

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARINGS/REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held Public Hearings/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 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 County Clerk, Jennifer Kelly:

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

Absent: None

Public Hearing-Ren Hen Foods & Good Loan Project

1. Open Hearing

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to open the hearing.

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

2. Discussion & Comments

Jeff Ratcliffe, KEDA Director, stated the hearing was necessary to closeout the CDBG Loan to Ren Hen Foods. This is the final administrative step. The loan is active and began with a balance of \$25,000.00 in September 2024. The current balance as of September 2026 is \$21,840.75. Payments are current.

Chairman Tikkanen confirmed with Jeff Ratcliffe that no voting is necessary on this matter, since it is administrative. The Board will not take any action on #1 under New Business.

3. Close Hearing

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to close the hearing.

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

Public Hearing-Houghton County 2026-2027 Budget

1. Open Hearing

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to open the hearing.

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

2. Discussion & Comments

Laura Zerbst, Finance Manager, stated the hearing was necessary for the 2026/2027 budget. She and Administrator Rheault met with all department heads in August. She stated the Board had all the budget information in their packets.

3. Close Hearing

Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to close the hearing.

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

Approval of Minutes: August 3, 2026 Work Session; August 5, 2026 Special Meeting; August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Britz to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2026 Work Session; August 5, 2026 Special Meeting and the August 11, 2026 Regular Meeting as presented.

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

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman Tikkanen stated numbers 1 and 22 would be removed from the agenda.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the agenda with the two (2) agenda items being removed.

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

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

William Keith, Democrat Party Chairman, addressed the Board regarding #26 on the agenda and read a statement of the Houghton County Democratic Party endorsing the jail.

Valorie Troesch, Leage of Women Voters, addressed the Board regarding #26 on the agenda and discussed the other Resolutions. The Sheriff requested the Resolution to state a minimum of 70 beds.

Teresa Kariniemi, Republican Party, stated they do not support the jail on the taxpayers' dollars.

Faith Morrison, by Zoom, stated that the public did not know they had the opportunity to speak according to the agenda on the two (2) public hearings.

Katie LaCosse addressed the Board and stated she is supporting the jail.

Approval of Bills-\$1,650,123.27

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve paying the bills submitted of \$1,650,123.27 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

Reports:

Standing Committee:

Commissioner Keranen had nothing to report.

Commissioner Janssen reported to the Board on the following:

Conservation District: She attended a meeting and stated they received an award for conservation easement for lake grants. Emily Beach is a contact.

Commissioner Anderson had nothing to report.

Commissioner Britz had nothing to report.

Chairman Tikkanen had nothing to report.

Special Committees:

None.

County Officers:

Casey Polkinghorn, Airport Manager, gave the following report to the Board:

- **Parking System:** The Airport partnered with Xeratec of Hancock to implement a new airport parking management system. The new system went into effect on September 1, 2026. The daily parking rate remains \$5 per day when paid in advance. Customers who do not prepay will pay \$7 per day.
- **New Box Hangar:** Construction of the new box hangar is progressing well, with the steel structure now being erected. The anticipated completion date has been revised to November 1, 2026.
- **Pavement Maintenance:** Crack sealing and pavement marking projects are currently underway at the airport as part of ongoing airfield maintenance.
- **EGLE Site Work:** The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) is currently on-site conducting borings and core samples as part of ongoing environmental/site evaluation.
- **Sun Country Charter Flight:** The next Sun Country Airlines flight is scheduled to depart on Wednesday, September 23, with the return flight scheduled for Saturday, September 26.

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

Lisa Mattila, Treasurer, stated there was an auction in August. All 11 parcels sold for a total of \$221,600 in revenue. Two (2) properties filed the excess proceed forms that will go to the court.

Alex Radke, IT Manager, stated there have been larger IT tickets the last 2 months.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business:

1. Red Hen Foods & Goods Loan Project, Motion to Closeout Loan

**Removed from Agenda

2. FY2025 Audit, Ken Talsma, Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC

Ken Talsma stated the County is financially healthy and doing good and went over the several pages and charts he handed out to the Board and the Clerk.

3. Resolution #2026-27 Fiscal Year 2026/2027 General Appropriations Act

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt Resolution #26-27.

Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.



