OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – 1:00 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, October 27, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Pastor Joe Collins with Huron Shores Fellowship.

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; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; and John Kozlowski, District #8.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda with the addition of a mid-quarter adjustment and a presentation by MSU Extension. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

New Target Executive Director Andrew Thomson introduced himself to the board and is excited to work with the county, city, and townships for economic development.

BILLS TO PAY

Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	$89,668.79	$89,668.79

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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, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

OCTOBER REVENUE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented a list of October revenue budget adjustments for review and approval. These are unexpected revenues that came in slightly higher than projected.

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

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to approve the October revenue budget adjustments as presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes –** October 13, 2026

B) **Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes** – October 19, 2026

ACTION ITEM #CPS-1: The Committee recommends approval of the EMT reimbursement requests of $1,000 to Sanborn Township, $1,000 to Alpena Township, and $2,000 to Green Township totaling $4,000, for four members who successfully completed the EMT course and obtained EMT licensure with the State of Michigan, consistent with the agreement reached at the August 18, 2025, Courts and Public Safety Committee meeting, as presented. Each amount is to be paid directly to the corresponding township.

ACTION ITEM #CPS-2: The Committee recommends approval for the Alpena City Fire Chief to purchase a 2027 Ford E450 Road Rescue Ultra Medic Type III ambulance from Emergency Vehicles Plus, including the Stryker Power Load system, Power-Pro II cot, and radio installation, at a total cost not to exceed $405,467.10, and to authorize the 10% deposit of $40,546.71 with the order, with the remaining balance payable upon acceptance at delivery, and to proceed with the final work order and drawing review for anticipated delivery in June 2027, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CPS-3: The Committee recommends approval of the Public Defender's Agreement with the Northeast Michigan Regional Public Defender's Office in the amount of $801,712.61 with monthly installments of $66,809.38 per month beginning October 1, 2026, and continuing through September 30, 2027, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CPS-4: The Committee recommends approval of the MAC Administrator's Agreement with Bill Pfeifer in the amount of $21,060 with monthly installments of $1,755 per month beginning October 1, 2026, and continuing through September 30, 2027, as presented.

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C) **Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes** – October 21, 2026

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval for the Fair Board to utilize the fairgrounds with no fees for their November Christmas Fundraiser Event with funding raised to be set aside for ground improvements as presented.

INFORMATIONAL

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2026

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2026

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

THUNDER BAY TRANSPORATION PRESENTATION

Thunder Bay Transportation Director Angie Fox and Mobility Manager Brandi Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation on Thunder Bay Transportation. They serve Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Presque counites. Their mission is to provide safe, quality, dependable and affordable public transportation services and support riders of all ages and abilities with 32 vehicles. Last month 9,009 people were served. They are now offering a Ride to Wellness program for Alpena County residents that is one on one for those that do not want to ride with other riders.

2027 OLDER PERSONS GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Older Persons Committee Chairman Craig Zelazny presented the committee's recommendations for the 2027 Older Persons grant allocations. They received 13 applications and were able to fully fund the Meals on Wheels program and general funding for the Senior Center. Other organizations the committee recommended receiving funding were the APlex, Plaza Pool, Habitat for Humanity, and Thunder Bay Transportation.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the 2027 Older Persons grant allocations as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the Older Persons Committee recommendations of the 2027 Older Persons grant allocations and authorize the County Administrator and County Clerk to sign all pertaining documents as presented.

2027 YOUTH AND RECREATION GRANT ALLOCATIONS

Youth and Recreation Chairman Tony Suszek presented the committee's recommendations for the 2027 Youth and Recreation grant allocations. Applications must be in by May1st and throughout the

summer every group will come in and give a presentation. This year applications were down with 26 requests totaling $691,780. Some of the grant recommendations that help the county are the Plaza Pool grant in the amount of $100,000; Sunken Lake Park merry go round in the amount of $10,000; and support of MSU Extension in the amount of $80,871. Within the last couple of years, a contingency fund was added for mini grants throughout the year. Chairman Kozlowski is concerned with how the contingency fund has grown from $30,000 to $75,000 and doesn't want to take away from the original intent of the Youth and Rec program and those that submit their applications once a year.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the 2027 Youth and Recreation grant allocations as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the Youth and Recreation Committee recommendations of the 2027 Youth and Recreation grant allocations and authorize the County Administrator and County Clerk to sign all pertaining documents as presented.

