OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 – 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 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Pastor Mike Potter with Tri Point Church of God.

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; Bill Peterson, District #4; Brenda Fournier, District #5; Todd Britton, District #6; and John Kozlowski, District #8. Commissioner Travis Konarzewski, District #7, excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda with the addition of two invoices to be paid; a correction under Spending Freeze to read through December 31st; and remove DHD4 Request for Appropriations. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Lucas questioned where insurance money from the hydrant and ticket booth went. She questioned why the camping prices during fair week varied and why the caretakers do not promote the fairgrounds like the other parks do with entertainment throughout the summer. There is no positive promotion of the facilities for camping, storage, and parties and she questioned the role of the caretaker. Connie asked about the reasonings for wanting to move the MSU Extension office and move the fairgrounds to the Parks & Recreation Commission as some of the Parks board members were not made aware.

Tricia Udell asked the board why the Alpena County Fair Society long-term lease agreement has not been brought up at a county commissioner meeting and why the board will not consider a lease. She

questioned why moving the fairgrounds to another committee would be brought up before exploring a long-term lease to Alpena County Fair Society. As constituents she stated that they demand answers.

Farrah Wallen shared her support for the Alpena County Fair Board and concerns with the county administration, refusing to negotiate with the Fair Board for a long-term agreement for use of the fairgrounds. They are asking for a long-term lease to plan, fundraise, and keep serving this county the way they have been for over a century.

Brynn Kasubowski is the 2026 4H member of the year and thanked Commissioners Kozlowski, Britton, and Konarzewski for attending the fair and the community member luncheon. The youth appreciated them joining and listening about their projects and why the Alpena County Fair is so important to them. She hopes to see them again next year.

BILLS TO PAY

Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	$142,286.02	$142,286.02

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

ADDITIONAL INVOICES

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented an airport invoice from BJ Hydraulics, Inc. for repairs done to machinery in the amount of $7,510.00 with funding already allocated in the appropriate line item for payment. A second invoice was presented from Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority in the amount of $48,648.75. This is to be paid through reimbursement from the state, and those funds just came in late last week. This will also require an increase to the contractual agreements line item in order to make payment.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve payment of the additional invoices and increase the contractual agreement line item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve payment of BJ Hydraulics Inc. invoice #228149 in the amount of $7,510.00 for the airport and payment of Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority reimbursement request invoice #2072 in the amount of $48,648.75 and to increase Contractual Agreement line item 297-523-820.000 in the amount of $48,649.00 as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes –** September 8, 2026

B) **Grants & Contracts Committee Meeting Minutes** – September 10, 2026

C) **Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes** – September 16, 2026

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval of the 2nd quarter reimbursement request from Alpena Rink Management for Northern Lights Arena in the amount of $7,800.00 as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-2: The Committee recommends approval of the Northern Lights Arena budget adjustment to reduce Egress Stairwell line item 272-763-975.001 in the amount of $7,800.00 and increase Dehumidifier Repair line item 272-763-975.003 in the amount of $7,800.00 to pay the Alpena Rink Management's 2nd quarter reimbursement for Northern Lights Arena as presented.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Peterson 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, Peterson, Fournier, and Britton. NAYS: Commissioner Kozlowski. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

FY2027 CHILD CARE FUND BUDGET

Juvenile Officer Janelle Mott presented the FY2027 Child Care Fund budget for review and approval in the amount of $1,479,520.00. This is a decrease of $20,000 from last year but they are requesting the same allocation.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the FY27 Child Care Fund budget as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the FY2027 Child Care Fund Budget for Alpena County in the amount of $1,479,520.00 for the Juvenile Division and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign any pertaining documentation as presented.

CONTRACTUAL ATTORNEY FEE ADJUSTMENT

Administrator Osmer presented a memo with recommendations for the fee adjustments for the contractual attorneys. These recommendations were put as placeholders in the budget. Those attorneys that currently hold the positions, he believes, are all still interested in being placed appointed again, but reported there is one additional applicant, and they will all go before the Personnel Committee for consideration. The board made no recommendations at this time.

