

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DRAFT - Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.  
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met and was called to order by Chairman John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRAYER**

Prayer was offered by Pastor Terry Denmark of First Assembly of God.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman John Kozlowski called for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called with the following Commissioners present: Bill LaHaie, District 1; Robin Lalonde, District #3; Bill Peterson, District 4; Burt Francisco, District #6; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; and John Kozlowski, District #8. The following Commissioners are excused: Jesse Osmer, District #2; and Brenda Fournier, District 5.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to adopt the agenda with the following additions: 1) Commissioner Bill Peterson – Pull Action Item #8 off the 03.12.24 draft Finance Ways & Means Committee meeting minutes; and 2) Commissioner Bill Peterson – Budget Committee Workshop Headley Amendment. Motion carried.

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Kozlowski informed the public if there is any comment on any items on the agenda to speak during this public comment, otherwise can comment during the public comment at the end of the meeting.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Chairman John Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes and action items for approval.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – March 12, 2024\* (\*Minutes only)

B) **Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes** – March 13, 2024

ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends approval of the Equalization Department’s request for the County Use vehicle to be decaled by Omega Electric and be paid out of line item 101-200-934.000 Vehicle Maintenance as presented.

C) **Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes** – March 18, 2024\* (\*Minutes only)

Moved by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the Consent Calendar as amended, which includes actions as listed above and filing of all reports, and to pull Action Item #8 off the 03.12.24 draft Finance Ways & Means Committee meeting minutes as the Airport lots have been already surveyed. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier excused. Motion carried.

### BILLS TO PAY

Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$ 38,352.91	\$ 38,352.91

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Francisco to pay all bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier excused. Motion carried.

### COUNTY-WIDE INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT

Amber Hubbard, Huron Pines representative and coordinator for the Lake Huron Coast, presented a slide show presentation to the board on the County-Wide Invasive Species and gave a background of what Huron Pines does and their mission. Amber reported she has a draft version of the County Assessment for review that she brought if the board wanted to review.

### PLEDGE KICK-OFF EVENT OVERVIEW

Amber Hubbard, Huron Pines, gave an update to the board on the Lake Huron Forever Pledge Kick-Off Event being held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, with location to be determined and sent the draft agenda to the board. Amber reported that the city, Township, and the County are supporting the Lake Huron Forever Pledge by working together to help to sustain the health of Lake Huron and passed a Resolution. Amber explained the pledge and asked for any questions to direct them to Abbie Etrell of Huron Pines. Amber informed the board that the event would have two parts and presented a slide show presentation.

## **2024 CHILDCARE FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Janelle Mott, Juvenile Officer, presented the 2024 Childcare Fund Budget Amendment for approval to submit to the state. Janelle reported there will be no increase in allocation and will be receiving 75% back from the state. Moved by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve the below action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

### **ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the 2024 Childcare Fund Budget Amendment as presented.**

#### **ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AT AIRPORT**

Steve Smigelski, Airport Manager, presented the two proposed bids received from MDOT for the Essential Air Service Contract at the Alpena County Regional Airport for discussion and recommendation. Steve reported this will be a three year contract for Essential Air Service at the Airport and reported that the two that bid are 1) Boutique Air – offers more flights to Chicago and Milwaukee and certain flights to Detroit, contributing \$30,000 towards advertising, an 8 to 9 seat aircraft and code share with United Airlines or American Airlines; 2) SkyWest Airlines – will keep the same services for a three year term, mix of CRJ550, 700, and 900, code share with all airlines, contributing \$20,000 towards advertising. Steve informed the board that only one Essential Air Service provider is allowed, and that Boutique Air is not interested in supplemental airlift and being a smaller aircraft would have multiple shuffles. Discussion and recommendation to accept bid proposal from SkyWest Airlines.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Peterson to recommend approving SkyWest Airlines for Essential Air Service at Alpena County Regional Airport for a term of three years as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried. All Commissioners present voted for SkyWest Airlines.

Steve reported that they voiced their desire with a Minneapolis flight with SkyWest Airlines but mentioned they did not offer that flight, and did not include gate times with their proposal, only proposed 12 round trips power week.

#### **RESOLUTION #24-07 PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK**

Kim Elkie, 911/EM Director presented Resolution #24-07 Public Safety Telecommunicator Week for approval and read the resolution to the board.

#### ***RESOLUTION #24-07***

#### ***A Resolution Proclaiming April 14-20, 2024 as Public Safety Telecommunicator Week In Alpena County.***

Whereas, on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 1991, the United States Congress took official legislative action designating the second week in April of each year as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; and

Whereas, on March 26, 1992, with 227 co-sponsors, House Joint Resolution 284 was adopted by the 102<sup>nd</sup> Congress to become Public Law 102-264 authorizing and requesting the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

Whereas, many unfortunate events, including September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001, have demonstrated the critical role of Public Safety Telecommunicators in the emergency services arena; and

Whereas, a Public Safety Telecommunicator's responsibilities extend far beyond simply relaying information between the public and first responders; furthermore, for situational awareness, the police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service personnel rely on the skillful collection of information from those who use the 9-1-1 system; and

Whereas, Public Safety Telecommunicators coach callers in life-sustaining techniques, including CPR and the Heimlich maneuver, while first responders are en route to the scene; and

Whereas, Alpena County Central Dispatch Telecommunicators monitor radio activity, contributing to the safety of police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the week of April 14-20, 2024 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Alpena County, honoring the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county, its businesses, citizens and visitors safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board Of Commissioners urges county residents to join with them in honoring and commending the Public Safety Telecommunicators of Alpena County who answer and dispatch our 9-1-1 calls for police, fire, and emergency medical assistance.

Moved by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to adopt Resolution #24-07 as above. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

### **BUDGET ADJUSTEMENT REQUEST – SHERIFFS OFFICE**

Sheriff Erik Smith presented the budget adjustment request to increase the 2024 budgeted vehicle maintenance line for approval. Sheriff Smith reported that two vehicles from the Sheriff's Office were involved in insurance claims in late 2023 and the work finished in 2024. Sheriff Smith informed the board that money was received from the insurance company for these two claims to cover the repairs, but no money was budgeted in 2024 in the insurance recoveries line item, and he would like this money back into the vehicle maintenance line. Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the below action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve the budget adjustment request from the Sheriff's Office and to increase the 2024 budgeted Vehicle Maintenance line item #101-301-934.000 by \$11,898 to cover the repairs of two patrol vehicles involved in car/deer accidents. We received insurance claim funds in the amount of \$11,898.17 for 2024 and were deposited into the Insurance Recoveries Revenue line item #101-301-698.000.**

## **REZONING OF AIRPORT PROPERTY DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Bill Peterson presented the rezoning of the Airport property lot 6 for approval reporting that the property needs to be rezoned to be able to have a gas station on the property and will also need to go to the Wilson Township Zoning Board. Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to recommend approving the rezoning of Airport property lot 6 and to also go to the Wilson Township Zoning Board for this rezoning with the invoice being paid from line item #101-200-801.000 Professional Services. Motion carried.

## **BUDGET COMMITTEE WORKSHOP UPDATE**

Budget Committee Chair Bill Peterson reported that the Budget Committee held a workshop today to discuss the current budget 2024 and the budget for 2025. Commissioner Peterson informed the board that three options were discussed and recommended: 1) Public Safety Millage, 2) Headley Amendment Roll-Up, and 3) Plan for 2025 if additional revenue is not increased. Clerk Keri Bertrand informed the board that if they want a Public Safety Millage or a Headley Amendment Roll-Up the deadline to apply to be on the August Ballot is May 2024, and the deadline to apply to be on the November Ballot is September 2024. Equalization Director Ted Somers reported that the Headley Amendment Roll-Up amount would be .7 mils and the last Headley Amendment was back in 1976.

Budget Committee Chair Peterson reported that the Budget Committee recommended putting the Headly Amendment Roll-Up on the November 2024 Ballot and to have the language ready to be on the ballot by the deadline of September 2024. Discussion and recommendation for Interim County Administrator Jennifer Mathis and Equalization Director Ted Somers work together on the language with attorney John Axe and then to present to the full board for review/approval.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to recommend approving a Headley Amendment Roll-Up be presented to the voters on the November 2024 Ballot and that the language be reviewed by attorney John Axe before being presented to the full board for approval. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

Discussion and recommendation for the Treasurer and the Clerk to be involved in the budget process and for the Treasurer send a notice out to all department heads to prepare two budgets and have ready this summer: 1) Proposed 2025 Budget if the Headley Amendment passes, and 2) Proposed 2025 Budget if the Headley Amendment does not pass by cutting their budget by 10% and to enter information of their two proposed 2025 budgets ready for review by the board by September 1, 2024 so that the voters are informed.

