

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 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 Chief Deputy County Clerk, Renee Cunningham:

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

Public Hearing(s):

None.

Approval of the Minutes: September 15, 2026, Regular Meeting; October 5, 2026 Work Session

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2026 Regular Meeting and the Work Session held on October 5, 2026 as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

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

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

Public Comments:

None.

Approval of the Bills \$2,494,670.51:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the bills in the amount of \$2,494,670.51 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

REPORTS:

Standing Committees:

Commissioner Keranen stated that he hopes all citizens of Houghton County will go out and vote.

Commissioner Janssen reiterated with Commissioner Keranen.

Commissioner Anderson talked about the concerns with the current jail and the need for a new jail.

Commissioner Britz stated that the Canal View received the Americas Best Nursing Home for 2027 award. Baraga County Hospital has a mobile Clinic with one of the stops in Chassell. Many services are offered to the public.

Commissioner Tikkanen recognized the stellar efforts of the jail committees. He stated that the news that the Republican Party would not support the jail in the November Election was a surprise.

Special Committees:

None.

County Officers:

Casey Polkinghorn, Airport Manager, gave the following report:

- Parking System: Casey reported that he is happy with the new parking system at the airport.
- The Airport receives \$4.50 for each passenger that fly’s out of the CMX Airport through United Airlines. These funds are used for runway improvements that are FAA approved improvements. While there is a deficit in passengers from last year that does not mean the Airport is losing money.

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, addressed the Board and gave his monthly report.

As of 10/01/26:

Building permits	365
New homes	86
Electrical permits	450
Mechanical permits	297
Plumbing permits	184
Plan review	132
911	111

Code Official Conference of Michigan awarded Alicia Aho of CTE Program and going to MTU for Construction Management a \$1,000.00 scholarship.

Single Point Entry:

- Started 10/5/25.
- 2 door fill-ins on the north side of the building which appears to be close to completion.

IT Generator

- Mike from Powerhouse Generators (Generac) came to service it and made a warranty item.
 - Oil pan gasket leak.

Maintenance

- 4th floor carpeting quotes are in the packet.
- It is Tom Bingham’s recommendation to go with Dollar Bay Linoleum and Tile.

Tom Bingham, Maintenance Manager, gave the following report:

- Tom recommends going with Dollar Bay Linoleum & Tile to replace the carpet on the fourth floor of the Courthouse in the amount of \$23,810.00. The other two bids were Kirkish Furniture for \$35,200.00 and Gartner’s Gallery for \$38,518.00.

- The Transfer Station is back to accepting construction debris. Tuesday the Transfer Station took in one house and will be taking another one in on Tuesday, October 20th.

Renee Cunningham, Chief Deputy County Clerk, gave the following report:

- Early Voting starts on October 24th and goes through November 1, 2026. Early voting will be held at the Sharon Avenue property with the hours of voting 8:00 am to 4:00pm.

Chelsea Rheault, Administrator, gave the following report:

- There is an open position in the Administrative Office for an Accounting Clerk. Review of the applicants will start this week.

Alex Radke, IT Manager, gave the following report:

- There have been some recent issues with Microsoft Products and with Outlook not sending emails.
- Phishing season has started with aim to strike during holiday months.
- JAVs gave clean bill of health.

Unfinished Business

1. RFI Audit Firm Recommendation/Selection

Administrator Rheault stated she recommends partnering with Maner & Costerisan. This audit firm will not charge additional fees for questions outside of the audit. Laura Zerbst spoke with this firm. The Health Department is exploring their own audit firm. Currently the Health Department is included in our cost. Commissioner Keranen asked what the County paid to Anderson & Tackman. Administrator Rheault stated \$59,600.00. The County is still waiting on final invoices. The County generated additional work from them. She is requesting the County pick a new auditor.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to hire Maner & Costerisan.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

2. Western Upper Peninsula Health Department appropriation request

Commissioner Anderson discussed the 50% of \$6 million which is half of the services that are given to Houghton County. Chairman Tikkanen stated Houghton County provided services other counties do not support and is an unfair burden on Houghton County. Houghton County is not given an opportunity to discuss the amount. Commissioner Britz agreed with the Chairman that this should have been planned as 33% is not an amount Houghton County can accept. He was the only one that voted no on this. Chairman Tikkanen stated this has a huge burden on our county compared to other counties and our county carries its weight, and this makes it look like we do not.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to come to an agreement on an Appropriation amount with the Health Department.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

3. Fourth Floor Carpet Placement

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve Dollar Bay Linoleum and Tile's bid of \$23,810.00. This was budgeted in last year's budget.