MSU EXTENSION PRESENTATION

MSU Extension District 14 Director Adam Koivisto presented the MSU Extension annual report. MSU Extension had 151 programs accessed by residents with 371,500 people reached by social media. 4-H Program Coordinator Michelle Eagling stated the connection between 4-H and MSU Extension is that MSU brings the university resources to the community and 4-H puts those resources into action by empowering youth to learn, lead, and make a difference. Director Koivisto highlighted local summer research where over 10 different area farms did on farm trials in a number of different areas.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT - HUNT

Chairman Kozlowski presented a budget adjustment request memo on behalf of HUNT for review and approval.

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

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve an increase to budget line item 266-335-802.009 in the amount of $548 in order to process the resolution of a contested adjudicated forfeiture case as presented.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – DISTRICT COURT

Chairman Kozlowski presented a payroll budget adjustment request memo from District Court for review and approval.

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

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve a decrease to budget expenditure line item 101-286-702.001 Deputy II in the amount of $8,000 and an increase to budget expenditure line item 101-286-708.000 Overtime in the amount of $8,000 and any other actions necessary by the Treasurer to complete this adjustment as presented.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – GROUNDS AND MAINTENANCE

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented an invoice and budget adjustment request for repairs to the hot water pipes at the DHS building for approval.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve the Grounds & Maintenance budget adjustment request as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve an increase to budget expenditure line item 245-265-932.000 Building and Grounds Maintenance in the amount of $2,100 to pay an invoice from Control Solutions in the amount of $2,041.01 for repairs to the hot water pipes at the DHS building and any other actions necessary by the Treasurer to complete this adjustment as presented.

MI LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPIOID SETTLEMENT MATCHING INITIATIVE

Administrator Osmer presented a request on behalf of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee Chair Jennifer Graham to submit a Letter(s) of Intent to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the Michigan Local Government Opioid Settlement Matching Initiative. These are matching funds, and the amount would be on a to be determined basis depending on what the project is. This board's approval will allow the committee to submit LOIs which are considered each month. The matching dollars would come from the Opioid Remediation Fund and would not touch the General Fund at all. Chairman Kozlowski reported he shared this information with an individual from NEMCOG as this grant funding could help their programs as well.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve submitting a letter of intent for the Michigan Local Government Opioid Settlement Matching Initiative as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee submit a Letter of Intent to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for the Michigan Local Government Opioid Settlement Matching Initiative totaling $337,000 to $532,136.96 with a county match of $168,500 to $266,068.48 utilizing funds from the Opioid Fund balance as presented.

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FY2027 FIRST READING OF BUDGET

Administrator Osmer reported the first reading of the 2027 budget is posted in BS&A and available for review. He noted they are awaiting accurate figures for the 26th Circuit Court, hospitalization costs, Health Savings Account (HSA) contributions, and public liability insurance. Once the updated figures are received, he can ensure the budget reflects the most accurate and current information. The board can expect a completed budget prior to the second reading. At the second reading there will be discussion on any edits or changes, and the board will vote to put out for public review. Once out for public review, it must be out for a certain number of days and will then move to the third reading which will take place at the end of November or no later than December 8th.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Chair Britton provided an update from the Facilities meeting.

Grants & Contracts Committee Update – The Grants & Contracts Committee for October was cancelled.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Chair Bray provided an update from the Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting.

Personnel Committee Update – Chair Fournier had no updates to report.

