

MINUTES  
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING  
July 20, 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 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) 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 June 15, 2026 meeting, Julie Hamilton seconded. Motion carried.
- Robby Fischer motioned to approve the Treasurer's report and payment of bills, Jim Huovinen seconded. Motion carried.
  - Treasurers' Report:
    - Balances in accounts as of June 30, 2026
      - General Fund: \$95,469.08
      - Water Fund: \$64,103.48
      - Cemetery Fund: \$5,845.09
      - CD#1: \$16,451.17
      - CD#2: \$12,192.92. This CD was renewed for 5 months at 3.51%.
    - Balances in accounts as of July 20, 2026:
      - General Fund: \$86,822.40
      - Water Fund: \$68,603.14
      - Cemetery Fund: \$5,623.45
    - Funds spent since June 15, 2026:
      - General Fund: \$21,028.85
      - Water Fund: \$2,404.85
      - Cemetery Fund: \$391.64
      - **Total: \$23,825.34**
    - From General Fund, individual donations for building repairs: \$0.00
    - From General Fund, individual donations for maintenance of Houghton Township Park: \$32.00
    - Amount remaining for residing and painting HT Community Center: \$40,000 budgeted minus \$26,032.49 spent to date; \$13,967.51 remaining.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- Assessing– Mark Erhart (absent). Elaine Hall reported 2 errors in property tax assessments were corrected at the July 20, 2026 BOR meeting.

- Water Department – Mel Jones
  - Administrative Compliance Agreement (ACA) request to terminate accepted by EGLE. We await the Termination Notice from EGLE.
  - Annual water sample testing has been completed. All acceptable results.
- Cemetery – Linda Paradiso, Steve Kline
  - 1 new green burial; old headstone from another gravesite was damaged during burial preparation. Erickson Crowley Peterson is repairing it at their expense and will have in re-installed. *Post-meeting note: Headstone has been repaired and re-installed upright.*
  - Fund raising suggestions: Go Fund Me and/or Erickson Crowley has some suggestions for items that have been outlined previously (e.g., roads, headstones).
  - Status of items discussed with MTU last Spring: Jim Huovinen offered to follow up with Tim Scarlet, MTU.
- Elections – Linda Paradiso
  - Early voting for Aug 4 Primary Election, July 25 – Aug 2 in Eagle Harbor
    - Houghton Township Aug 1: Linda Paradiso, Steve Kline, Elaine Hall
    - Houghton Township Aug 2: Linda Paradiso, Steve Kline, Wanda Kolb
  - Aug 4 Election: Linda Paradiso, Steve Kline, Elaine Hall, Wanda Kolb
  - Petitions for candidates Nov 3 General Election (Linda and Julie Hamilton) completed and signed Affidavits of Identity turned into County Clerk before due date of July 16.
- General Maintenance – Dave Schumacher
  - Windows for Community Center front entrance transom window and side windows are in the process of being replaced.
- Park – Dan Steck
  - Mel Jones asked what expenses for maintenance of the park may be paid with park donations versus from general maintenance. A decision was made to table until end of the fiscal year in March.
- Consolidation Committee Report – Robby Fischer: No new reports.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Copper Country Scenic Byway signage was placed at Emil Dyni Deer Park June 18 by Steve Kline. A Sign Permit was obtained from KC Zoning Dept. prior to sign placement.
- LEO Rural Prosperity meeting on resource needs for small communities, July 21, 2026, Finnish Heritage Center, Hancock. Linda Paradiso and Jim Huovinen attended. *Post-meeting note: Potential funding sources were identified for playground equipment (MEDC), water system infrastructure improvement (EPA). Linda will follow up.*
- Upcoming Summer Fun dates: Yoga Jul 23 and 30, 10:00a; Potluck Dinner Jul 29, 5:30p; Music in the Park Aug 20, 6:30p. Open garage by 3:00p Jul 29 for potluck set-up.
- Garage Sale Saturday Aug 8 (weekend of Eagle Harbor Art Fair) from 8:00a – 2:00p. Jim Huovinen offered to put up a sign to contact him if interested, either at individual residence or Park Pavilion. *Post-meeting note: Signs posted July 24.*
- Resolution Request to KCRC for review of stop sign placement at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pine and Pine and Maple. The request was reviewed at the KCRC July 13 Board Meeting and denied due to zero traffic accidents at these two locations in the last 10 years.
- Dumpster Enclosure price quote update. Steve Kline reported 1 quote has been received for \$15,500; two others contacted declined to provide quotes.
- Recommendations from Risk Management Meeting, June 23. Linda Paradiso reviewed all the recommendations. After a brief discussion, Robby Fischer motioned and Tom Hall seconded, to

approve the addition of the recommended emergency lights and exit signs in the Community Center and 'Swim at Your Own Risk' signs at the beach. Motion carried. The cost is approximately \$500 for all. Steve Kline will order all and install. A suggestion was made to contact Keweenaw County and Road Commission for concurrence of the beach signs, as it is owned jointly by Houghton Township and Keweenaw County. *Post-meeting note: Linda contacted Don Peché and Greg Kingstrom. KC responded in agreement with the proposed beach signage and placement.*

- Main Street Bridge options update: Steve Kline contacted UPEA and Emit Bjorn, structural engineer, will get us a proposal for a cost estimate for the 2 options mentioned in their report (repair or replacement)
- Pavillion Bathrooms – Both bathrooms will be open on Museum days (Wed, Fri, Sat) during the Jun-Oct season, potluck Jul 29 and for Music in the Park Aug 20 due to heavy use on these days.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Bridge Michigan interviews with Linda, Steve and Mel occurred on June 29 and 30 regarding struggles of small municipalities and townships to stay afloat for an upcoming article.
- Playground Equipment. Dave Schumacher mentioned the chains on the swing set need replacement. Due to age and safety concerns, it was agreed to remove the slide and merry-go-round and structural supports. Robby Fischer motioned, Jim Huovinen seconded. Motion carried. *Post-meeting note: Both removed July 23, 2026.*
- PILT by Isle Royale National Park to Keweenaw County was discussed by Jim Huovinen. The issue is whether some of the annual revenue received by the county from by the Federal government by way of PILT could be transferred to the townships. Jim offered to contact other Michigan counties receiving PILT monies to see if counties transfer any funds to the corresponding entities in which the nontaxable Federal lands exist and identify if those entities provide any services to the nontaxable Federal land from which the PILT is made.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Dan Steck mentioned that the house on M26 will be put up for sale in the next year or two. If anyone is interested, please contact him.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Robby Fischer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 P.M., Jim Huovinen seconded. Motion carried.

### **Next regular Board meeting – August 17, 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 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026.



Linda J. Paradiso, Clerk, Houghton Township