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

4. Resolution #26-21 Approving AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement Wage re-opener

The Board discussed the 3% increase retroactive to October 1, 2026.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #26-21 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.



**HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
401 E. Houghton Avenue, Houghton, Michigan 49931
Telephone: (906) 482-8307

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AFSCME WAGE REOPENER TENTATIVE
AGREEMENT
RESOLUTION #26-21**

WHEREAS, Houghton County and the applicable American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Chapter of Local # 226.02 bargaining unit are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period of **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027**; and

WHEREAS, the Collective Bargaining Agreement provided for the reopening of negotiations regarding wages during the term of the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, representatives of Houghton County and AFSCME engaged in negotiations pursuant to the wage reopener and reached a tentative agreement regarding wages; and

WHEREAS, the AFSCME bargaining unit has voted to approve and ratify the tentative wage agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the tentative agreement and desires to approve and support the negotiated wage reopener; and

WHEREAS, except for the provisions specifically modified by the wage reopener, all other terms and conditions of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027 shall remain in full force and effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the tentative agreement reached between Houghton County and AFSCME regarding the wage reopener to the Collective Bargaining Agreement covering **January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners and any other appropriate County officials are hereby authorized to execute the wage reopener agreement and any related documents necessary to effectuate the terms of the tentative agreement on behalf of Houghton County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all provisions of the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement not specifically amended by the approved wage reopener shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion Made By:

Motion Supported By:

Ayes:

Nays: None

Absent: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Tom Tikkanen, Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on October 13, 2026 and that the meeting was conducted and public notice of the meeting was given pursuant to Act No. 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by the Act.

Jennifer Kelly
County Clerk

5. Courthouse Non-Union Employee Wage Adjustment

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the courthouse non-union to receive a 3% wage increase retroactive to October 1, 2026.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

6. Resolution #26-28 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

Commissioner Britz stated he received an email from the Sheriff that can be a great tool for the county. Katie LaCosse is asking the county to adopt the ALPR. This is another hot topic in the nation. It is an invasion of privacy. Travel can be tracked for long areas. Pause while guard rails are put in place. She suggested waiting on both HB 5492 & 5493 until they are law. She urged the board to adopt the resolution.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #26-28.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the courthouse non-union to receive a 3% wage increase retroactive to October 1, 2026.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION ON AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPRs)

RESOLUTION #26-28

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners holds that privacy is a fundamental right of every resident of Houghton County;

WHEREAS, the mass, indiscriminate recording of where people travel, without suspicion, probable cause, or a warrant, is incompatible with that right;

WHEREAS, Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) are camera systems that automatically capture the license plate, date, time, and location of every vehicle that passes, regardless of whether the driver is suspected of any wrongdoing;

WHEREAS, when linked together in a network, as with the Flock Safety system, these cameras can reconstruct the movements of any vehicle across multiple locations over extended periods of time;

WHEREAS, Flock Safety is a private, for-profit company that markets these networked surveillance systems to law enforcement agencies and local governments nationwide;

WHEREAS, in October 2025, Flock announced a partnership with Amazon's Ring to integrate its network with millions of private home doorbell cameras, dramatically expanding its surveillance reach through a single commercial relationship;

WHEREAS, that partnership generated such swift and widespread public backlash over surveillance and privacy concerns that Amazon cancelled it just four months later, in February 2026, reflecting the depth of public alarm about the unchecked expansion of these systems;

WHEREAS, federal agencies, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Border Patrol, the Secret Service, and the U.S. Navy, have already accessed Flock's nationwide camera network;

WHEREAS, in October 2025, the City of Auburn, Washington, publicly condemned U.S. Border Patrol for accessing its local Flock system without authorization, demonstrating that private vendor contracts offer no reliable protection against unwanted federal access;

