

MINUTES
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

June 15, 2026 6:00 P.M.

HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BUILDING
5059 Fourth Street, Eagle River, MI 49950

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- Members Present: Robby Fischer, Linda Paradiso, Mel Jones, Julie Hamilton, Tom Hall, and Jim Huovinen
- Members Absent: Julie Newman

AGENDA ADDITIONS/APPROVAL

- Jim Huovinen requested addition of Dry Hydrant to the agenda
- Robby Fischer motioned to approve the agenda, Jim Huovinen seconded. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

- Robby Fischer motioned to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026 meeting, Jim Huovinen seconded. Motion carried.
- Jim Huovinen motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills, Tom Hall seconded. Motion carried.
 - Treasurer's Report Balances in accounts as of June 15, 2026:

▪ General Fund	\$105,461.86
▪ Water Fund	\$ 65,388.48
▪ CD#1	\$ 12,192.92
▪ CD#2	Not reported
▪ Cemetery Fund	\$ 6,015.09
 - Spent since May 18th meeting:

▪ General Fund	\$ 16,704.51
▪ Water Fund	\$ 623.79
▪ Cemetery Fund	\$ 2,270.79
▪ Grand Total:	\$19,599.09
 - The cost of the new mower (\$4,282.99) was split between the General and Cemetery Funds. Old mower was sold.
 - CD#1 is coming due soon. Old rate was 3.51%, new rate is 3.55%. Robby Fischer motioned to renew, Julie Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Assessing– Mark Erhart: No report. Elaine Hall reported the next Board of Review meeting will be held on July 20, 2026.
- Water Department – Mel Jones: The 2025 Consumer Confidence Report (Water Quality Report) was accepted by EGLE. It will be posted on the Township website. Notices are posted to the township bulletin boards to refer to the township website to access the report or request a hardcopy to be mailed. Linda uploaded the CCR and Certificate of Distribution to EGLE.
- Cemetery – Linda Paradiso and Steve Kline: 2 plots have been sold since last meeting.

- Elections – Linda Paradiso:
 - Early voting for Aug 4 Primary Election, Jul 25 – Aug 2 in Eagle Harbor. Elaine Hall, Wanda Kolb, Steve Kline and Linda Paradiso will serve as Houghton Township Election Inspectors (poll workers).
 - Petitions for candidates for the Nov 3 election are due to the County Clerk by July 16. This applies to Julie Hamilton and Linda Paradiso who were appointed to partial terms in 2025 and 2026, respectively.
 - Houghton Township has a paucity of Election Inspectors and is looking for additional Michigan residents to serve in this role. Please see Linda if interested. Election Inspector training is planned for July, and the date soon will be announced by the County Clerk.
- General Maintenance – Dave Schumacher: No report.
- Park – Dan Steck: No report.
- Consolidation Committee Report: Robby Fischer reached out to the offices of Markkanen and McBroom and received a response that they received his message. No further follow-up from their offices.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) rural Heritage Grant for Community Center Improvements was submitted June 8, 2026 (\$100,000; fire escape stairs, 2nd floor, replacement HVAC system). Decision Oct 2026.
- Summer Fun dates are confirmed. Notices are now posted on the township bulletin boards and will be posted on the website. Thanks go out to Cindy Melican, Debra Burkhart and Wanda Kolb for organization.
- The board agreed to place the 3 Copper County Scenic Byway Signs on the privacy wall at Emil Dyni Park, M26.
- Jim Huovinen motioned to approve the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence City Initiative and Stantec Engineering draft project implementation framework advancement to the next step for inclusion in this group's larger project plan, Tom Hall seconded. Motion carried. The project is designed to improve the water flow at the mouth of Eagle River and reduce flooding of the beach to the east. (This beach asset is included in the Houghton Township Capital Improvement Plan, 2023-2033). Once we receive an updated draft and feedback from this group, the Board plans a public meeting for review.
- Dumpster enclosure update: Dan Steck reported that the Waste Management driver indicated he can adequately serve both dumpsters parked front to back in the current enclosure. Simultaneously, Steve Kline met with Waste Management Route Manager, Josh Peters, in Houghton, who indicated side by side is preferred to reduce potential damage to the enclosure. Steve drafted a new schematic layout that would accommodate a side-by-side layout. Robby stated that although the current layout is working, it is not a long-term solution, and we should get bids to determine the cost of enclosure modification to accommodate a side-by-side layout. Jim Huovinen motioned to approve Steve to get bids, Tom Hall seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- LEO Rural Prosperity meeting on resource needs for small communities, July 21, 2026, Finnish Heritage Center, Hancock. Linda will attend and the Board is encouraged to attend.

- New Insurance Company – Decker Insurance (Hannula sold to Decker). Dustin Drabek here to meet with Linda and Mel, June 23, 2:00p
- Michigan Dept. Treasury (Lori Burton) to meet here June 23, 11:00a. Wanda Kolb will join Linda in this meeting. *Post meeting correction: Lori Burton is the Risk Control Field Representative for our area, working in conjunction with our insurance agency. She is not an employee of Michigan Dept. of Treasury.*
- EPA Biodiversity Survey Project regarding river mouth emptying into Lake Superior (Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota). The scientists would like to place equipment on township property near the mouth of the Eagle River to monitor aquatic and terrestrial wildlife from end of June to August. Jim Huovinen motioned to approve, Tom Hall seconded. Motion carried on a 4 to 1 vote. Robby Fischer voted ‘no’.
- Robby Fischer motioned to approve the drafted Resolution to request KCRC to review yield and/or stop sign placement at 2nd and Pine, and stop sign placement at Pine and Maple, Jim Huovinen seconded. Motion carried.
- Main Street pedestrian bridge. Robby Fischer motioned for Steve to obtain a bid from UPEA for the cost to repair the bridge, Tom Hall seconded. Motion carried.
- Dry hydrant. Jim Huovinen prepared a schematic to locate a dry hydrant behind the Eagle River dam if that water source possibly could be tapped by firefighters. Discussion ensued that if the dam should fail, this water source likely would not be available. Jim will contact the Allouez fire department to inquire if a dry hydrant at this location is feasible and needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jim Huovinen mentioned that two areas of the cemetery fence are in need of repair due to ground settling.
- Linda thanked Leslie Fischer for serving as Assistant Clerk. Leslie is taking a break from her duties while Linda is physically here, but Leslie will continue to volunteer her time to retrieve the mail from the township mailbox.
- Elaine Hall stated the Eagle River Museum will open on Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

- Robby Fischer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M., Linda Paradiso seconded. Motion carried.

Next regular Board meeting – July 20, 2026

I, the undersigned, Linda Paradiso, 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 regular Board meeting held on the 15th day of June 2026.



Linda J. Paradiso, Clerk, Houghton Township