**COUNTY OF HOUGHTON
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT
OCTOBER 1, 2026, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2027
RESOLUTION #2026-27**

A Resolution appropriating funds and adopting the Houghton County Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget, including the General Fund Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Budgets, and applicable Proprietary Fund Budgets.

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Board of Commissioners has reviewed the anticipated revenues, expenditures, financing sources, financing uses, and financial needs of the County and its various departments, offices, programs, and funds for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has considered the proposed budgets and supporting schedules presented for Fiscal Year 2026–2027; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to adopt a balanced budget and establish the appropriations and administrative authority necessary for the operation of Houghton County during Fiscal Year 2026–2027; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the attached 2026–2027 General Fund Operating Budget, Special Revenue Fund Budgets, and applicable Proprietary Fund Budgets, which are incorporated herein by reference.

APPROPRIATIONS

The Board hereby appropriates monies from estimated revenues, available fund balance where specifically budgeted and authorized, and other lawful financing sources to support expenditures and other financing uses in accordance with the budgets adopted by the Board.

An appropriation constitutes authorization to incur expenditures up to the amount appropriated and shall not be construed as a mandate or requirement to expend the entire amount appropriated. All appropriations authorized by this Resolution shall apply to the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2026 and ending September 30, 2027, unless otherwise specifically authorized by the Board or provided by law.

FUND BALANCE

Fund balance shall be budgeted, classified, restricted, committed, assigned, and utilized in accordance with applicable law, generally accepted accounting principles, applicable grant or statutory restrictions, and policies and actions of the Houghton County Board of Commissioners. Nothing in this Resolution shall be construed to authorize the expenditure of restricted, committed, or otherwise legally constrained funds for purposes inconsistent with those restrictions.

Any use of fund balance included as a financing source within an adopted fund budget is authorized only to the extent reflected in the budget approved by the Board.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES AND APPROPRIATIONS

The Board recognizes that it may from time to time consider appropriations to agencies, institutions, or organizations outside of the County's general operations, subject to the availability of funds and approval by the Board.

Any County department, agency, board, commission, authority, organization, or other entity, public or private, accepting an appropriation of County funds shall be subject to such reporting, inspection, and/or audit requirements as may be established by the Board.

The Board of Commissioners, or its authorized designee, shall have access to financial records reasonably necessary to verify the appropriate expenditure of County funds, subject to applicable law and the terms and conditions associated with the appropriation.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS

The Board further resolves that the adopted budget may be amended during the fiscal year as circumstances require, provided such amendments are made in accordance with applicable law and County policy and the budget remains balanced as required by law.

The County Administrator is authorized to make budget transfers within the authority established by the Board's adopted Budget Transfer Policy, including transfers of up to ten percent (10%) of departmental expenditures where permitted by that policy.

Transfers or amendments exceeding the Administrator's delegated authority, transfers requiring Board approval under County policy, or amendments that materially alter an appropriation established by the Board shall be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS

The Board instructs and authorizes the County Administrator and Finance Office to incorporate into the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budgets wages, salaries, and related fringe benefit costs for County employees and officials consistent with amounts authorized by the Board of Commissioners, applicable collective bargaining agreements, employment agreements, established compensation schedules, and other applicable Board actions. Nothing contained herein independently establishes or modifies the compensation of an elected official where compensation must be established separately pursuant to applicable law.

BUDGETARY CONTROL

Budgetary control shall be maintained at the level of appropriation established by the Board through the adopted budget and this Resolution.

The County Administrator and Finance Office are authorized to administer the budget and process line-item transfers within an approved appropriation to the extent permitted by the County's Budget Transfer Policy.

Department heads and elected officials shall be responsible for monitoring their respective budgets and shall not incur expenditures in excess of authorized appropriations.

ADMINISTRATION

The County Administrator and Finance Office are authorized and directed to administer the adopted budgets, monitor revenues and expenditures, and bring necessary budget amendments or other material financial matters to the Board of Commissioners for consideration throughout the fiscal year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this General Appropriations Act shall become effective October 1, 2026 and shall remain in effect through September 30, 2027.

Motion Made By: Anderson

Motion Supported By: Britz

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Anderson, Britz, Tikkanen, Keranen, Janssen (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

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 September 15, 2026, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly
County Clerk

4. Opioid Taskforce Implementation

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to authorize the development of a Houghton County Opioid Task Force consisting of fewer than ten members, with proposed membership and the task force's scope and responsibilities to be presented to the Board of Commissioner for final consideration and approval.

