

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 1:00 p.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 Chairman Tikkanen at 10:00 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; Gretchen Janssen District 4; Roy Britz, District 5.

By Microsoft Teams: Glenn Anderson, District 3.

Absent: Joel Keranen, District 2.

Agenda/Additions:

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

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

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

None.

New Business:

1. Jail Committee's Recommendation from the received ROM cost estimates

Chairman Tikkanen discussed the Jail Committee minutes. Faith Morrison stated \$28 million bond language was received for a Resolution explaining the language to the voters and any action the Commissioner wish from the Jail Committee. She stated three (3) ROM's were posted on the County Website under Industry Day. Engineering would have to be added to Bradway's ROM. She stated the Committee went to \$28 million to construct a jail and Sheriff Department per the needs of the community. The Committee feels the ballot language needs to be clear.

Chairman Tikkanen thanked the Jail Committee and especially Faith Morrison for their hard work.

2. Resolution Submitting Jail and County Building Improvement Bond Proposal At the Election to be held on November 3, 2026

Chairman Tikkanen explained that the Resolution was prepared by the Bond Attorney.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #26-15 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Janssen, Tikkanen 3.

NO: None 0.
Absent: Keranen and Anderson was by Microsoft Teams.

3. Single Point of Entry Bid

Administrator, Chelsea Rheault, explained the overview of the project. The project cannot use ARPA funds, the money must be used from the General Fund. She stated UPEA conducted the public bid opening, and two (2) bids were received. A-1 General Contracting for \$263,801.00 and an alternate of \$14,063.00. Industrial Maintenance Services, Inc. (IMS) for \$538,700.00 and an alternate of \$13,790.00.

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, stated he does not recommend accepting either alternate. He has done research and there is a metal detector for \$9,880.00.

Chairman Tikkanen stated the courts and Friend of the Court need secure measurers. He recommended taking action.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the bid from A-1 General Contracting for \$263,801.00 and not ade alternate to the bid, and to purchase a metal detector in the amount of \$9,880.00.

Chairman Tikkanen stated Judge Nicholas Daavettila has given his full consent for this project.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Janssen, Tikkanen 3.
NO: None 0.
Absent: Keranen and Anderson was by Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment-*(3-minute limit):

Chairman Tikkanen referenced a letter from Fraser Strome, Houghton County Probate Judge, Chief Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit. Effective September 8, 2026, mental health hospitalization/treatment may be pursued at any available hospital in Michigan or Wisconsin with available space, for residents and individuals from Houghton County. Chairman Tikkanen congratulated the Mental Health Board, Judge Fraser Strome, Commissioner Britz for cutting costs and making things closer to home for treatments for people.

Faith Morrison thanked the Board for approving the Resolution and stated the need to build support and to bring the community together. She reminded everyone the current jail was built in 1963.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adjourn at 1:20 p.m.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 3, Nays 0.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED_____

JK