HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 2, 2026

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session on Monday, November 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the 5th 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 Vice Chairman Britz at 10:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Britz.

Roll call:

The following commissioners responded to roll call done by County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen, District 4: Roy Britz, District 5.

Absent: Tom Tikkanen, District 1; Joel Keranen, District 2.

Agenda/Additions:

No additions, continue as presented.

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

No Public comments.

Houghton County Board of Commissioners Work Session:

1. **District Court, Opioid Fund Request**

Vice Chairman Britz discussed Judge Daavettila's letter requesting $170,000 for the first year and $135,000 the following year. Commissioner Anderson asked if its only for opioids and not alcohol. Keith Anderson stated the allowable expenses have been review extensively, and Judge Daavettila has reviewed the appendix. Commissioner Anderson expressed concerns regarding alcohol vs. drugs. Keith Anderson stated alcohol drives the majority of the numbers for Treatment Court which is approximately 2/3 alcohol and 1/3 drug use, but stated he cannot be quoted on those numbers. Faith Morrison asked what the County has heard about the Opioid Task Force. Administrator Rheault stated there are no members yet and stated Gail Ploe requested this task force. Keith Anderson stated the need for specific allocation of funds on this 3 year conversation and the need to get proper allocation of the funds. Adminstrator Rheault stated the total is $1.8 million when the money is received. She will look into what has actually been received. Keith Anderson stated the Treatment Court pays the Health Department for the testing. District Court is the only one taking money from the fund and the PA funds are decreasing. Vice Chairman Britz discussed the 15 years left for this fund. Keith Anderson discussed looking into what exists to continue in the future with Treatment Court.

Commissioner Anderson requesting sending a letter to MAC/Opioid consultant and get an opinion to make sure the County is meeting all of the requirements. Administrator Rheault will send the letter.

Faith Morrison discussed having the Houghton County Task Force meeting with the other task forces in the UP.

2. **Committee/Board Appointments Expiring**

Administrator Rheault stated there are 3 vacancies on the Planning Commission. There are 6-7 applicants so far, and the Board will vote at the December meeting.

Other Business/Communications:

Accounts Payable position: Administrator Rheault stated they have received 40 applications and will be doing 6 interviews, and 1 declined an interview.

Solid Waste Transfer Station Manager position-no manager currently.

Commissioner Anderson discussed American Fidelity and the delinquent payment. Administrator Rheault stated the counties portion was unpaid since April 2026 as statements were not received. Payments are now current and employees were contacted by American Fidelity.

Public Comments:

None.

Announcements:

1. **The Planning Commission has two vacancies**

Administrator Rheault stated there is an opening for Education and one for Economic Development. The Board will vote at the December's meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 10:20 a.m.

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Tom Tikkanen, Chairman Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED_____ JK