating a Commissioners Hall, a firewall, Administrator Department space, Building Department space, and space for the MSU Extension Office. He feels option 3 makes most sense.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to use ARPA monies and pay \$113,500 to OHM as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Other Business/Communications

Chairman Tikkanen discussed the card and plaque from KEDA that was received as a thank you.

Travel:

None.

13. Appropriations

None.

Public Comments:

Faith Morrison updated the progress for the Committees working towards getting a new jail.

Announcements:

Chairman Tikkanen stated the County has received the presentation from Gallagher for the wage study.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 8:12 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED: _____

Clerk's Initials