## **APLEX POOL AND EXPENSION-PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLAN DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Robin Lalonde reported that C2AE provide a preliminary concept plan design to the Commissioners for review stating that there was no cost of the project proposed by C2AE at first and after she spoke with them, and they provided a preliminary concept plan design at a cost of \$80 million. Commissioner Lalonde clarified that this includes all comments and recommendations from the public and the board for this plan for Phase 1. Commissioner Lalonde reported that there are a lot of extras and recommends breaking this project not six phases as it has a splash zone, therapy pool, dive pool, locker rooms, golf simulators, fitness areas, weight room, all to make a complete complex.

Commissioner Lalonde reported that this is an update for the public and wants to keep Alpena's best interested but should do this project in 5 or 6 phases with the first phase focusing on the pool and should send polls out to the community for input on the pool.

Chair Kozlowski spoke with Tony Suszek, member of the pool group, and representative from C2AE, and he recommends having more conversations with the pool group and leaving it up to them to figure out a path forward on this project.

## **REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES**

**Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update** – Commissioner Konarzewski gave an update reporting that there MDOT awards recognized for the Runway Project in 2023 with the next phase on April 6, 2024 (depending on the weather) for the north end and the runway will be open. Construction of the new hanger has been started and the lease changes with Major Hylko will be updated next month.

**Courts & Public Safety Committee Update** – Commissioner Lalonde gave an update reporting: 1) Not a lot to report on other than there are grant options for upgrades and commends 911/EM Director Kim Elkie and Airport Manager Steve Smigelski for doing the training.

**Personnel Committee Update** – Commissioner Fournier not present to report. Kozlowski gave an update reporting: 1) Working to get the County Administrator position filled and have a timeline moving forward, 2) Interim County Administrator Jennifer Mathis has stepped up to help and he thanked Jennifer.

**Animal Control Adhoc Committee Update** – Commissioner Francisco gave an update reporting: 1) Discussion was made to send to legal review on the proposed agreement with the City and County of Alpena, no decision or action taken; 2) Monthly Animal Control Report for February reviewed. Next meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

District #1 Commissioner Bill LaHaie gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

**Planning Commission** – Meeting this week, the planning commission did a great job on the recreation plan. Chair Kozlowski noted that he spoke with David Rabbideau of Alpena Public Schools, and he stated to go with the individual that was recommended to serve on the Planning Commission as an education liaison if interested, Interim County Administrative Mathis will reach out to the individual.

**Veteran's Affairs Board** – No meeting held this month, will discuss a couple of members appointments at the next board meeting.

District #2 Commissioner Osmer was not present for an update on the following boards/commissions he represents: Hunt, NEMCOG, Parks & Recreation Commission, Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary.

District #3 Commissioner Robin Lalonde gave an update on the following boards/commissions she represents:

**Fair Board Liaison** – Working on policies, and some items will be stored outside so they can get inside the building for cleanup days and to organize over the summer; finished bathroom from insurance claim when vehicle drove into it; reminder to remove storage between April 15 and the 25<sup>th</sup> because after the 25<sup>th</sup> of April there is a charge.

**Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA)** – Unable to attend due to conflicting appointment.

**Parks & Recreation Commission** – Working on grants, support for park managers, commended Lynn Bunting for assisting with the grant application process; Parks Board welcomed Camp Host Frank Hubert; a few CampSpot issues working on; Discussion on Homeless issues and mutual agreement to help.

**Thunder Bay Transportation** – Meeting in two days.

District #4 Commissioner Bill Peterson gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

**Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority** – New Ejection Well working well.

**Target** – First meeting, new and exciting things happening for Alpena and cannot share until Mike Mahler announces possibly at next meeting.

District #5 Commissioner Brenda Fournier was not present to give an update on the following boards/commissioners she represents:

**District Health Department #4** – Chair Kozlowski reported will discuss appropriations at the next Facilities Committee meeting.

District #6 Commissioner Burt Francisco gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

**Northeast Michigan Regional Entity** – Nothing to report.

**Opioid update** – Money executed and will follow up with Larry LaCross and Madeline at the next meeting on the RFPs and report and update next month.

District #7 Commissioner Travis Konarzewski gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

**Community Corrections Advisory Board** – Meeting in April.

**Northern Michigan Counties Association** – Nothing to report.

**Road Commission Liaison** – Nothing to report.

District #8 Commissioner John Kozlowski gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

**DARE** – Nothing to report.

**Northeast Michigan Consortium** – Nothing to report.

**Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority (NMMMA)** – Land Lease for Recycling Center is in review by legal.

**United Way** – Nothing to report.

### **NEW BUSINESS – MDNR TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS**

1. Beaver Lake Park Manager Marcia Martin made a presentation via Zoom to the board and to the public for the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Beaver Lake Park Safety & Accessibility Improvements – Priority 1 Project for the Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Board Chair John Kozlowski presented the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Beaver Lake Park Safety & Accessibility Improvements – Priority 1 Project for Public Comment at 6:35 p.m.