SPENDING FREEZE

Administrator Osmer reported the county usually institutes a spending freeze from October 1st through December 31st to limit the number of invoices and bills that come in past December 31st which cause issues for the Treasurer and auditor. Necessary spending will still be allowed, and any special projects can come to the board to be asked for exclusion from the freeze.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve a spending freeze from October 1st through December 31st as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve a spending freeze from October 1st through December 31st for any unnecessary spending as presented. Special projects, etc. can bypass the spending freeze by coming to board and asking for exclusion.

POLICY ON ELECTED OFFICIAL SPENDING

Administrator Osmer presented a request to create a policy for elected officials so they may spend funds from their accounts that this board has no oversight on other than making sure they are listed on the budget. The Register of Deeds, for example, has an automation fund where only she can spend the money and on very specific things within their office. Currently, she must come before the board to make the adjustment. Administrator Osmer will create a policy that allows elected officials to spend the money within their funds with approval by either the Treasurer, himself, or another elected official to be approved of with the other county policies in December.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve creation of a policy allowing elected officials to spend money within their funds that the board has no justification over as presented. Motion carried.

In that regard Administrator Osmer reported the Register of Deeds has requested an adjustment to the automation fund balance that she oversees in the amount of $12,300.00 for tech equipment and travel.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the transfer of $12,300.00 from the Register of Deeds Automation Fund as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve the budget adjustment to transfer $12,000.00 from Automation line item 256-000-390.000 into Tech and Equipment line item 256-711-977.000 and transfer $300.00 from Automation line item 256-000-390.000 into Travel line item 256-711-860.000 for the Register of Deeds as presented.

COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

Administrator Osmer presented the reports from the Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting that was cancelled on September 21st.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to receive and file the August Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting reports as presented. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Chair Britton provided an update from the Facilities meeting reporting August enplanements were up, but fuel sales were down. The blower is currently at Midwest Diesel with hydraulic issues. There has been a lot of activity at the airport, and the T-Hangar project is in process. The committee received the NLA monthly reports and approved the dehumidifier reimbursement. Discussion was made on the possible relocation of MSU Extension and moving the fairgrounds to Parks and Recreation.

Grants & Contracts Committee Update – The Grants & Contracts Committee had no official business. A public hearing was held for the Home Improvement Office.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – September meeting canceled.

Personnel Committee Update – September meeting canceled.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

Health Board – Everything is coming along, and they are working on the budget. They had an audit that turned out well.

Planning Commission – For September's meeting they will be meeting at the college and looking at the solar panels.

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

NEMCOG – Nothing new to discuss.

Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary – Nothing new to discuss.

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

Thunder Bay Transportation – Meeting is this week.

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

26th Judicial Court Mgt. Council – Meeting will be held October 20th.

Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority – The new cell is about 95% completed.

Target – No update.

Materials Management Planning – Just had the public hearing for the Materials Management Plan before this meeting.

District #5: Commissioner Brenda Fournier has no boards/commissions to report on.

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

Local Emergency Planning Committee – Emergency Manager Sgt. J.P. Ritter attended his first meeting and was introduced to the group. A Lake State Railway tabletop exercise is being planned, and Sgt. Ritter is in the process of reaching out to the outlying townships regarding the generators.

Local Planning Team – They approved three indexes at the meeting and discussed the need to have a Public Information Officer. They briefly discussed the hazard mitigation plan that is expiring in January and are still looking for an emergency shelter location.

Central Dispatch Committee – The committee approved the rest of their policies at the meeting.

District #7: Commissioner Travis Konarzewski, excused.

Community Corrections Advisory Board – No update.

Northern MI Counties Association – No update.

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

Community Corrections Advisory Board – Attended the meeting for Commissioner Konarzewski and had nothing to report as it was the first meeting he had attended.

DARE/TEAMS – No meeting.

NE MI Consortium – Reviewing budgets and they have had a significant cut in funding from the state.

NEMMA – Looking for bids to come back for the RFP by the 9th of October.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Lucas further discussed the fairgrounds moving to the Parks & Recreation Commission and how it would affect 4H having events and fair events. She asked if the commissioners have attended their township meetings and met with the supervisors. Public comment questions that are asked should at some point be answered.

Tricia Udell addressed the negative social media comments and posting by the County Administrator and asked what the policy is on responding to social media.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session for a personnel matter at 6:13 p.m. and opened session at 6:29 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members present except Commissioner Konarzewski is excused.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

kvm