WHEREAS, the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects people against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that long-term tracking of a vehicle's movements constitutes a search requiring a warrant (*United States v. Jones, 2012*), and that government collection of data enabling near-perfect surveillance of a person's movements likewise requires a warrant (*Carpenter v. United States, 2018*), principles directly applicable to networked ALPR systems;

WHEREAS, courts have not yet definitively resolved how these constitutional protections apply to aggregated ALPR data, leaving the legal landscape unsettled;

WHEREAS, in January 2026 the Michigan Legislature introduced companion bills HB 5492 and HB 5493, which together would establish the state's first statutory framework governing ALPR use, but both remain pending and neither has been enacted into law;

WHEREAS, this resolution accommodates a range of views, including those who oppose ALPR deployment outright and those open to limited use with robust legal safeguards, united by a shared conviction that meaningful oversight must precede any such deployment in Houghton County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners opposes the use of any for-profit ALPR system, including Flock Safety cameras, in Houghton County until both HB 5492 and HB 5493 have been signed into law, and until the agency using the system has adopted a public policy that fully follows those laws;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners will not approve any ALPR contract or system until those requirements are met, and will seriously consider other options before signing any deal with a for-profit ALPR company;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners supports HB 5492 and HB 5493 forward, and urges their passage.

Motion Made By:

Motion Supported By:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent: None (0)

MOTION CARRIED.

Dated: _____
Tom Tikkanen, Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I, Jennifer Kelly, Clerk of Houghton County, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above Resolution as adopted October 13, 2026, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly
County Clerk

7. Resolution #26-19 Reaffirming Medical Examiner Contract (2023-2026)

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve Resolution #26-19. A Motion was made by the Board on January 17, 2023. Clerk Kelly informed the Administrator it should have been a Resolution as the State Vitals Department requested a copy.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Keranen, Janssen 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 FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER CONTRACT
RESOLUTION NUMBER #26-19

WHEREAS, Section 1 of the County Medical Examiners Act requires that the Board of Commissioners appoint a County Medical Examiner to hold office for a period of four years (MCL 52.201); and

WHEREAS, at the Regular Meeting on January 17, 2023, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approved by a vote to appoint Dr. Petio Kotov as the Houghton County Medical Examiner for a term of four (4) years.

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Vitals Department has requested a Resolution to appoint Dr. Petio Kotov as the Houghton County Medical Examiner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Dr. Petio Kotov to continue to provide Medical Examiner Services for Houghton County for the remainder of his four-year term (2023-2026).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign and necessary contract documents consistent with this Resolution, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner Anderson and supported by Commissioner Britz.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES:

NAYS:

A majority of the members-elect having approved such Resolution deems the Resolution **APPROVED.**

Dated: _____

Tom Tikkanen, Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

)ss

COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the Resolution adopted by the Houghton County Board of Commissioners that such Resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 13th day of October 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

8. Resolution #26-29 2011 Public Act 152, The Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act

Administrator Rheault stated this resolution has to be done every year for the January insurance.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #26-29 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to split the increase 50/50 with the employees.

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



**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXEMPTION RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL EXEMPTION OPTION AS
SET FORTH 2011 PUBLIC ACT 152, THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH
INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT
RESOLUTION #26-29**

WHEREAS, 2011 Public Act 152 (the "Act") was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor on September 24, 2011; WHEREAS, the Act contains three options for complying with the requirements of the Act;

WHEREAS, the three options are as follows:

- 1) Section 3 - "Hard Caps" Option - limits a public employer's total annual health care costs for employees based on coverage levels, as defined in the Act;
- 2) Section 4 - "80%/20%" Option limits a public employer's share of total annual health care costs to not more than 80%. This option requires an annual majority vote of the governing body;
- 3) Section 8 - "Exemption" Option - a local unit of government, as defined in the Act, may exempt itself from the requirements of the Act by an annual 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has decided to adopt the annual Exemption option as its choice of compliance under the Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby elects, pursuant to Section 8 of 2011 Public Act 152, to exempt Houghton County from the requirements of the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act for the medical benefit plan coverage beginning January 1, 2027, and ending December 31, 2027.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Moved by Commissioner:

Supported by Commissioner:

Roll Call Vote:

AYS:

NAYS:

Motion Carried.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commission

Date

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified County Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton as its Regular Meeting held on October 13, 2026, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 13th day of October, 2026.

