

**HOUGHTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2026**

The Houghton County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting on Friday, January 30, 2026 at 9:00 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 Tikkannen at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Tikkannen.

Roll call:

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

Tom Tikkannen, District 1; Glenn Anderson, District 3; Gretchen Janssen District 4; Roy Britz, District 5.

Absent: Joel Keranen, District 2.

Late Agenda Item Requests:

None.

Approval of Agenda:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Janssen and seconded by Commissioner Anderson to approve the Agenda as Presented.

The Motion carried by a voice vote. Ayes 4, Nays 0.

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

Gail Ploe read a letter she had emailed to the Commissioners regarding the Substance Abuse Grant.

Mandi Koskiemi Daniels discussed the importance of the Treatment Court.

David Gemignani discussed the importance of the Treatment Court.

New Business:

1. Substance Abuse Grant

Chairman Tikkannen stated the Board needed to consider the application.

Commissioner Anderson stated the grant had been terminated and reinstated.

Gail Ploe stated it was reinstated under 24 hours. It is a year-by-year grant. She is confident that Houghton County will receive this grant.

Commissioner Anderson said the Federal Court reinstated the grant.

Gail Ploe stated they would oversee the programs.

Chairman Tikkanen discussed how the Health Department is providing space in their building for providing services. He asked about the time commitment for this grant for Administrator Rheault.

Gail Ploe stated Administrator Rheault would have to commit some time.

Commissioner Anderson asked if there is money for the Administrator for the grant.

Gail Ploe stated there is \$60,000 per year.

Administrator Rheault stated she would be willing to schedule weekly meetings.

Gail Ploe stated Administrator Rheault can stay in the position, but they could look for someone else if needed.

Keith Anderson stated 5 counties will benefit. This support grant is separate from what he does. Treatment Court is an expansion grant.

Commissioner Anderson discussed that Administrator Rheault and Gail Ploe have to submit the plan by February 11, 2026, and pay the contract employees.

Chairman Tikkanen stated Judge Daavettila had given a strong letter of support for the grant.

Gail Ploe stated funds will be able to be drawn down.

Keith Anderson stated this grant is not a reimbursement grant like what he works on.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to proceed with implementing the grant if the funds are available.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Britz 4.

NO: None 0.

Absent: Keranen 1.

Commissioner Janssen stated Commissioner Keranen had expressed his support of this grant to her.

2. Authorize Payment to Superior Tech Wizards for In-House IT support for February

Chairman Tikkanen discussed extending Alex Radke through February 2026 and then make a more permanent arrangement.

Commissioner Anderson asked what the amount would be. Chairman Tikkanen stated \$8,000.00.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to approve not more than \$8,000 for Superior Tech Wizards for in-house IT for February 2026.

The Motion carried by the following vote.

YES: Anderson, Janssen, Tikkanen, Britz 4.

NO: None 0.

Absent: Keranen 1.

Chairman Tikkanen stated there would be a part time associate to assist Alex.

Announcements:

Commissioner Anderson reminded everyone that he and Commissioner Keranen will miss the Work Session.

Adjournment:

A Motion was made by Commissioner Anderson and seconded by Commissioner Janssen to adjourn at 9:35 a.m.

Tom Tikkanen, Chairman

Jennifer Kelly, County Clerk

APPROVED_____ JK