

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 24, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.  
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

**PUBLIC HEARING – ALPENA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION MEMBER EXPANSION**

Vice Chairman Bill Peterson called to order the Public Hearing regarding the Alpena County Road Commission Member Expansion at 5:30 p.m.

- Public Hearing Open for Public Comment at 5:30 p.m.
- Public Hearing Closed for Public Comment at 5:47 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met, and the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Bill Peterson in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 5:47 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll was called with the following Commissioners present: Bill LaHaie, District #1; Dan Ludlow, District #2; Lucille Bray, District #3; Bill Peterson, District #4; Brenda Fournier, District #5; Todd Britton, District #6; and Travis Konarzewski, District #7. Commissioner John Kozlowski, District #8, excused.

**PRAYER**

Prayer was offered by Pastor John Shipman of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Vice Chairman Peterson called for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda with the following additions: 1) Ice Storm Tribute Distribution; 2) Emergency Manager; and 3) Resolution #25-12 Authorizing Entry in Opiate Litigation Settlement. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **SCOUT OF AMERICA TROOP 92 TRIBUTE**

Vice Chair Peterson presented Scout of America Troop 92 a special tribute recognizing their dedication and service during March's ice storm.

## **BILLS TO PAY**

Vice Chair Peterson presented the bills to be paid.

	<b>SUBMITTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
General Fund & Other Funds	\$131,683.34	\$131,683.34

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

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

Vice Chairman Peterson presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

**A) Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2025**

**B) Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2025**

**ACTION ITEM CPS#1:** The Committee recommends approval of the reimbursement request from the City of Alpena in the amount of \$8,000.00 for drug box/drug kit restocking expenses from the January 1, 2025, through May 31, 2025, calendar year and an additional \$21,790.21 for reimbursement of disposable EMS supplies from the January 1, 2025, through May 21, 2025, calendar year per the Ambulance Service Agreement as presented.

**\*\*County Administrator Jesse Osmer** has emailed Fire Chief Rob Edmonds for clarification on the amount spent year to date. Along with approval of this action item there will need be an increase in expense line item 210-651-727.000 in the amount of \$5,500 from the Ambulance Fund to cover the reimbursement.

**ACTION ITEM CPS#2:** The Committee recommends approval for the Treasurer to create an Animal Control Adoption Fee line item with necessary budget adjustments to that line item pending conversation with the Sheriff and Treasurer as presented.

**C) Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2025**

**ACTION ITEM FCSP#1:** The Committee recommends approval for the Maintenance Superintendent to clean out and dispose of the scrap metal at the fairgrounds as presented.

ACTION ITEM FCSP#2: The Committee recommends approval to move forward with an electrical estimate to relocate the shed at the fairgrounds to the Sheriff's Office, and to contact the Health Department about the County having a need for the shed and removal of their items from the shed as presented.

INFORMATIONAL: **Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes** – May 14, 2025

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the Consent Calendar which includes actions as listed above and filing of all reports. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

### **FY26 HUNT BYRNE JAG GRANT APPLICATION**

HUNT Unit Commander D/Lt. Ray Rollet presented the FY26 HUNT Byrne Jag grant application, for review and approval. D/Lt. Rollet noted the correct amount of the grant should be \$65,964 rather than the previously submitted amount of \$64,314 and there is no County match.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the FY26 Byrne Jag grant application as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the FY26 HUNT Byrne Jag Grant Application in the amount of \$65,964 with no County match and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign all pertaining documents as presented. The deadline to submit the grant is June 27, 2025.**

### **LIBRARY UPDATE**

Library Board Chair Dustin Budd along with board members Traci Collins, Julie Byrnes, and Library Director Tina Markowski (board member Jennifer Graham was unable to attend due to previous scheduling) were in attendance to provide an update on the library. Dustin reported that board member Joe Garber had stepped down last week and a new library board trustee will need to be appointed. They are hoping to have the new member by August 18<sup>th</sup> as that is when the annual training takes place for all board members. Dustin introduced and welcomed Tina as the new director who is working on the library's strategic plan. Financials at the library are overall positive and one of the main objectives this year is to repair the falling stucco on the outside annex above Dr. Currier's office.

Director Markowski reported the library received an unrestricted trust fund last year in the amount of \$250,000 and \$15,000 was awarded towards their Maker Lab. Penal fine revenue will be received in July and be slightly less than last year's amount. The library is now outsourcing their payroll and updates on some of the programs coming up at the library were given.

Commissioner Konarzewski offered his thanks to Joe Garber for all his years of service and devotion on the library board.

