

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 23, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

CALL TO ORDER

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman 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; Dan Ludlow, District #2; Lucille Bray, District #3; Todd Britton, District #6; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; and John Kozlowski, District #8. Bill Peterson, District #4, and Brenda Fournier, District #5, excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt the agenda with the following changes: 1) Remove Airport Budget Presentation; 2) Rescind and Reverse the Poll Vote regarding the Pool Lift Chair. A repairman was found and can fix it for much cheaper than the purchase of a new chair. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BILLS TO PAY

Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$403,524.41	\$403,524.41

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

Chairman Kozlowski recognized Alpena County Central Dispatcher Pam Susan on her retirement after more than 19 years.

MAINTENANCE BUDGET PRESENTATION

Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins presented the Building Grounds & Maintenance budget for 2026. Vent cleaning at the courthouse, fixing the front steps, and upgrades in the offices are a few projects they will be working on.

PLAZA POOL BUDGET PRESENTATION

Plaza Pool Director Kim Bolanowski reported the pool is doing very well this year and are in the black with approximately \$11,000. For 2026, the pool was granted \$100,000 by the Youth and Rec Committee for pool operations, \$9,320 for Ready, Set, Swim (which is changing names to Alpena Safety Splash Swim) and the Older Persons Committee granted the pool \$33,143 for senior classes. Rate prices will also increase in 2026. Director Bolanowski is working towards an electronic system for accepting payments that will integrate with BS&A. Maintenance repairs will be done with the money the pool has been saving. The scoreboard has been having some costly issues and they hope to have it cleaned this year to save a couple of years to be able to write a grant for a new one. Patron visits this year will supersede last year's amount.

MDOT BUILDING HVAC IMPROVEMENTS

Commissioner Britton reported the MDOT building has been having on going HVAC issues. The way the system was originally designed and installed is deficient. Spicer Group provided a proposal for a preliminary design in the amount of \$6,200. There are funds in either the Contingency Fund or the MDOT Building Fund, with recommendation from the Treasurer to use the Contingency Fund. There will also be incidental costs from Control Solutions to set them up as a visitor login so they can monitor the system.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the first phase proposal from Spicer Group as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to approve the proposal from Spicer Group in the amount up to \$6,200 for the MDOT Building HVAC Improvement Preliminary Design with funds to come from the Contingency Fund line item 101-941-955.000 as presented.

AIRPORT JOINT USE AGREEMENT

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Airport Joint Use Agreement (AJUA) for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the Airport Joint Use Agreement as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioner LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to approve the Airport Joint Use Agreement (AJUA) between the County Commissioners, Alpena County, Michigan and the United States of America, acting by and through the Chief, National Guard Bureau (Air Force), and the State of Michigan acting by and through its Adjutant General for a term of ten (10) years beginning October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2035, as presented.

RESOLUTION #25-20 HOUSE REVENUE SHARING CUTS

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION # 25-20

OPPOSING HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' FY26 BUDGET CUTS TO COUNTY REVENUE SHARING

WHEREAS, counties are mandated by the State of Michigan to provide essential public services including courts, jails, elections, public health, public safety and human services; and

WHEREAS, unlike cities, villages and townships, counties do not receive constitutionally guaranteed revenue sharing and instead rely solely on statutory revenue sharing, leaving counties uniquely vulnerable to annual state budget decisions; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposes a \$34.9 million reduction in county statutory revenue sharing, wiping out the long-overdue progress made in FY25 to restore revenue sharing to sustainable levels; and

WHEREAS, the House plan, if enacted, would leave counties with just over \$256 million in statutory revenue sharing statewide, while constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships (CVTs) is set to reach \$1.1 billion, and when combined with statutory revenue sharing, CVTs would get \$1.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, the House plan shifts \$40 million into restricted sheriff funding with strings attached, requiring counties to maintain higher law enforcement funding levels, even as flexible revenue sharing is reduced, thereby further straining already-limited general funds; and

WHEREAS, public safety dollars directed exclusively to sheriffs are not equivalent to revenue sharing, since they cannot be used to support the wide range of mandated services counties must provide; and

WHEREAS, the Senate budget proposal provides just over \$320 million in county statutory revenue sharing, an increase of \$29.1 million over FY25, and includes \$60 million for public safety that can be allocated at the discretion of county boards of commissioners rather than bypassing them; and

WHEREAS, the Senate approach respects county governance, strengthens general fund flexibility, and better equips counties to meet their broad statutory responsibilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Alpena County Board of Commissioners strongly urges the Michigan Legislature and governor to reject the House revenue sharing cuts and support the Senate's proposal to increase county revenue sharing and provide flexible funding for public safety needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks, House Speaker Matt Hall and Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to adopt Resolution #25-20 Opposing House Budget Cuts to County Revenue Sharing as presented. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-21 FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION #25-21

