

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JUNE 25, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the 5<sup>th</sup> 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 11:00 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; Glen Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4; Roy Britz, District 5.

Absent: Joel Keranen, District 2

**Approval of Minutes:**

N/A.

**Agenda/Additions:**

Commissioner Britz asked for #1 under New Business be tabled from the Agenda and stated the Board could not go into closed security for this item.

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

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

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

None.

**Approval of Bills:**

N/A.

**Unfinished Business**

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

Commissioner Janssen discussed the available grants through EGLE and the MMP Budget.

Brendon Presnell stated his proposal for 80/20 and \$58,000 is for a feasibility study to be done. He discussed the approved budget on how to allocate funds. This would be for contractual expenses.

Chairman Tikkanen asked if the money could be put toward new truck. Brandon asked if it would be used for recycling or landfill use. He again stated he recommends it be used for a feasibility study. Chairman Tikkanen stated the truck would be used to haul everything.

Brendon stated their office would oversee the money. He questioned if the county could justify the truck being used for recycling. He stated EGLE could ask for justification. He stated this is a financial plan which would be a lasting plan for the county.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the money would only cover recycling or other things. Brandon stated it could be operated as a whole and most acceptable to the people. He provided an outline to the Board to add an extra bay at the Transfer Station. WUPPDR applied for an infrastructural grant that is specified to recycling. If something is a permanent fixture, they may cover it. Commissioner Anderson discussed the \$58,000 being used for planning at the Transfer Station and highlighting recycling. Brandon stated Houghton County would be a hub for the community and for recycling. Commissioner Britz asked where the recycling is hauled. Brandon stated recycling is hauled to 906 Recycling in Marquette. Chairman Tikkanen stated the Transfer Station is a collection site, and not a curb side facility. Brandon stated the City of Hancock brings recycling to Marquette at this time. Commissioner Britz discussed getting requests from people for glass recycling. Brandon stated a lot of glass would have to be accumulated and costs would have to be reviewed. He could not estimate a cost for handling glass recyclables.

Chairman Tikkanen stated recycling cannot be for free. People must pay. More employees would be needed.

Commissioner Janssen stated Brendon's proposal for a feasibility study would be helpful in getting future grants.

Commissioner Anderson stated recycling costs could be more than normal garbage costs.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Transfer Station is currently beyond its capacity.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the proposal and \$58,000 in funds from EGLE MMP Planning to be used towards a feasibility study.

Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Anderson, Tikkanen, Britz 1.

NO: None 0.

Absent: Keranen 1.

## **2. Jail Committee Project Update**

Chairman Tikkanen stated the Jail Committee had met on Tuesday and an email from Faith Morrison was given to the Board.

Faith went over her email.

Sheriff Saaranen discussed the specifics that are needed for the Jail and Sheriff Department.

Faith Morrison stated the Jail Committee would like the Board to vote for an Industry Day.

Commissioner Anderson questioned if the Committee is suggesting using 35,000 square feet for the jail. Faith Morrison discussed 51-70 beds. Cells are the last thing determined, and no one is thinking small. The formulas set by the MDOC are not negotiable. Commissioner Anderson discussed 60-70 beds.

Sheriff Saaranen stated they need space to be able to move inmates around and to have program space. They must move inmates based on classifications. The cells would be different in a new jail from what they currently have.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to direct the Jail Committee to do an Industry Day for developers and contractors to discuss the construction of a new jail.

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

**1. Security Discussion**

Tabled.

**2. Pet Policy in the Workplace**

The Administrative Coordinator stated that she and the Administrator came up with the wording for the Pet Policy. She read the policy out loud.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the Pet Policy in the Workplace as presented.

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

**Other Business/Communications:**

None.

**Travel:**

None.

**Appropriations:**

None.

**Public Comment-\*(3-minute limit):**

Dan Helmer, Prosecutor, gave an update on his office and gave comparisons with other Prosecutor Offices stating the number of staff and wages.

**Announcements:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 12:17 p.m.

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Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

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Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

JK