

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
JUNE 9, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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: February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting; May 11, 2026 Work Session**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026 Regular Meeting and the May 11, 2026 Work Session as presented.

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

**Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Tikkanen stated numbers 1 and 4 would be tabled and under New Businesses #8 MTA Dues of \$750 and #9 Purchase of Transfer Station truck would be added to the Agenda.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the agenda with the two (2) agenda items being tabled, and the two (2) New Business items being added to the Agenda as presented.

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

**Public Hearing-Truth in Taxation**

**1. Open Hearing**

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to open the hearing.

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

**2. Discussion & Comments**

Jaikob Djerf stated for the 2026 levy, the proposed millage rate is 6.1670 mills (after last years millage rate of 6.2464 is reduced the current Millage Reduction Fraction of 0.9873).

The Base Tax Rate Fraction (BTRF) is 0.9164 and the 2026 taxable value is 1,402,456,823.

The Base Tax Rate (after application of the BTRF) is 6.0053.

After adjusting the Base Tax Rate by the estimated Convention/Facilities Tax revenue of 189,800 the resulting adjusted Base Tax Rate is 6.0051.

The difference between the Maximum allowable rate of 6.1670 and the adjusted Base Tax Rate of 6.0051 is 0.1619 mills.

If approved, that difference nets a 2.70% increase in operating revenue beyond last year's base rate or approximately \$227,057 beyond the base rate established with last year's levy.

Faith Morrison discussed how Headlee reduces the millage rates and asked why the Board needs more revenue and what their plans are for having more revenue. Chairman Tikkanen stated for a new jail and operating costs. Faith Morrison discussed inflation.

### **3. Close Hearing**

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to close the hearing.

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

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

Janeen Stephenson addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Heather Mrosz addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Lexi Tater addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Rich Canevez addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. He was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Ashlie Bergeron addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Emma Shedd addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Alan Salmi addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. He was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Shantel Marcotte addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Joan Chadde addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time and talked about recycling.

Kyle Selmsler, Finance Manager, addressed the Board regarding #4 on the Agenda. He suggested the Board seek professionals for their expertise.

Ruth Glecker addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Teresa Kariniemi addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

Elizabeth Whelan addressed the Board regarding #8 on the Agenda. She was opposed to the Board changing the time.

**Approval of Bills-\$4,221,769.45:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve paying the bills submitted of \$4,221,769.45 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**Reports:**

**Standing Committee:**

Commissioner Keranen had nothing to report to the Board.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

UPCAP Conference: She stated the Board should be prepared for AI and Data Centers. There was a DNR update and muzzleloading will be decreased from 10 days to 3 days.

Commissioner Anderson had nothing to report.

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report.

Chairman Tikkanen had nothing to report.

**Special Committees:**

None.

**County Officers:**

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, stated Joe is now licensed by the State now. There have been 36 new addresses, 152 building permits, 195 electrical permits, 149 mechanical permits and 89 plumbing permits. There have been 60 plan reviews. They will be doing a walk through on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 pm at the Sharon Avenue property. Bid opening will be at UPEA on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Sharon Avenue property renovation has the structural design and Chad Hammerstrom is working on the heating.

Casey Polkinghorn, Airport Manager, stated the FAA inspection was from May 20-27. They did find there were incorrect markings on the fuel pipe. On June 25, the third flight begins. They had 1 canceled flight in May.

Alex Radke, IT, stated there were a couple outages recently.

**Unfinished Business**

**1. Resolution #26-10 Approving sale of property, Canal View Split Application, Commissioner Janssen; tabled from May meeting**

Ben Larson with Moyle stated they are purchasing a small section of property. Commissioner Janssen stated the Assessor approved.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve the sale of the property and to approve Resolution #26-10 for .94 acres.

Commissioner Anderson stated the purchase price was \$50,000.00 and applauded the Canal View Board.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None. 0



**HOUGHTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931  
Telephone: (906) 482-8307

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION APPROVING SALE OF PROPERTY  
RESOLUTION #26-10**

**WHEREAS**, Houghton County is a municipal corporate body organized and existing pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, that is statutorily governed by its elected Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, MCL 46.11(c) authorizes a Michigan county to sell real estate belonging to the county and to prescribe the manner in which a conveyance is to be executed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has determined that real estate located in the City of Hancock, County of Houghton, and State of Michigan, more particularly described in **Exhibit A** attached to this Resolution is not needed for public purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners wishes to sell the above-described property; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners authorizes the sale of the real property located in the City of Hancock, County of Houghton, and State of Michigan, more particularly described in **Exhibit A** attached to this Resolution to Hancock Storage, LLC, pursuant to the terms of a Purchase Agreement executed by the respective parties for the sum of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$50,000.00), which the Houghton County Board of Commissioners determines is equal to or greater than the current fair market value of the property; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that Tom Tikkanen, Chair of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, is authorized to sign a warranty deed and all closing documents for the sale of the above-described real estate.