Jennifer Kelly, Houghton County Clerk

9. Class A CDL Driver Information

No discussion or comments took place.

New Business:

1. Resolution #26-30 General Appropriations Act Budget Amendment 1

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve Resolution #26-30.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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



**COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT – Budget Amendment I
OCTOBER 1, 2026, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027
RESOLUTION #2026-30**

A Resolution amending the Houghton County Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget, to adjust the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department Appropriation and Reallocate the Difference to the County Contingency Account.

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners adopted the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, establishing appropriations for the period beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the adopted General Fund budget includes an appropriation of \$363,458.00 for the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) under GL account 101-965-999.004; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners considered the WUPHD appropriation request during its September 15, 2026, regular meeting, at which time a motion to approve the requested appropriation failed; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has determined that the appropriation for WUPHD for Fiscal Year 2026–2027 shall be established at \$276,426.00; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act, Public Act 2 of 1968, as amended, including MCL 141.437, provides for amendments to the General Appropriations Act when changes to adopted appropriations are necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to amend the adopted General Fund budget to reflect the approved appropriation amount and reallocate the remaining budgeted funds to the County's Contingency Account;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby amends the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 General Appropriations Act and General Fund Budget as follows:

GENERAL FUND (101) – BUDGET AMENDMENT

GL Account / Description	Previous Budget	Increase / (Decrease)	Amended Budget
101-965-999.004 – WUPHD Fund Operating Transfers Out	\$363,458.00	(\$87,032.00)	\$276,426.00
101-213-956.007 – Contingency Account	\$200,000.00	\$87,032.00	\$287,032.00
Net Change to General Fund Appropriations		\$0.00	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board hereby authorizes a total appropriation of \$276,426.00 to the Western Upper Peninsula Health Department for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, subject to applicable County policies and appropriation requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this amendment reallocates \$87,032.00 within the General Fund and does not increase or decrease total General Fund appropriations or alter estimated General Fund revenues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator and Finance Office are authorized and directed to record the approved budget amendment in the County's financial management system and administer the amended appropriations accordingly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all other provisions of the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 General Appropriations Act shall remain in full force and effect.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this amendment shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the Houghton County Board of Commissioners.

Moved by Commissioner:
Supported by Commissioner:

Roll Call Vote:

Yes:
No:

Motion Carried.

Absent: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Thomas Tikkanen, Chairman
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

Date

I, Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk of Houghton County, do hereby certify and set my seal to the above Resolution as adopted October 13, 2026, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly
Houghton County Clerk

2. Resolution #26-26 To Establish Water System Rates

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

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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



**HOUGHTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

**RESOLUTION OF HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TO ESTABLISH WATER SYSTEM RATES
RESOLUTION NO. 26 -26**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Memorial Airport Committee is required to annually review all water and sewer system rates, fees, and charges, pursuant to Section 10.1 of the Houghton County Industrial Airpark and Memorial Airport Water System Ordinance, and Section 35 of the Houghton County Industrial Airpark and Memorial Airport Sanitary Sewer System Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Airport Committee is further authorized to recommend rate revisions to the Houghton County Board of Commissioners as may from time to time be necessary or appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Memorial Airport Committee has submitted its recommendation to the Houghton County Board of Commissioners for adjustment of water rates, as set forth in the proposed Rate Schedule attached as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF WATER AND SANITARY SEWER RATES

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners establishes those water and sanitary sewer rates set forth in the Rate Schedule attached hereto as Exhibit A, effective for the October billing cycle starting on/about September 15th, 2026.

SECTION 2. IMPLEMENTATION

The Airport Manager is hereby authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to implement the water and sanitary sewer rates set forth in this.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

Moved by Commissioner:

Supported by Commissioner:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Motion Carried.

Dated: _____

Tom Tikkanen Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified County Clerk of the County of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the Resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its Regular Monthly Meeting held on October 13, 2026, the original of which Resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 13th day of October, 2026.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk
County of Houghton

3. Consideration of Re-funding Contractors at the Materials Manager Facility for the C&D Closure

The Board had a discussion regarding refunding contractors for C & D closures. There was a rate increase effective 10/1/26. Contractors planned to bring in demo waste prior to 10/1 and the Transfer Station was closed without warning. Commissioner Britz asked how to know which contractors tried to bring waste. Commissioner Anderson said the ones who showed up the next week. He feels it is not a big cost to refund and have a form available and use honesty. Chairman Tikkanen felt it is dangerous precedence as they were operating beyond capacity. This will be an open opportunity for every complaint. Contractors used to have to haul their waste to Greenland. It was an extraordinary event that caused the closure. Everyone did the best they could and to let the employees do the work. Commissioner Anderson said it was a principal issue and to discuss a way to determine who showed up. Commissioner Keranen felt the government let the people down, and the county failed the public. Commissioner Janssen said to consider only customers that came in the following week.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to approve refunding contractors for the C & D closure before the 10/1/26 rate increase.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

4. Order Appointing Anthony Autio as 97th District Court Deputy Magistrate

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the appointment of Anthony Autio as the 97th District Court Deputy Magistrate.

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

5. Houghton County Road Commissioners Annual Compensation & Benefits

The Board discussed the same compensation and benefits package as in the past.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Houghton County Road Commissioners annual compensation and benefits package as presented.

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

6. Jaikob Djerf, Houghton County Master Plan 2024-2028 Revisions Proposal

Jaikob Djerf discussed the 2024-2028 proposed revisions. Chairman Tikkanen stated the Houghton Douglas Falls needs to be revised.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Houghton County Master Plan 2024-2028 Revisions Proposal as presented.

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

7. Jaikob Djerf, Houghton County Annual Appropriation Report

Jaikob Djerf stated the annual apportionment report lists the taxable values of the local units alongside their requested millage rates for tax levy year 2026. Overall, for the county, the total taxable value was 1,402,456,823 or a 6.32% increase from last year.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Houghton County Annual Appropriation Report as presented.

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

8. Vehicle Auction, 1994 Ford F-150 XLT

There were two (2) bids. One from Jason Coffey for \$835.00 and another from Dean Jurmu for \$1,002.00.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to accept the bid from Dean Jurmu for \$1,002.00 as presented.

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

9. Tri-County Public Defenders September Expenses-\$78,991.75

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the \$78,991.75 to the Tri-County Public Defenders as presented.

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

10. National Association of Counties Annual Membership-\$747.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the payment of \$747.00 to the National Association of Counties for the annual membership as presented.

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

11. Ziemnick Excavating Inc., Concrete Patch at Sharon Avenue Site-\$5,650.00

The concrete was poured today at the Sharon Avenue property.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the \$5,650.00 payment to Ziemnick Excavating Inc. for the concrete patch at the Sharon Avenue property as presented.

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

12. Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce Annual Fees & Dues-\$440.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the \$440.00 payment to the Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce for the annual fees and dues as presented.

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

13. Family Court Awareness Month

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to recognize Family Court Awareness Month for the extraordinary role they play in the community.

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

14. Houghton County Planning Commission Vacancy

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to advertise for 2 vacancies on the Planning Commission.

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

15. Houghton County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board Appointment, Jaikob Djerf (Motion Needed)

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to appoint Jaikob Djerf to the Brownfield Board.

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

Other Business/Communications

1. Nick Meneguzzo, No Zoning Correspondence

Administrator Rheault will write a letter that there is no Houghton County zoning. Chairman Tikkanen stated Calumet has zoning.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to clarify where the zoning is in Houghton County.

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

Travel:

None.

Appropriations:

- 1. Copper Country Community Mental Health, Monthly-\$13,707.91

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the Appropriation as presented.

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

Public Comments:

Reana Sleeman from UP Wide Data Source Awareness group addressed the Board.

Faith Morrison stated the Sheriff is having coffee with the public on Thursday at 2:00 pm.

Alex Radke supported the ALPR Resolution.

Lexi Tater, UP North Advocacy stated they had an informational event and had Faith Morrison as a speaker.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adjourn at 7:43 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED _____

JK