Open Public Comment – No comment given for the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Beaver Lake Park Safety and Accessibility Improvements – Priority 1 Project for the Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Closed Public Comment - at 6:36 p.m.

2. Sunken Lake Park Manager Erin Felax made a presentation to the board and to the public in person for the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Sunken Lake Park Main Campground Upgrades – Priority 2 Project for the Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Board Chair Kozlowski presented the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Sunken Lake Park Main Campground Upgrades – Priority 2 Project for Public Comment at 6:50 p.m.

Open Public Comment – No comment given for the MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Sunken Lake Park Main Campground Upgrades – Priority 2 Project for the Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission.

Closed Public Comment - at 6:51 p.m.

### **RESOLUTION #24-05 MDNR TRUST FUND GRANT BLP PRIORITY 1**

Chair Kozlowski presented Resolution #24-05 MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Beaver Lake Park Safety & Accessibility Improvements – Priority 1 Project for approval.



Upon motion made by Commissioner LaHaie and seconded by Commissioner Lalonde, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners of Alpena, Michigan, does hereby approve the Parks & Recreation Commission to complete and submit the Trust Fund Grant Application through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Safety and Accessibility Improvements at Beaver Lake Park in the total amount of \$306,000 (\$199,200 State; \$106,800 Parks Match, and In-Kind) and that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and to provide ADA compliance benefit to the community; and,
2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of any grant awarded.
4. To regulate the use of any facilities constructed and reserved under these projects to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said grants including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.

The following aye votes were recorded: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski.

The following nay votes were recorded: None.

Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #24-06 MDNR TRUST FUND GRANT SLP PRIORITY 2**

Chair Kozlowski presented Resolution #24-06 MDNR Trust Fund Grant Application for Sunken Lake Park Main Campground Upgrades – Priority 2 Project for approval.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION #24-06

Upon motion made by Commissioner LaHaie and seconded by Commissioner Lalonde, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners of Alpena, Michigan, does hereby approve the Parks Commission to complete and submit the Trust Fund Grant Application through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for Main Campgrounds Upgrade at Sunken Lake Park in the total amount of \$250,000 (\$187,500 State; \$62,500 Parks Match, and In-Kind), and that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners does hereby specifically agree, but not by way of limitation, as follows:

1. To appropriate all funds necessary to complete the project during the project period and

to provide ADA compliance benefit to the community; and,

2. To maintain satisfactory financial accounts, documents, and records to make them available for auditing at reasonable times.
3. To construct the project and provide such funds, services, and materials as may be necessary to satisfy the terms of any grant awarded.
4. To regulate the use of any facilities constructed and reserved under these projects to assure the use thereof by the public on equal and reasonable terms.
5. To comply with any and all terms of said grants including all terms not specifically set forth in the foregoing portions of this Resolution.

The following aye votes were recorded: Commissioners LaHaie, Lalonde, Peterson, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski.

The following nay votes were recorded: None.

Commissioners Osmer and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

### **DISCUSSION ON USE OF MERCHANTS BUILDING**

Chair Kozlowski shared his concerns for use of the Merchants Building before he knew that the Sunken Lake Park Managers Erin & Keith Felax are living in a camper due to mold issues with the Sunken Lake Park House and is not livable at this time. Sunken Lake Park Manager Erin Felax presented the request to the board to use the Merchants Building to hold her family Easter dinner as they are unable to in their house due to mold issues and the camper is too small to hold 30 people. Discussion and recommendation to allow the Sunken Lake Park Managers to use the Merchants Building one time for their family (30 people) Easter dinner this weekend.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve Sunken Lake Park Managers Erin & Keith Felax use the Merchants Building at the Fairgrounds one time at no charge for their family Easter dinner this weekend, March 31, 2024, due to mold issues at their house. Motion carried.

Sunken Lake Park Manager Erin Felax reported that there is an insurance inspector coming out tomorrow to review the mold issues in the house and will meet with the County Maintenance Superintendent Wes Wilder out at the park.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bob Reid of Lachine thanked Commissioner Burt Francisco for giving an update on the Animal Control Adhoc Committee meeting that was held recently and for giving clarification. Bob shared his concerns of the current Animal Control Shelter and read the MDARD Policy to the board. A citizen gave Bob their 3 minutes to speak additionally. Bob requested to give a good faith effort and transparency.