## **NLA DEHUMIDIFIER REPAIRS**

Commissioner Konarzewski reported Northern Lights Arena had attended the last Facilities meeting reporting issues with the dehumidifier. Per the contract Northern Lights must spend the first \$6,000 in maintenance before using the surcharge fund and are approximately \$4,300 short of the \$6,000. They are asking to use funds from the surcharge to get the dehumidifier repaired now and as the year goes on, they will pay the remaining \$4,300 that is owed. The last estimate received was \$17,000 for the repair with a turnaround time of 4 to 8 weeks. Estimates will be emailed to Commissioner Konarzewski and/or County Administrator Jesse Osmer and distributed to the board for review.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve NLA obtain bids for the repair of the dehumidifier as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve Northern Lights Arena obtain bids for the repair of the dehumidifier and bring back to the board for review and approval as presented.**

## **FY26 DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN REGION 9 AGENCY ON AGING**

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented the FY26 draft Implementation Plan for NEMCSA for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve the Implementation Plan as presented. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve the Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) FY26 Draft Implementation Plan Aging Services as presented.**

## **IT CONTRACT WITH CITY OF ALPENA**

Administrator Osmer reported the IT contract with the City of Alpena was previously worked out and is pending approval by the City. He is requesting approval for either the Chairman or County Administrator to sign the contract once approved by the City of Alpena.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the Chairman or County Administrator to sign the IT contract with the City of Alpena once approved by the City as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused.

## **RESOLUTION #25-10 SUNRISE CENTRE**

Administrator Osmer presented Resolution #25-10 on behalf of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee. The committee met on June 5<sup>th</sup> and approved funding to Sunrise Centre in the amount of \$20,000.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JUNE 24, 2025  
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING PLAN  
RESOLUTION #25-10

**WHEREAS**, Alpena County participated and signed on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has the ability to file lawsuits for any forthcoming opioid-related settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, by the approval of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, in consultation with the Alpena County Administrator, Sunrise Centre has been awarded a funding in the amount of \$20,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alpena County Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee does now present this expenditure of Opioid Remediation Funds to the Board of Commissioners on June 24, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee that the Board of Commissioners direct the execution of release of these funds at their earliest convenience;

**WHEREAS**, the Alpena County Administrator has reviewed all applications and has attended the open meetings held by the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, and has determined all actions allowable and having met the criteria for reporting compliance, does concur;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the above described spending of opioid settlement funds, directs staff to proceed with agreements with mentioned recipients for services related to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery and authorizes the County Administrator to sign on behalf of Alpena County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, no funds will be distributed until the fully executed agreements have been received by Alpena County.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt Resolution #25-10 Opioid Settlement Spending Plan for Sunrise Centre as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #25-11 FREEDOM RECOVERY CENTER**

Administrator Osmer presented Resolution #25-11 on behalf of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee. The committee met on June 5<sup>th</sup> and approved funding to Freedom Recovery Center in the amount of \$37,000.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 24, 2025  
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING PLAN  
RESOLUTION #25-11

**WHEREAS**, Alpena County participated and signed on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners has the ability to file lawsuits for any forthcoming opioid-related settlements; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, by the approval of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, in consultation with the Alpena County Administrator, Freedom Recovery Center has been awarded a funding in the amount of \$37,000; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alpena County Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee does now present this expenditure of Opioid Remediation Funds to the Board of Commissioners on June 24, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee that the Board of Commissioners direct the execution of release of these funds at their earliest convenience;

**WHEREAS**, the Alpena County Administrator has reviewed all applications and has attended the open meetings held by the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, and has determined all actions allowable and having met the criteria for reporting compliance, does concur;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the above described spending of opioid settlement funds, directs staff to proceed with agreements with mentioned recipients for services related to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery and authorizes the County Administrator to sign on behalf of Alpena County.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, no funds will be distributed until the fully executed agreements have been received by Alpena County.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt Resolution #25-11 Opioid Settlement Spending Plan for Freedom Recovery Center as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

County Administrator Osmer reported a budget adjustment will need to be made to increase the two expense line items. Resolution #25-10 regarding the Sunrise Centre will need an increase to line item 284-200-969.002 in the amount of \$20,000 and Resolution #25-11 regarding Freedom Recovery Center will need an increase to line item 284-200-969.003 in the amount of \$37,000.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to increase the Opioid Settlement line items as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused.

**ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to increase the following Opioid Settlement line items as follows:**

- **284-200-969.002 Opioid Settlement Fund Sunrise Centre \$20,000**
- **284-200-969.003 Opioid Settlement Fund Freedom Recovery Center \$37,000**

**MOORING OF WATERCRAFT AT COUNTY PARKS**

County Administrator Osmer reported the Parks Commission is asking for approval to amend the Parks Ordinance and be allowed to set the fees for mooring of watercraft at the county parks. A general

ledger line item would need to be created as well. Parks Vice Chair Kevin Osbourne reported the current ordinance is not being followed and boats are being pulled onto the shore. The Parks Commission will review and amend the ordinance and bring back to the board for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commission Britton to approve the Parks Commission amend the current Parks Ordinance and bring back for review and approval as presented. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #11: Recommendation to approve the Parks Commission amend the Parks Ordinance and bring back to the board for review and approval as presented.**

### **PER DIEMS FOR COUNTY PARKS**

Commissioner Ludlow reported that mileage for Parks members is currently taxed and they would like the mileage untaxed. County Clerk Keri Bertrand stated the county does not have mileage taxed, but the way it was originally set up mileage was a taxable item for Parks because it was included in the per diem itself. It does not have to be this way and would not cost the county any money.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the Parks Commission mileage to be untaxed as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #12: Recommendation to approve the Parks Commission mileage portion of the per diem to be untaxed as presented.**

### **40-ACRE PARCEL LONG LAKE PROPERTY**

County Administrator Osmer reported the waterfront property at Long Lake is locked up due to wetlands and it was recommended for the county to hold onto the that property. The 40-acre parcel will not be ready for timber harvesting for another 40 years but could sell for a minimum of \$120,000. If that parcel is sold to a conservation district, they would maintain the trails and be open to the public and campers, but in the State of Michigan conservation districts do no pay property tax. Administrator Osmer will reach out to EGLE and conservation districts and bring information back on any offers.

### **ICE STORM TRIBUTES**

Chair Peterson presented Ice Storm Tributes to the following organizations that were present during the meeting: Alpena County Road Commission; Alpena County Central Dispatch; Friends of Alpena County Animal Control; St. Paul Lutheran Church; Fat Freddie's Food Truck; and Alpena County Sheriff's Office. The remaining tributes will be sent out to each person/organization that were recognized for their efforts during the ice storm.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update** – Discussion was made on the maintenance of generators and potential replacements. The pool was shut down for 6-8 weeks for maintenance. Duct cleaning at the courthouse would cost approximately \$16,000. The fairgrounds are ready for the 4H and camping seasons.

**Airport Committee Update** – Chair LaHaie reported 13 applications were received for the Airport Manager position and interviews will be conducted soon.

**Courts & Public Safety Committee Update** – Chair Bray reported the City of Alpena requested reimbursement for drug boxes and EMS supplies and a revenue line item was created for Animal Control adoption fees.

**Personnel Committee Update** – No new updates.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

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

**Health Board** – Four people were laid off and they are trying to get finances straightened around.

**Planning Commission** – Meeting was cancelled.

**NMMA** – The recycling dumpsters have been relocated. Before groundbreaking on the new facility, they are making sure all finances are in order.

District #2: Commissioner Dan Ludlow gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

**NEMCOG** – They received the director's report and are concerned with funding for the next fiscal year.

**Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary** – Normal updates were given at the meeting. Finances are in good shape, and they are concerned about the next fiscal year with how much funding they would receive.

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

**Thunder Bay Transportation** – They now have a contractor to fix the roof and are working with their board on raises and the director evaluation.

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

**26<sup>th</sup> Judicial Court Mgt. Council** – Meeting is in August.

**Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority** – Moving along and still accepting garbage at the landfill.

**Target** – The biggest discussion was the tiny businesses going in down by the river.

**Materials Management Planning** – Second meeting is this Friday.

District #5: Commissioner Brenda Fournier gave an update on the following boards/commissions she represents:

**Parks & Recreation Commission** – The parks are doing well this year. There have been issues at Sunken Lake Park and another manager is there now. Kevin Osbourne is working on Campspot.

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

**Community Corrections Advisory Board** – No new updates.

**Northern MI Counties Association** – No new updates.

District #8 Commissioner John Kozlowski, excused.

**NE MI Consortium** – No update.

### **EMERGENCY MANAGER POSITION**

Commissioner Fournier reported at a previous meeting she had made a motion to hire a full time Emergency Manager, and the motion was tabled by another member. Enough time has passed, and she would like to move forward.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to move forward with the process of hiring an Emergency Manager as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #13: Recommendation to move forward with the process of hiring a full time Emergency Manager, pending the County Administrator finding funding as presented.**

### **RESOLUTION #25-13**

Administrator Osmer reported he received correspondence today from legal counsel regarding a settlement with Sandoz, Inc. for \$99.5 million and Alpena County is estimated to receive a one-time payment of \$69,162.32 under the settlement pending passing the resolution.

RESOLUTION #25-12 AUTHORIZING ENTRY OF PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS IN PARTIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION  
WHEREAS, the Count of Alpena filed a lawsuit to address the public nuisance that is the Opioid Epidemic;

AND WHEREAS Sandoz, Inc. (“Sandoz”) has negotiated a proposed settlement agreement (“Proposed Settlement”) with Participating Subdivisions and Participating Tribes;

AND WHEREAS the Proposed Settlement contains an agreement for Sandoz to establish a \$99,500,000 settlement fund to resolve pending opioid-related litigation;

AND WHEREAS County of Alpena previously executed Participation Agreements for the Distributor and Janssen Settlements, as well as the Teva, Allergan, CVS, Walmart, Walgreens, and Kroger Settlements, which have conferred and continue to confer valuable benefits;

NOW THEREFORE, County of Alpena authorizes the execution of a Participation Agreement for the Sandoz Settlement Agreement. A specimen copy of the material terms of the participation agreement is attached as Exhibit A to this resolution.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve Resolution #25-12 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Kozlowski, excused. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Beth Pelkey of Alpena asked the board to speak more loudly to the room as some people cannot hear them, questioned the need for a breakdown of animal adoption fees, and asked who is responsible for maintenance at the fairgrounds.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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Bill Peterson, Vice Chairman of the Board

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Keri Bertrand, County Clerk