Gail Ploe explained the conference in Escanaba that established the Opioid Task Force on how money goes out.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

5. Gail Ploe, Connections not Cuffs Grant Updates

Gail Ploe explained the \$2 million-5-year grant through Mental Health for expenses for Treatment Court services on repeated alcohol convictions. They had budgeted for 9 employees but currently only have 3 employees. They have had success with doing transportation using bus passes and gas card and provided 138 rides last year. She talked about a Connection Center where there will be a pool table, and other things that will be opening in October 2026 with evening hours.

6. Drain Commissioner Concerns

Nolan Miles addressed the Board and stated he has handled 100 permits this year. There will be a feasibility study done in Chassell for a drainage district. Nothing is formal yet.

7. Resolution #26-24 Deficit Elimination Plan: Solid Waste Transfer Station

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #26-24 and raise the cost 7.5% effective 10/1/26 and continue in 2027-2029 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

**HOUGHTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION
PROPRIETARY ENTERPRISE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION # 26-24**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Solid Waste Transfer Enterprise Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, an increase of 7.5% for charges for services effective 1 October 2026, 2027, 2028, & 2029, which shall cause an increase in operating revenue and an increase of net assets; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit balance in unrestricted net assets will be corrected to satisfy the budgetary requirements of the State of Michigan, Department of the Treasury

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners adopts the following as the Deficit Elimination Plan:

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
Unrestricted Net Position (Deficit) October 1st	-669,631	-588,264	-446,043	-236,045
Revenue				
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	2,128,100	2,287,708	2,459,286	2,643,732
OTHER REVENUE	<u>9,864</u>	<u>10,357</u>	<u>10,875</u>	<u>11,419</u>
Total Revenues	2,137,964	2,298,065	2,470,161	2,655,151
Expenditures				
PERSONNEL SERVICES	540,685	567,719	596,105	625,910
CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	1,111,393	1,166,962	1,225,311	1,286,576
UTILITIES	27,361	28,729	30,165	31,673
REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE	235,558	247,336	259,703	272,688
INSURANCE	8,967	9,415	9,886	10,380
OTHER SUPPLIES & EXPENSES	87,859	92,252	96,865	101,708
DEPRECIATION	155,865	163,658	171,841	180,433
INTEREST & FISCAL CHARGES	44,775	43,431	42,128	40,865
Total Expenditures	2,212,462	2,319,503	2,432,003	2,550,233
Change in Investment in Capital	155,865	163,658	171,841	180,433
Unrestricted Net Position	(588,264)	(446,043)	(236,045)	49,306
	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>
CA-CL (Deficit)	-229,089	-195,722	-104,501	51,497
REVENUES	2,137,964	2,298,065	2,470,161	2,655,151
EXPENDITURES	2,212,462	2,319,503	2,432,003	2,550,233
ADD BACK CHANGES IN INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS	155,865	163,658	171,841	180,433
LESS DEBT PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	48,000	51,000	54,000	57,000
CA-CL (Deficit)	-195,722	-104,501	51,497	279,848

Motion Made By:

Motion Supported By:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Dated: _____

Tom Tikkanen, Chair
Houghton County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

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 September 15, 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

8. Resolution#26-23 Deficit Elimination Plan: Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Britz to adopt Resolution #26-23 showing a deficit of \$518.00 as presented.

Chairman Tikkanen requested Casey Polkinghorne provide more information at the October meeting.

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 PASSENGER FACILITY CHARGE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION # 26-23**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, the timing of PFC monies is collected and expensed, as directed by the Federal Aviation Administration, dictate that the Fund will sometimes have a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets; and

WHEREAS, the activity currently being posted to the PFC Fund was previously reported

in the Airport Fund but was split out for internal accounting purposes only; and if expenditures are aligned with the following projections, then the fund will no longer have a deficit; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit balance will be eliminated in Fiscal Year 2026 and build reserves in fiscal year 2027; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners approve the projected budget for the year ending September 30, 2026, 2027 and 2028 for the Houghton County Passenger Facility Charge Fund.