Peggy Tomaszewski of Alpena shared her concerns for the Animal Control Shelter and stated she does not want the county to enter into an agreement with the Huron Human Society or another

shelter and read a letter to the board of her concerns of the stray dog problem in Alpena and being an issue.

Dawn Marwede of Ossineke shared her concerns of the current Animal Control Shelter and read a letter to the board and shared support of Michelle Reid, Animal Control Office for the Sheriff's Office.

Mike Kramer of Alpena shared his concerns and recommendation as a military person of the illegal immigrants coming into the United States and stated he does not want to see this issue in Alpena and recommends supporting the local Sheriff with this issue as being the first line of defense for Alpena. Mike shared his support of government awareness.

Beth Pelkey of Alpena reported that she was going to chastise the board but will not instead will compliment the board of commissioners and has gone to many board meetings and stated it has been quite some time since she has seen action like she has tonight. Beth read what the board of commissioner's duties are and what it means to be an effective leader by listening to the citizens, developing goals, and a lot of people are counting on them. Commissioner Konarzewski gave her his 3 minutes to continue reading her list. Beth continued and thanked the board for their time.

DeeAnn Karos of Hillman reported that she works for the local Animal Control Shelter and goes to the Animal Control Adhoc Committee meetings and shared her concerns of getting sick and scared animals and stated they go back out in the community. Deanne recommended the board come to the local Animal Control Shelter where she works to see what they do in a little building and if any one of them could do what she does.

Kristy Bartlett of Alpena reported she has never attended a board meeting before and commended the Animal Control Officer Michelle Reid on what she does and that is working, stated she does not want what is not broken to be fixed and shared her concerns of strays in the city. Kristi reported she has contacted the Huron Humane Society and states it is poorly taken care of and now she lives outside of the city and Michelle Reid responds well to her concerns. Kristi noted that she has family and friends that support the local Animal Control Shelter who are sick, or they would be in attendance sharing their concerns as well. Kristi reported that she brought her daughter in today to see how a board is run and she is home schooled. Kristi noted that other counties do not have an Animal Control Shelter. Kristi informed the board that Michelle Reid has rescued animals. Commissioner Konarzewski gave Kristi a couple of his minutes available to continue. Kristi reported that she has paid out of her pocket for items needed and is a coleader of Girl Scouts and supports the local fire department, police and animal control. Kristi recommended that a contractor running the animal control shelter should be properly trained and recommends keeping what they have at the Animal Control Shelter with Michelle Reid.

LuAnne Benac of Alpena shared her concerns of the commissioners having a closed door of the Animal Control Shelter and recommends Michelle Reid and the current staff at the shelter continue to do what they do, not to go with the Huron Humane Society or a private contractor and to consider what is in the animals best interested and to fund it. Luanne read part of the prayer from the Pastor earlier in the meeting today and thanked the board for hearing her.

Jennifer Ordway of Alpena shared her support of the local Animal Control Officer and the shelter stating the ACO enforces the leash law in the city and answers complaints with specialized

training. Jennifer shared her incident with a dog attack as well as the same dog attacking her neighbor and stated the Huron Humane Society could not handle it.

Kayla Miller of Alpena shared her concerns and looked into MDARD, the state laws on animal control shelters, humane societies, and our animal control shelter. Kayla reported she recommends transparency and shared request for more support of our local Animal Control Shelter and Animal Control Officer Reid.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Travis Konarzewski reported that he was hired to do a job and stated ACO Michelle Reid does a great job and does a lot of work and shared his concerns of the workload Deputy Reid has with Animal Control. Commissioner Konarzewski noted that he has been to the Animal Control Shelter a few times and is not the best environment for the animals that are in there with the shelter being small and recommended to do what the commissioners can to help these animals and to help the ACO. Commissioner Konarzewski noted there are a few buildings in the community that may help make it better. Commissioner Konarzewski reported there are no back door meetings, and the commissioners are quite transparent and stated all the commissioner's contact information is on the County Website and the public can call any time to share any comments or concerns. Commissioner Konarzewski wanted the public to be aware that the County has a budget deficit and if did not have a budget issue would definitely fund the Animal Control Shelter better for the animals but takes money.

Chair John Kozlowski reported that he has been a commissioner since 2017 and he has been a part of the Animal Control Committee since then as well as Commissioner Brenda Fournier has and has dealt with the Huron Human Society and Mayor Cindy Johnson and noted that if all three shelters worked together it would be better. Chair Kozlowski reported that he has been transparent and has a full-time job as well as working as a commissioner and has never done a back door deal and has seen comments on social media like Facebook on the comments. Chair Kozlowski reported the commissioners are trying to work with the facilities they have.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

---

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

---

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk