

FACILITIES, CAPITAL & STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – 9:00 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

Commissioners Present: Travis Konarzewski, Chair
Brenda Fournier
Todd Britton
John Kozlowski

Others Present: Jesse Osmer, County Administrator
Mick Higgins, Airport Manager
Nick Akins, Maintenance Superintendent
Nicki Janish, Home Improvement Director/Public Conservator
Tim Kuehlein, Thunder Bay Arts Council
Sid Hausding

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chairman John Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APPROVE AGENDA

The committee approved the agenda with the following additions: 1) NMMMA Fee; 2) Food Bank of Eastern Michigan Use of Fairgrounds; and to reorder the agenda topics for discussion. Motion carried.

FAIRGROUND MANAGER REPORTS

Board Chairman Kozlowski presented the Fairground Manager's monthly reports to receive and file. Administrator Osmer reported there was a recent meeting with the Fair Board regarding the power bill from the week of the fair, and they will pay \$2,000 for this year. Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins has a meeting with Thunder Bay Electric to get pricing to break the panel box down into four separate meters to try to get away from the demand factors. They will meet with the Fair Board before Christmas to discuss the breakdown of the different units. Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Fournier to receive and file the monthly Fairground Manager's reports as presented. Motion carried.

RECYCLING REPORTS

Board Chairman Kozlowski presented the recycling monthly reports to receive and file. Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Fournier to receive and file the monthly recycling reports as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUBORDINATE HOME IMPROVEMENT LOAN

Home Improvement Director Nicki Janish presented a request to subordinate on an existing Home Improvement loan #005-03-HI for review and approval. Per the policy on subordination agreements, they are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and all contingencies have been met.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to recommend approval to subordinate loan #005-03-HI as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends approval to subordinate the existing Home Improvement loan #005-03-HI as presented.

CURRENT PROJECT UPDATES

Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins gave an update on the following projects:

- Dental Health Clinic – Finishing up with the painting and flooring and should be wrapped up by the end of the week.

Commissioner Konarzewski arrived at 9:09 a.m.

- Cardboard Dispenser at Jail – Has been band-aided for the past couple of years and is no longer usable and will get taken care of.
- Generators – Spoke with Troy Brown on the 200K generator and he believes it is worth getting parts for.

SCULPTURE ON COURTHOUSE LAWN

Tim Kuehnlein along with other representatives from Thunder Bay Arts Council presented information to the committee regarding the placement of an eagle sculpture on the courthouse lawn. In July of 2026, we are celebrating the 250th anniversary of our Declaration of Independence and it is also the 50th anniversary of the Alpena Bi-Path. Thunder Bay Arts Council is commissioning two new public sculptures along the Alpena Bi-Path to mark these historic anniversaries. One sculpture is to be placed at City Hall and the other at the courthouse. Discussion was made on placement to be at the corner opposite the Veteran Memorial. Thunder Bay Arts Council will be launching their public campaign on Giving Tuesday. Tim also reported they had asked the City of Alpena to establish a Sesquicentennial Commission to help coalesce our local community surrounding the festivities and asked that the city reach out to the county and townships to coordinate together. They hope to have both sculptures installed in June of 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend approval of placing the “Eagle has Landed” sculpture on the courthouse lawn, pending any issues with the corner spot location as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: The Committee recommends approval of placing the “Eagle has Landed” sculpture on the courthouse lawn opposite corner of the Veterans Memorial, pending any issues with the location as presented.

AIRPORT MONTHLY UPDATE

Airport Manager Mick Higgins presented the monthly airport reports for review and discussion.

Manager Higgins reported a tenant of one of the hangars on the field had passed away. Discussion was made about the County possibly purchasing the hangar. Sid Hausding is also interested in purchasing and asked the board to consider his request for reassignment of the current lease to his

name, so he can continue with the purchase and use it as a privately owned hangar for the future of general aviation and his own benefit.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to have the County Administrator obtain additional information for the board to make an informed decision at the next full board meeting. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Fournier, Britton, Kozlowski, and Konarzewski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

PETITIONING FOR SIGNATURES

Administrator Osmer reported an individual had approached the county requesting to set up a table outdoors near the entrance of the courthouse and come indoors into the lobby in inclement weather to collect signatures for a ballot initiative. The recommendation of our County Clerk and the County Clerks Association is to put something in writing stating whether this is allowed on county property or not. This is not a location for voting, and it would not be illegal should the board choose to allow individuals to do so.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Fournier to table the discussion pending additional information. Motion carried.

FOOD BANK USE OF FAIRGROUNDS

Administrator Osmer reported the food distribution held at the fairgrounds yesterday was a huge success. Food Bank of Eastern Michigan organizer Courtney Holmes inquired about having food distribution at the fairgrounds once a month. This would be a consistent location for people large enough where cars are not lined up on the streets. Courtney would work with the Superintendent and Administrator to determine which days would be best.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Britton to recommend approval for the monthly food distribution operations to take place at the fairgrounds as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval to allow Food Bank of Eastern Michigan organizer Courtney Holmes regular use of the Alpena County Fairgrounds to conduct monthly food bank operations while working with the Maintenance Superintendent and County Administrator as presented.

ALPENA RINK MANAGEMENT LEASE EXTENSION

Board Chairman Kozlowski presented discussion on the Alpena Rink Management lease extension agreement. The board has until the end of December to notify Alpena Rink Management of how they would like to move forward with the lease.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend approval to offer Alpena Rink Management a 1-year lease extension as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval to offer Alpena Rink Management a 1-year lease extension allowing the county time to determine the best plan moving forward, ensuring there are sufficient funds to maintain Northern Lights Arena as presented.

NMMMA LATE FEE

Board Chairman Kozlowski reported Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority had received a 10% late fee invoice from the county of approximately \$570 and they inquired about the fee being waived as they have had some turnover this year. Discussion was made regarding last year's payment also being paid late and no fee was invoiced. The Committee agreed it was fair to charge the 10% late fee to NMMMA.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Britton reported that Spicer Group has actively been monitoring the HVAC system at MDOT and he will be meeting them onsite on December 3rd.

***Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Britton to adjourn the meeting with support by Commissioner Fournier. The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.



Travis Konarzewski, Chair

kvm