WHEREAS, an estimated 58,000 children in the U.S. are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents each year, resulting in almost 1000 children in the United States murdered during visitation with an abusive parent since 2008. In Michigan, 39 children have been murdered by a parent since 2008 during divorce or custody disputes, including 6-year-old Rowan Morey-Pols of Caledonia, Michigan in 2024 and 3-year-old Dylan Thebo of Kent County in 2021;

WHEREAS, Rowan's and Dylan's families have been working to increase awareness of child safety issues by promoting Family Court Awareness Month and have been honoring their children's legacy by introducing legislation to improve the safety of missing children in Michigan and helping improve Kent County's response to domestic violence; Rowan's Act was introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives this year by Angela Rigas who represents portions of Allegan, Kent, and Barry counties. This amendment would allow a faster response for Amber Alerts to be issued if Police believe a missing child to be in danger; Kent County, Michigan recognized the need for a specialized Domestic Violence Court, following six domestic violence-related homicides within three months in 2021. This court, staffed by individuals knowledgeable about the intricacies of domestic violence, aims to support victims and families, hold offenders accountable, and prevent further homicides;

WHEREAS, Washtenaw County hopes to improve safety and outcomes for families exposed to domestic violence by having law enforcement change the way it responds to domestic violence calls by using 'Lethality Assessments' in all domestic violence cases;

WHEREAS, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month (FCAM) is to promote judicial education that would include training on domestic violence, child abuse, childhood trauma, coercive control, and post-separation abuse for all professionals involved in family court cases;

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month recognizes the need to incorporate evidence-based research into the court's decisions. This includes the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Study. This research

highlights long term effects of exposure to abuse in childhood and emphasizes the need for research-informed and impartial decision-making to protect children's well-being;

WHEREAS, Family Court Awareness Month aims to encourage collaboration among legislators, advocates, professionals, and the community to improve family court practices, ensuring they are guided by evidence-based research and prioritize the safety and best interests of children;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby declare the Month of NOVEMBER 2025 to be FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to adopt Resolution #25-21 Family Court Awareness Month as presented. Motion carried.

MOA LANDFILL CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER LETTER

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Montmorency, Oscoda, Alpena Landfill Chief Financial Officer Letter for review and approval. County Administrator Jesse Osmer noted the auditor is preparing a similar letter and would like the motion to clarify either signing this letter or the one the auditor sends depending on their preference. The letter is signed yearly and in the event the landfill would ever need to be shut down shows the associated costs.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the MOA Landfill Chief Financial Officer Letter as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the Montmorency, Oscoda, Alpena Landfill Chief Financial Officer Letter from the auditor and all pertaining documents and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign as presented.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT POSITION

Chairman Kozlowski attended Presque Isle County's board meeting, and all five commissioners have indicated positively that they would be interested in moving forward with Alpena County on the Emergency Management position. Chair Kozlowski sent Presque Isle the contract that the county was going to have with Montmorency and has not received any response with any specific concerns. Chair Kozlowski will be attending another meeting this Friday for more information.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Bray to allow for further information to be obtained and discussed at the next Personnel Committee meeting with a decision to be made at the next Full Board meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – September 9, 2025

B) Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2025

ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends approval of the tuition reimbursement request of \$1,000.00/per student to any Alpena County First Responder agency upon successful completion of the course and licensure as a certified Michigan EMT as presented.

ACTION ITEM #2: The Committee recommends approval of the quote from Central Square in the amount to of \$5,340.00 to be paid from line item 261-325-970.003 Ambulance Fund Expenditures to allow for fire and EMS agencies to electronically access their call details from 911's computer-aided dispatch system versus the paper hard copies they currently receive as presented. There will be an annual recurring subscription fee of \$3,000.00, which will be requested from millage funds as part of 911's annual budget preparation.

INFORMATIONAL

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – August 13, 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, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. **NAYS:** None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-17 OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDS – ALPENA COUNTY

Administrator Osmer presented Resolution #25-17 for review and approval. This resolution would go towards Alpena County's jail nurse in the amount of \$62,700. Administrator Osmer noted that other counties have spent this money in a more liberal manner such as purchasing patrol cars, taking the full amount for their jail nurse, and ambulances. The Attorney General's office is impressed with the fact that Alpena approached it in this manner where we took the percentage of how much time the jail nurse spends with individuals who have either misused or who are addicted to opioids.

**ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING PLAN
RESOLUTION #25-17**

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, Alpena County has been awarded a funding in the amount of \$62,700.00; 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 September 23, 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 Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to adopt Resolution #25-17 Opioid Remediation Funds – Alpena County as presented. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #25-19 OPIOID REMEDIATION FUNDS – REBORN RESCUE

Administrator Osmer presented Resolution #25-19 for review and approval. Reborn Rescue works with pet owners who are looking to go into rehab. They not only board their animals, but they'll work with the individual throughout the process after they get out such as helping to prepare them for the workforce and helping with housing. Reborn Rescue was allocated \$15,000 immediately and another \$10,000 for FY26 as invoices are turned in. Huron Humane Society was allocated \$30,000 but these two resolutions will not be presented until the invoices come in.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING PLAN
RESOLUTION #25-19

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, Reborn Rescue has been awarded a funding in the amount of \$15,000.00; 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 September 23, 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 Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt Resolution #25-19 Opioid Settlement Spending Plan for Reborn Rescue as presented. Motion carried.

FY24 FINAL COST ALLOCATION PLAN

Administrator Jesse Osmer presented the final FY24 Cost Allocation Plan provided by MGT.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to receive and file the FY24 Cost Allocation Plan as presented. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Administrator Osmer reported when budgeting for FY25 there was nothing budgeted for the NEMCOG membership. There was also an increase in the MAC membership this year. The adjustments have been made for FY26. A budget adjustment request was presented to decrease the Outside Attorney line item and increase the line items for NEMCOG and MI Association of Counties to pay the annual dues.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the budget adjustment request as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray,

Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve the budget adjustment request to decrease line item 101-200-801.002 Outside Atty Fees in the amount of \$6,178.00, increase line item 101-704-959.001 NEMCOG in the amount of \$5,805.00 and increase line item 101-704-955.002 MI Assoc of Counties in the amount of \$373.00 to pay the annual dues as presented.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES

Airport Committee Update – Chair LaHaie reported enplanements are up again this month and will most likely hit 10,000 before the end of the year. Fuel sales are good, and all equipment is in good shape. The money for the T-hangars is coming, and the project should happen in the spring.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Chair Bray reported the committee approve tuition reimbursement for EMT training in the amount of \$1,000 and approved the purchase of new software for fire and EMS agencies to electronically access their data.

Personnel Committee Update – Administrator Osmer reported the EM position was discussed and a Board Member Attendance Policy. There were two different Chairs from two different committees that were appointed either by members of the commission or the commission as a whole who were concerned with individuals missing numerous meetings and having no contact. As a result, three letters were sent out notifying three individuals that they have vacated their seats.

Chair Kozlowski discussed the two ambulance invoices that were pulled from last month's meeting. Rather than the City having to resend out the two invoices he suggested the Clerk's Office cross out the incorrect amount and write in the correct amount of \$250 per inmate per the contract.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve paying the two invoices that were pulled during last month's meeting for \$250 each as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to pay the two invoices that were pulled from the previous board meeting from the City of Alpena each in the amount of \$250 for inmate ambulance services as presented.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

Health Board – The Health Board has a new interim director, Lloyd Peltier.

Planning Commission – No new updates.

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

NEMCOG – The budget was approved for 2026, and the annual meeting is Friday, October 17 at 10:00 a.m. at JJs in the Pheonix Room. Administrator Osmer will have the sign-up sheet for those interested.

Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary – No new updates.

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

Thunder Bay Transportation – Meeting is Thursday.

District #4: Commissioner Bill Peterson was excused from the meeting.

26th Judicial Court Mgt. Council – No update.

Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority – Commissioner Britton also attends this meeting and reported they are working on getting preliminary estimates to open another cell.

Target – No update.

Materials Management Planning – No update.

District #5: Commissioner Brenda Fournier was excused from the meeting.

Parks & Recreation Commission – No update.

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 gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

DARE/TEAMS – Out of town and unable to attend the meeting. DARE was eliminated and a new program called TEAMS was developed.

NE MI Consortium – Out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

NMMA – Meeting is this Thursday.

RESCIND & REVERSE POLL VOTE: PLAZA POOL CHAIR LIFT

Chairman Kozlowski presented the following poll vote to rescind and reverse.

POLL VOTE ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to approve the purchase of a new pool chair lift for the Plaza Pool in the amount of \$6,100.00, and to complete all transfers and related budget adjustments. The Plaza Pool has the funds to cover the project. However, due to the cost exceeding \$5,000.00, it qualifies as a capital outlay project and needs board approval.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to rescind and reverse the previously approved poll vote to purchase a new chair lift for the Plaza Pool as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to rescind and reverse Poll Vote Action Item #1 approving the purchase of a new pool chair lift for the Plaza Pool in the amount of \$6,100.00, and to complete all transfers and related budget adjustments as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Administrator Osmer reminded of the NEMCOG meeting on October 17th at 10:00 a.m. and that the board was invited to the Change of Command ceremony at the Combat Readiness Training Center and provided a sign-up sheet for those interested in attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 6:45 p.m. for contract discussion and opened session at 7:52 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members present. Commissioners Peterson and Fournier, excused.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk