

JAIL COMMITTEE MEETING

AND INDUSTRY DAY EVENT

JULY 15, 2026 – 5:00-7:00 PM

MINUTES

49850 Highway US-41, Hancock, MI 49930 and on MS Teams

Call to Order:

Tom Tikkanen called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Roll Call :

Members:

County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly, called roll and the following were present in person: Tom Tikkanen, Gretchen Janssen, Sheriff Josh Saaranen, Faith Morrison, Justin LaCosse, Todd LaRoux, Valorie Troesch, Andrea Johnson and Jason Baker.

The following contractors and others were in attendance in person:

Evan Huhta-OHM Advisor's

Joe Poissant-LJJ Construction Julien

Ray Lemonsion-RC Mechanical

Roy Britz-Commissioner

Todd Sabourin-Miron Construction

Todd Butler-Granger Construction

Derek Wuebben-Northern Heating & Plumbing

Justin Pakkala-RC Mechanical

Jared Hyrkas-UPEA

Derek Bradway-Bradway Enterprises

Leander Somero-Wise Hearted Construction

Joel Keranen, Commissioner

Approval of Agenda/Additions:

A Motion was made by Faith Morrison and seconded by Todd LaRoux to approve the agenda as presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 9, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

None.

Industry Day Events-Committee member Faith Morrison, facilitator

1. (5:00 pm) Welcome/Introduction/Thanks

Charge: Produce a ROM cost for building a jail and sheriff's offices at the Sharon Avenue property that has space for no fewer than 60 inmates (up to 70) and that contains working spaces sufficient in size for serving that number of inmates.

Faith Morrison stated the Committee is looking for an appropriate dollar amount that a jail could be built for. ROM's will be due by July 29, 2026 and emailed to Clerk Kelly. (Countyclerk@houghtoncounty.gov). This is for the jail, Sheriff Department, working spaces, and 60-70 beds.

The intent of the ROM will be to have a dollar figure to be used for a millage. The millage language will explain everything to the public. She referred to the posted document containing a list of what the public will get from a "yes" vote on a jail millage. The handout was available at the meeting and online at the Industry Day webpage (https://www.houghtoncounty.net/2026_industry_day.php).

Morrison stated the Committee is requesting conceptual costs, not a bid on building the facility. She also discussed the cost estimates that were produced in 2024-2025 by the Abonmarce/Byce consultants. The PDFs with these estimates were also posted on the Industry Day webpage.

Tom Tikkanen discussed the readiness of the Sharon Avenue property for construction of a jail/sheriff's office. The property has 6 acres. All utilities are available. There is no fill. The property is not subject to washouts. The plan is to use the existing structure.

Todd LaRoux stated the site is flat. The water main will need to be redone to grow it to the appropriate capacity.

2. (5:05 pm) Deliverable-ROM estimate of the cost of building the facility (details attached). Due Date: Wednesday, July 29, 9 pm to Clerk Jennifer Kelly.

Faith Morrison stated the hope is the ROM's will come in less than \$32 million.

3. (5:10 pm) Discussion of Design Build versus Design-Bid-Build-How does it work for the county?

(Gentleman in white shirt) stated construction management is the way the County should proceed. The steps would be for the County to hire an architect to design the facility and then hire construction management separately, and then both teams would work together with the County. Having the County as the client of both the architect and the construction management team is good for controlling costs.

Another gentleman agreed construction management is good for the County as it utilizes design assistance. In his experience, local contractors are about 9-12% of the team.

Another gentleman noted that in his experience design-build was a bit more expensive than the traditional design-bid-build path.

Someone asked if the ROMs that are submitted would be public. Faith Morrison and members of the Jail Committee discussed this and determined that yes, if they come to the Jail Committee, they are public documents.

4. (5:30 pm) Part 1: Working spaces in the jail/sheriff's office-a safe and effective law enforcement operation for Houghton County (department sizes scale with the amount of confinement housing; MDOC requirements for sizes and elements; scenarios in the current facility; Community Corrections).

Sheriff Saaranen stated it would be a medium security facility for 60-80 beds, and the need for space is for appropriate classification separation of inmates. It will not just be a housing facility; there are many essential operations in a county jail. He discussed high security and low security housing and facilities. They are a minimum-security level jail now. They need holding spaces for the variety of detainees that come to the jail. He would like a pod style facility for staff to more effectively monitor the housing spaces but also to keep costs for staff low.

Faith Morrison discussed the working spaces, and stated the housing be the pod style. She mentioned that the design sketch by the Abonmarch/Byce consultants show a second pod in the case that the facility that is built is outgrown by the County.

(6:00 pm) _____ Coffee break (informational exchanges)

Everyone took a break.

5. (6:10 pm) Part 2: Working spaces in the jail/sheriff's office-continued

Faith Morrison discussed a partial ROM. Attendees that do not feel they can give a good ROM for the entire project are encouraged to submit any helpful ROM/information. If the

voters pass a millage, then the County would get an architect, and then go to an open bid process.

6. (6:45 pm) Final questions and discussion

Next Jail Committee Meeting: July 20, 2026 4 pm, 5th floor Conference Room, Houghton County Courthouse:

The Committee agreed that as the ROMs are to come in on July 29th, the committee should move its meeting to the day after that, Thursday, July 30, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Motion was made by Faith Morrison and seconded by Andrea Johnson to move the July 20th meeting to July 30, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 9, Nays 0.

Public Comments:

Faith Morrison thanked everyone for coming.

Adjournment:

Moved by Faith Morrison, supported by Gretchen Janssen and the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm.

TOM TIKKANEN

JENNIFER KELLY COUNTY CLERK/REGISTER OF DEEDS

APPROVED:_____ J