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Revenues				
PFC Collections	\$ 118,681	\$ 114,000	\$ 114,000	\$ 114,000
Interest	6,841	-	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>125,522</u>	<u>114,000</u>	<u>114,000</u>	<u>114,000</u>
Expenditures				
Capital & Transfers	46,175	64,000	64,000	64,000
Total Expenditures	<u>46,175</u>	<u>64,000</u>	<u>64,000</u>	<u>64,000</u>
Net	79,347	50,000	50,000	50,000
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>(79,865)</u>	<u>(518)</u>	<u>49,482</u>	<u>99,482</u>
Ending Fund Balance	<u>\$ (518)</u>	<u>\$ 49,482</u>	<u>\$ 99,482</u>	<u>\$ 149,482</u>

Motion Made By:

Motion Supported By:

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

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

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

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 September 15, 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

9. Resolution #26-22 Deficit Elimination Plan: Jail Commissary

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Keranen to adopt Resolution #26-22 showing a deficit of \$27,118.00 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.



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

**HOUGHTON COUNTY JAIL COMMISSARY
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION # 26-22**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Jail Commissary; Nonmajor Government Fund has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, expenses exceeded revenue resulting in a negative fund balance at the end of budgetary cycle for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a decrease in future capital expenditures will correct this deficit; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit in Fund balance will be corrected to satisfy the budgetary requirements of the State of Michigan, Department of the Treasury

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners recognize that actions resulting in an increase in reimbursement revenue is warranted for this Nonmajor governmental fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners
approve the projected budgetary change for the year ending September 30, 2026, for the Houghton County Jail Commissary.

	2025	2026	2027	2028
Jail Commissary				
Revenues				
Charges for services	35,700	36,771	37,874	39,010
Other Revenues	-			
Total Revenues	35,700	36,771	37,874	39,010
Expenses				
Public Safety	22,304	23,419	24,590	25,820
Total Expenditures				
Net	13,396	13,352	13,284	13,191
Beginning Fund Balance	(40,514)	(27,118)	(13,766)	(482)
Ending Fund Balances	(27,118)	(13,766)	(482)	12,708

Motion Made By: Britz

Motion Supported By: Keranen

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Britz, Keranen, Tikkanen, Anderson, Janssen (5)

NAYS: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

Thomas Tikkanen
Chairman of Houghton County Board of Commissioners

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss.
COUNTY OF HOUGHTON)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Deputy Clerk of the county of Houghton, State of Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of the County of Houghton at its Regular meeting held on the 15th day of September 2026, the original of which resolution is on file in my office.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature, this 15th day of September 2026.

Jennifer Kelly, Clerk
County of Houghton

10. Resolution #26-25 Deficit Elimination Plan: Land Bank

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adopt Resolution #26-25 showing a deficit of \$29,513.00 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

**HOUGHTON COUNTY LAND BANK
RESOLUTION TO REDUCE UNRESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCE
RESOLUTION # 26-25**

WHEREAS, the Houghton County Land Bank Fund; has a deficit balance of unrestricted net assets as of September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MCL 141.921, any local unit of government ending its fiscal year with a deficit net asset balance must file a deficit elimination plan with the Michigan Department of Treasury; and

WHEREAS, failure to submit a deficit elimination plan and receive Department of Treasury approval for such plan could result in a reduction of State revenue Sharing; and

WHEREAS, expenses exceeded revenue resulting in a negative fund balance at the end of budgetary cycle for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 and

WHEREAS, the fund is projected to not be in deficit during the next fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the resulting deficit in Fund balance will be corrected to satisfy the budgetary requirements of the State of Michigan, Department of the Treasury

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Houghton County Board of Commissioners adopts the following as the Deficit Elimination Plan:

	2026
Land Bank	
Revenues	520,427
Expenses	450,000
Net	70,427
Beginning Fund Balance	(29,513)
Ending Fund Balances	40,914

Motion Made By: Anderson

Motion Supported By: Janssen

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz (5)

Nays: None (0)

Absent: None (0)

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 September 15, 2026, at the Houghton County Courthouse, 401 East Houghton Avenue, Houghton, MI 49931.

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

11. RFI Audit Firm Recommendation/Selection

Laura Zerbst, Finance Manager, stated three (3) RFI’s were received:

- 1. Anderson & Tackman \$36,500
- 2. Yeo & Yeo \$50,000
- 3. Maner Costerisan \$49,900

She stated she was recommending Yeo & Yeo.

The Board tabled the matter so they could discuss the matter with Administrator Rheault.

