

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 12, 2025**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 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 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 the County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

Commissioner Keranen called for a point of order. He stated he felt that the Chairman and Administrator should not have changed the meeting time from 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. without full Board approval.

Daniel Helmer, Prosecutor, stated he met with Commissioner Keranen. He could not find that the Chair or Administrator had the right to change the meeting time, the Chair could only cancel the meeting. He felt this could be a Open Meetings Act violation should the Board do any voting.

The Board has some discussion.

Public Comments:

John Haeussler stated that the Board may be able to do an emergency hearing.

Dan Holombo questioned if the Board did not approve the ballot language for the jail today, then the jail would not be on the November ballot.

Becky Bruin-Slot addressed the Commissioners regarding the jail millage. She expressed concerns on why it did not pass in August. She encouraged the Board to be transparent and to take their time putting the jail on the ballot. She asked who would be at the new facility, who would be at the courthouse, to let the voters know what the Commissioners plan is and expressed how she supports the Sheriff.

The Board of Commissioners all agreed verbally without voting to having the August monthly meeting on Friday, August 15, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Tikkanen recognized John Haeussler for his years of service. He has been a member of the Houghton County Land Bank. Treasurer, Lisa Mattila, presented John with an award for his years of service to the County. Chairman Tikkanen stated John Haeussler's position will be advertised.

Chairman Tikkanen recognized Airport Manager, Dennis Hext. He stated Dennis will be retiring in January 2026. He has worked for 22 years with Houghton County.

Chairman Tikkanen apologized for the oversight on the rescheduling of the meeting.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adjourn at 10:23 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk