NORTH HOUGHTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWAGE AUTHORITY
DATE: 1/26/26.

Meeting was called to order by Mukavetz at 12:01 pm

ROLL CALL: Kalcich, LaRochelle, Coppo, Zubiena, Mukavetz, Gasperich, Primeau

Others Present: Heikkila, Bjorn

Motion Gasperich 2nd Coppo to approve the
12/29/25 minutes as presented; Carried.

Election
The board held its annual election for the officers to serve in 2026. There were two nominees for chairman prior to a roll call vote.
Motion Primeau, 2nd LaRochelle, to nominate Mukavetz for 2026 chairman; not carried
Motion Zubiena, 2nd Coppo, to nominate Gasperich for 2026 chairman ; carried with voting recorded as follows;
Primeau: ***Mukavetz***
Mukavetz: ***Mukavetz***
Kalcich: ***Gasperich***
Coppo: ***Gasperich***
Zubiena: ***Gasperich***
LaRochelle: ***Mukavetz***
Gasperich: ***Gasperich***
Motion , Gasperich, 2nd Coppo to nominate Mukavetz as vice chairman; carried
Motion , Gasperich, 2nd Coppo to nominate Primeau as Secretary; carried
Motion , Gasperich, 2nd Coppo to nominate Zubiena as Treasurer; carried
All nominees were elected unanimously

Projects
Bjorn updated the board on the status of the Phase 1 project. Currently UPEA is working with contractors to finalize the as-built plan sets and will be providing the Authority with paper and electronic plan sets as well as PDF copies of all individual house service tie-ins. Bacco is still waiting on the gate valve extensions to be installed on the discharge structure for EB3

DR# 18
Bjorn presented a resolution for draw request # 18, this DR was an invoice from UPEA in the amount of $2,548.00.

Motion LaRochelle, 2nd Zubiena to approve
*The Resolution in the amount of $*2,548.00 *as presented; Carried.*
Ayes: 7
Nayes: 0
Absent: 0

UPEA General Services
Bjorn presented an invoice for services provided that included help on the Egle permit reissuance and drain field sizing at Keranen's LS for potential new hook up.

Motion LaRochelle, 2nd Kalcich to approve
*The invoice in the amount of $*811.00 *as presented; Carried.*

PDAP Grant and Rate Study Proposal
Heikkila informed the board that he had received preliminary approval from the Michigan Infrastructure Office-Technical Assistance Center (MIO TAC) for its PDAP Grant application. This is a $50,000 grant with a $5,000 match by the Authority for funds to be used for front end work of a phase 2-CIP project. As part of this funding, Heikkila presented a proposal from Bendzinski and Co. municipal financial advisors for a Sewer Rate Study. Heikkila asked the board to approve the proposal contingent upon the MIO TAC issuing a grant agreement that funds this study.
Motion Primeau 2nd Gasperich to approve
The proposal with the contingency as presented; Carried.

Xylem quote
Heikkila presented a quote from Xylem in the amount of $7,983.00, for the repair of a 3127 Pump.
Motion Coppo 2nd Mukavetz to approve
The Quote in the amount of $7,983.00*as presented; Carried.*

OHM GIS as needed contract
Heikkila presented an as needed contract from OHM for GIS and general services to not exceed $5,000 for 2026.
Motion Zubiena 2nd Kalcich to approve
The contract as presented; Carried.

Other
Heikkila presented the most current MERS actuarial report to the board for their review.

Gasperich updated the board on the water company purchase talks. Non disclosure agreements have been signed. A discussion was held, and LaRochelle asked that it be read into the minutes that he had brought to the board the question of the board exploring the option to start a new water system vs buying the existing system.

Heikkila informed the board that a new website for the Authority was in progress and will no longer be a page under Calumet Twp's website.

LaRochelle inquired about a watermain leaking on Scott and 8th Street intersection, and who owns the storm main that the water was draining to. A conversation was held on storm main ownership and maintenance.

Bjorn informed the board that larger project grant funding through RD currently has been going to projects with congressional obligated earmarks.

Public Comment
none

PAYMENT OF BILLS
Motion Coppo 2nd Primeau to pay monthly bills totaling $88,403.98 as presented; Carried.

Motion LaRochelle 2nd Gasperich to adjourn at 12:49 pm; Carried.

Recorded by,

Cleve Heikkila

Submitted by,

Tom Primeau
Secretary