

MEETING MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, August 10, 2026

Houghton Township Community Building
5059 4th Street
Eagle River, MI 49950

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Robbie Fischer called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm and led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Robby Fischer, Clerk Linda Paradiso, Treasurer Julie Hamilton, Trustee Jim Huovinen

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Hall, Trustee

GUESTS PRESENT: Jill Christensen, Dane Christensen, Sarah Kelly, Rich Puhek, Gary Bays, Steve Kline

AGENDA: The Notice of Special Meeting served as the agenda for the meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: To discuss and approve an agreement for the provision of limited professional services by UPEA for upgrades to the Main Street (Lower) Bridge.

DISCUSSION:

UPEA had previously completed a load rating on the bridge in 2025 and concluded that due to the condition of the bridge built in 1909, no more than 20 persons should be present on the bridge at any one time. Steve Kline contacted UPEA in July 2026 to inquire if UPEA would provide cost estimates for two options to upgrade the bridge along with an estimate of the cost to demolish the bridge. The two options for upgrading include 1) reducing the dead load on the bridge by replacing the concrete deck and stringers with a wooden deck to support a full pedestrian load, or 2) replacing the bridge with a smaller and lighter pedestrian structure.

The cost for these services is \$3,000, with a retainer amount of \$1,500.

The Board and guests expressed a strong desire to keep a pedestrian bridge to maintain the link over the river between the east and west sides of Eagle River, and a discussion of fund sources when we have a more solid idea of plan and cost. Fund raising ideas included crowd-funding and/or local, state or federal fund sources.

Jim Huovinen motioned to approve the UPEA agreement for limited services, Linda Paradiso seconded. Motion carried.

Robby Fischer motioned to adjourn the meeting, Linda Paradiso seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

-CERTIFICATION-

I, the undersigned, Linda Paradiso, the duly qualified Clerk for the Township of Houghton, Keweenaw County, Michigan, DO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a special board meeting held on August 10, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "L. Paradiso, DVM, MBA". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Linda Paradiso

Deputy Clerk, Houghton Township