**Motion Made By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Supported By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll Call Vote: Yes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**No:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Carried:**

**RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Tikkanen, Chair  
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON )

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County of Houghton, Michigan, at a meeting of its Board of Commissioners on the 9th day of June, 2026, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office. I further certify that the meeting was held and the minutes therefor were filed in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

**2. Jaikob Djerf, Enhanced Public Access Policy**

Jaikob Djerf stated that Board had been given a proposed policy that Paige and he worked on. They were unable to locate the original policy that the County likely passed, and they believe this new policy represents the standing policies/procedures of the County. They are asking the Board for adoption and re-affirmation of this long-standing County Policy.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt and affirm the long-standing County Policy as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 5.  
NO: None. 0

**3. RFP for Cyber Security**

Tabled.

**4. Opioid Taskforce Authorization**

Tabled.

**5. Brendon Presnell, Proposal for Transfer Station Improvements and MMP Budget Update**

No one was present.

**6. Karen Karinen, Retirement Buyout Request**

Administrator Rheault stated Karen Karinen was looking to buy up to 3 years, maybe less. This would be an employee buyout and a Resolution is needed. Administrator Rheault had no recommendation for the Board.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve Karen Karinen buying up to 3 ½ years by September 1, 2026.

Commissioner Janssen acknowledged receipt of Judge Nicholas Daavettila’s letter of support.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Keranen, Tikkanen, Janssen, Britz 5.  
NO: None. 0

### **7. Easton Laitila, Contracted Services**

Administrator Rheault stated Easton Laitila's contract will be done on June 30, 2026.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to extend Easton Laitila's contract for one (1) week at \$1,000.00.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 5.  
NO: None. 0

### **8. Board of Commissioners Meeting Time Discussion**

Commissioner Janssen stated she would like to keep the meeting time at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Keranen stated there was never any mention of changing the time to 10:00 am. There was mention of 4:00 pm.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to change the meeting time from 6:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Commissioner Britz suggested having an earlier time during the winter months.

Commissioner Anderson stated people are against moving the meeting time.

Commissioner Janssen stated people are against moving the meeting time.

The Motion FAILED by the following vote.

YES: Keranen, Tikkanen 2.  
NO: Anderson, Janssen, Britz 3.

### **9. Wage Study**

Administrator Rheault stated there are 2 options for the wage study.

Commissioner Anderson stated option #1 was for \$18, and option #2 was for \$21

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt option #2 from the wage study.

Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 5.  
NO: None 0.

### **10. Jail Committee Update**

Faith Morrison read the recommendation from the Jail Committee.

#### **New Business:**

#### **1. Resolution #26-12 Authorize Collection of County Taxes**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adopt Resolution #26-12 as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

**2. Kevin Store, Copper Shores Updates**

No one was present.

**3. Ben Larson, Medical Facility Lot**

Previously discussed in the agenda.

**4. FOIA Appeal, Resolution #26-11**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adopt Resolution #26-11 as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.



**HOUGHTON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931  
Telephone: (906) 482-8307

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS  
IN FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPEAL**

**RESOLUTION #26-11**

**WHEREAS**, The Houghton County Board of Commissioners has received and considered a Freedom of Information Act appeal by Justin Meyers relating to certain Houghton County property tax records.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners adopts the Findings and Determinations attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A, affirming the underlying decision being appealed; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Tom Tikkanen, Chair of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners, is authorized to sign the Findings and Determinations on behalf of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners.

**Motion Made By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Motion Supported By:** \_\_\_\_\_



Administrator Rheault stated the company has a payment plan for the County to pay some this fiscal year and then pay off the remaining amount the following year. The Transfer Station is down to one (1) truck. The new truck is a 2027 Peter Built.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve purchasing the 2027 Peter Built truck for \$193,004 with the other charges as presented..

Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

## **Other Business/Communications**

### **1. Keweenaw Community Foundation**

Chairman Tikkanen stated a thank you was received from the Keweenaw Community Foundation for the Big Annie Resolution that the County Board did..

## **Travel:**

### **1. Drew Bastman, July 27-28, 2026**

### **2. Jaikob Djerf, July 26-29, 2026**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to pay the two (2) travel requests as presented.

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

## **Appropriations:**

### **1. Copper Country Community Mental Health \$27,415.82**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to pay the \$27,415.82 appropriation to Copper Country Community Mental Health as presented.

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

## **Public Comments:**

Alex Radke, IT, discussed cyber security.

Rich Canevez discussed the decision for the Board's meeting time.

Joan Chadde discussed data centers.

Karen Timonen discussed her concerns regarding COVID and aging parents.

Lexi Tater discussed data centers.

## **Announcements:**

None.

## **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