RESOLUTION #26-21 FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH

Chair Kozlowski received an email from Geraldine Morris from Protective Parents Michigan asking the board to approve this resolution as they had done last year for Family Court Awareness Month.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION #26-21
FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month is to highlight the need to prioritize child safety in family court, as 1 in 3 families in Michigan are exposed to domestic abuse;

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;

WHEREAS, the mission of Family Court Awareness Month 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

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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 Board of County Commissioners of Alpena County, hereby declare the Month of NOVEMBER 2026 to be FAMILY COURT AWARENESS MONTH.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve and adopt Resolution #26-21 Family Court Awareness Month for November 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #26-22 DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Administrator Osmer presented Resolution #26-22 Urging Transparency and a Comprehensive Regulatory Framework for Data Center Development. Individuals approached the county earlier this year asking about the county's stance on data centers. After speaking with the board, most members are opposed. Administrator Osmer reached out the Michigan Association of Counites to find out what stance a county can take when it comes to data centers and the answer was not very much. The county can encourage local units of government to take a stance, but the county itself cannot put much into place as far as ordinances and such. The following resolution encourages local units to adopt a moratorium on the planning, construction, permitting, or expansion of any data center and take time to develop a framework or guidelines as to what it would look like if a data center were to come into the area.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION #26-22
URGING TRANSPARENCY AND A COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, data centers are specialized facilities that house computing and networking systems used to store, process, and manage large volumes of data; and

WHEREAS, the demand for data centers has increased rapidly due to the growth of cloud computing and artificial intelligence, resulting in growing concern nationwide and within the State of Michigan regarding their environmental, infrastructure, and community impacts; and

WHEREAS, Alpena County is committed to local control, fiscal stewardship, and the protection of community resources, including water, energy infrastructure, and land use compatibility; and

WHEREAS, large-scale data centers typically require significant electrical and water resources, which may strain local utility systems, impact utility rates for residents, and create noise, heat, and other environmental or quality-of-life concerns for surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to ensure that any proposed data center development aligns with Alpena County's long-term land use goals, infrastructure capacity, and the interests of residents and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, responsible regulation of data centers should include consideration of appropriate zoning districts, compatibility with surrounding land uses, setbacks from residential or sensitive areas, noise mitigation, screening of mechanical equipment, disclosure of anticipated energy and water usage, workforce impacts, and meaningful community engagement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Alpena County residents that any data center development occur within a clear and comprehensive regulatory framework that protects public resources, ensures transparency, and prevents unintended financial or environmental consequences.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the County of Alpena encourages all local governmental units to adopt a moratorium on the planning, construction, permitting, or expansion of any data center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners urges all relevant local governmental units, planning authorities, and electric utility providers serving Alpena County to develop and implement a comprehensive regulatory framework governing proposed data centers development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners encourages transparency and public disclosure regarding any proposed data center project, including but not limited to the following information being made available to local officials and the public:

- The source of electrical power for the facility and its consistency with state and local clean energy goals;
- The anticipated water usage of the facility, including daily, monthly, and annual demand, and plans to mitigate impacts on water quality and availability;
- How electric utilities intend to meet the increased load demands without shifting costs to existing ratepayers or creating stranded infrastructure;
- What contractual protections, minimum usage requirements, or exit provisions will be in place to ensure local residents are not financially burdened if a project is reduced or abandoned; and
- What measures will be implemented to ensure environmental compliance, equitable cost allocation, and meaningful community benefit.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Alpena County Planning Commission, all municipalities within Alpena County, relevant state and federal legislative offices, and electric utility providers serving Alpena County.

ADOPTED THIS 27TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve and adopt Resolution #26-22 Urging Transparency and a Comprehensive Regulatory Framework for Data Center Development as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacie Avent thanked Commissioner Kozlowski for providing her with a copy of the revenue and expenditure report for the Alpena County Fairgrounds. After reviewing the report, she had several concerns

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and asked the board to please look into her questions. One of her main concerns is the county garage and where it was housed prior to the fairgrounds. She stated the fairgrounds seem to be responsible for more things than just the fairgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

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John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

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Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

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