**Minutes**
**HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**
**November 17, 2025 6:00 PM**
TOWNSHIP BUILDING
(906) 337-1970

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- **Members present:** Jim Huovinen, Trustee; Mel Jones, Deputy Clerk; Leslie Fischer, Clerk; Robby Fischer, Supervisor; Julie Hamilton, Treasurer; Julie Newman, Deputy Treasurer.
- **Members absent:** Tom Hall, Trustee
- **Agenda additions/approval:** Jim Huovinen motioned, and Julie Hamilton seconded to approve the agenda for the November meeting. Motion carried.
- **Approval of Minutes:** Robby Fischer motioned, and Jim Huovinen seconded to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.
- **Budget Amendments:** Robby Fischer motioned, and Jim Huovinen seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report Balances in the accounts as of October 31, 2025, and to approve the payment of bills. Rollcall vote was taken. Motion carried.
  - o Treasurer's Report Balances:
    - ▪ General Fund $53, 111.99
    - ▪ Water Fund $53,905.52
    - ▪ Savings $12,020.38
    - ▪ CD $16,049.43
    - ▪ Cemetery Fund $5,652.18
  - o Payment of Bills:
    - ▪ General Fund: Total since October 20th meeting= $7,322.75
    - ▪ Water Fund: Total since October 20th meeting= $3,571.79
    - ▪ Cemetery Fund: Total since October 20th meeting= $0
    - ▪ Grand Total: $10,894.54
- **Department Reports:**
  - ○ **Assessing:** The Board discussed the possibility of hiring a new assessor for the township.
  - ○ **Water Department:** Water Department Chair Mel Jones explained that samples are all collected and cleared. Next, he explained that a new "buffalo box" was purchased and installed at Mary Long's property allowing an outdoor shut off. Then, Mel explained that Bay Electric seems to have corrected our situation and is drafting a letter explaining all that they have done in order to pass Eagle's inspections. Next, he shared the "Water Used by Customers of Houghton Township" document. Finally, he shared the undercharge of the billing error.
    - ■ Jim Houvinen motioned to write off the water billing error. Leslie Fischer seconded. Motion carried.
  - ○ **Cemetery:** Two plots were sold.
  - ○ **Elections:** No report.
  - ○ **General Maintenance:** No report.
  - ○ **Park:** The park is shut down.
  - ○ **Consolidation Committee:** Robby Fischer shared the Committee's proposed next step in the potential consolidation of Houghton and Eagle Harbor Townships. The Board and community members expressed concerns of changing tax rates and the possibility of assuming Eagle Harbor's debt (if there is any). Robby agreed to ask about these concerns.
  - ○ **Fitzgerald Abandonment Matter:** Robby Fischer motioned, and Jim Huovinen seconded to send an email to Patrick communicating our township's intention to stay out of the Fitzgerald abandonment matter until such time as our participation is specifically required.

- **Unfinished Business:**
  - Replacing the siding on the building:  No update.
  - Lower Bridge:  No Update.

- **New Business:**
  - **Credit Card:** Jim Huovinen motioned, and Julie Hamilton seconded to get a Houghton Township debit card with Mel Jones's name to enable the continuation of our Website.
  - **Economic impact analysis with WUPPDR:** Jim Huovinen offered to give Jerry Wuorenmaa from WUPPDR to investigate the possible benefits of an economic impact analysis.
- **Public Comment:**
  - Gary Erickson mentioned that he's still working on getting the cedar trees and thistle bushes out of the Deer Park.  He needs volunteers to help clear these or potentially burn them on the spot.
  - Mary asked if the second dumpster is staying on our property.  It was suggested that it is staying for winter but that we aren't paying for it.  The location of our primary dumpster is for practicality this winter.
  - Residents clarified that garbage stickers can be purchased from Waste Management or Econo Foods.
- **Adjournment:** Robby Fischer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jim Huovonen seconded.  Motion carried.

*I hereby certify that these minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Houghton Township meeting held on November 17, 2025, as approved by the township board on _____.*

**Signed:** _____
         Township Clerk
**Date:** _____