12. Sharon Avenue Property, Trusses Purchase Request

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, stated OHM has advised it is not in the counties' best interest to do the trusses and to have a licensed contractor do the trusses. He recommended OHM begin the phase on the trusses.

The Board took no action.

13. MSU Extension Budget Request

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the 3% increase with a total requested amount of \$50,275.00 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

14. UPCAP 2027 Dues

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the 2027 dues of \$1,100 to UPCAP as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

15. Western Upper Peninsula Health Department appropriation request

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the \$363,458.00 appropriation request as presented.

The Motion failed by the following vote.

YES: Janssen, Anderson, 2.

NO: Tikkanen, Keranen, Britz 3.

16. Western U.P. Planning & Development Region Commission (WUPPDR) Annual Meeting, September 21, 2026

Anyone from the Board wishing to attend the WUPPDR annual meeting should notify Paige immediately.

17. Fourth Floor Carpet Replacement Quote

Todd LaRoux, Building Department Manager, stated there was a quote from Dollar Bay Linoleum and Tile for \$23,500.00 which was in last year's budget.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the bid of \$23,500.00 for the 4th floor carpeting.

Commissioner Keranen asked if this was put out for bids. Todd LaRoux stated this was not put out for bids

The Motion was rescinded and tabled.

Commissioner Keranen stated an opportunity for bids should be on the County website for the 4th floor carpeting.

18. Early Voting Center County Cost Share Request

Clerk Kelly explained that the cities and townships received a quote from Designotype for a little over \$6,800.00 to send postcards to all households of voters in Houghton County stating the Early Voting Center was changing to the County Building on Sharon Avenue for the November election and future elections. Since the clerks had just notified the voters of the change to the HOCO Arena for the August election, Clerk Kelly requested \$3,000 from her election budget be sent to Designotype to help with the costs.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve \$3,000 be sent to Designotype for an Early Voting Center mailing.

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

19. UPACC Fall Conference, October 15-16, 2026

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the Commissioners, Administrator and County Clerk attending the UPCACC Fall Conference if they wish to attend.

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

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

The Commissioners tabled this matter until Administrator Rheault is present at a meeting.

21. Courthouse Non-Union Employee Wage Adjustment

The Commissioners tabled this matter until Administrator Rheault is present at a meeting.

22. Building Department Loan to General Fund

Removed from Agenda

23. Materials Management Facility, Rate Increases

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to adopt the price increase at the Transfer Station effective October 1, 2026.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

24. Materials Management Facility-Mini-split Proposal

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the bid from RC Mechanical for \$7,210.00 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

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

NO: None 0.

25. Bid Selection for Courthouse Snow Plowing 2026/27

Only 1 bid was received.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to accept the bid from Ziemnick for snow plowing in the amount of \$15,922.00 as presented.

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

26. Resolution #26-20 Describing Further County Board Commissioners for the Jail and County Building Improvement Project on the Ballot at the Election to be held on November 3, 2026

Faith Morrison, Jail Committee Co-Chair, explained the bed recommendation from Sheriff Saaranen going from 60 to 70 beds minimum housing capacity.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Britz and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve Resolution #26-20 as presented.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Britz, Janssen, Tikkanen, Anderson 4.

NO: Keranen 1.

27. Western Upper Peninsula Planning & Development Region, MMP Service Payment Request (April 1, 2026 + August 31, 2026) \$16,100.00

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve the \$16,100.00 payment to WUPPDR as presented.

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

28. Tri-County Public Defenders, August 2026 Reimbursement Request \$65,646.96

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the payment of \$65,646.96 to the Tri-County Public Defenders for the August 2026 request.

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

Other Business/Communications

- 1. Fighting for the Future of the Western U.P. Communication**
- 2. USDA Letter**

Chairman Tikkanen discussed both communications. No action taken.

Travel:

None.

Appropriations:

None.

Public Comments:

Dan Holcomb, Republican Party Chairman, referenced a letter sent to the County Clerk stating the Republican Party is not supporting the jail.

Teresa Kariniemi addressed the Board regarding a \$112.00 payment she made to the Health Department and requested the Board look into an audit.

Faith Morrison addressed the Board and stated the League of Women Voters and the Democratic Party are supporting the jail.

Announcements:

None.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Keranen and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

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

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED:_____

Clerk’s Initials