

FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 14, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

Commissioners Present: John Kozlowski, Board Chairman
Bill Peterson, Finance Chair
William LaHaie
Dan Ludlow
Lucille Bray
Brenda Fournier
Todd Britton
Travis Konarzewski

Others Present: Keri Bertrand, County Clerk
Jesse Osmer, County Administrator
Cindy Cebula, County Treasurer
Sheriff Erik Smith

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bill Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken: All committee members present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADOPT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda with the addition of an update from Emergency Manager Nic Modrzynski on the flooding issue. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

EMERGENCY MANAGER FLOOD UPDATE

Emergency Manager Nick Modrzynski provided an update on the area flooding issue. All four of the dams are in working order with five gates open at the 9th Street dam. DPW has given out 1,150 sandbags and will continue to do so today. Red Cross is on standby with over 70 volunteers that are ready to assist the Alpena area. Residents were evacuated yesterday with help from the township, city, and county. Many streets have been blocked off, and water levels are expected to get a little higher. The Friendship Room at St. Bernards and Charter Township of Alpena are providing people a place to go if needed.

BILLS TO PAY

INFORMATION ITEM: Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to pay for approval.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to pull the KnowBe4 invoice in the amount of \$11,206.00 pending further information on the benefit of the program and discount through the insurance. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

SUBMITTED:

APPROVED:

General Funds & Other Funds

\$172,607.84

\$161,401.84

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

COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS

Treasurer Cindy Cebula presented the monthly financial reports for March 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve receiving and filing the monthly Treasurer’s reports for March 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

COUNTY TREASURER TRANSFER REQUEST

Treasurer Cebula presented a request to transfer funds from the PFC Reserves Account to the Airport Fund Balance in the amount of \$77,031.70. There were some issues the auditors were working on and the transfer needs to be done to get those corrected.

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

ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval to transfer \$77,031.70 from the PFC Reserves Account to the Airport Fund Balance as presented. This transfer is requested by the APN PFC Assessment completed by RS&H to review and correct 2018-2024 Fiscal Years.

ALPENA COUNTY LAND BANK PROCUREMENT & PURCHASING POLICY

Treasurer Cebula presented a memo on behalf of the Alpena County Land Bank Authority asking the board to waive the Procurement and Purchasing Policy for the purpose of executing duties for the Land Bank. A parcel previously considered for demolition due to blight is still going through court proceedings and will not be finalized in time to use the allocated grant funding. They have found a different parcel to utilize the funding, but the project has a very strict timeline for grant coverage, and they need to proceed with securing a vendor.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve waiving the Procurement & Purchasing Policy for the Alpena County Land Bank as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval to waive the Procurement & Purchasing Policy for the Alpena County Land Bank and authorize the County Treasurer and Alpena County Land Bank to proceed with securing a vendor, at a reasonable price, with the sign off by the Board Chairman or County Administrator as presented.

2026 EQUALIZATION REPORT

Equalization Director Ted Somers presented the 2026 Equalization Report for review and approval. Alpena County had an increase of 9.2% in equalized value and a 5.14% increase in taxable value.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the 2026 Equalization Report as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: The Committee recommends approval of the 2026 Equalization Report as presented.

TELECOMMUNICATOR WEEK RESOLUTION

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie presented Resolution #26-07 for Public Safety Telecommunicator Week in Alpena County.

RESOLUTION #26-07

A Resolution Proclaiming April 12-18, 2026, as

Public Safety Telecommunicator Week In Alpena County.

Whereas, in 1967, President Johnson's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice recommended a nationally uniform three-digit emergency telephone number and in November of that year, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) met with the American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T); shortly thereafter, it was announced that the numbers 9-1-1 were reserved for emergency use nationwide.

Whereas, on February 16, 1968, Alabama Speaker of the House, Mr. Rankin Fite, made the nation's first 9-1-1 call from the Haleyville City Hall with the first 9-1-1 call in Michigan made in Detroit on October 31, 1973;

Whereas, in 1992 a local concerted effort began with the goal of a 9-1-1 system in Alpena County which, after much work and turmoil, became a reality when the first 9-1-1 call was made in Alpena County on April 1, 1994;

Whereas, Alpena County Central Dispatch Telecommunicators continue to answer those calls, serving as the first First Responders to our citizens and visitors; and

Whereas, the safety of the police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical service personnel rely on the quality and precision of information obtained from citizens who use the 9-1-1 system; and

Whereas, Alpena County Central Dispatch Telecommunicators provide a vital link for our police officers, firefighters and emergency medical service personnel by monitoring their status via radio, providing them with information and ensuring their safety; and

Whereas, all Alpena County Central Dispatch 9-1-1 Telecommunicators have assisted with saving many lives and demonstrate professional empathy during the performance of their job duties, and

Whereas, many unfortunate events in our national, state and local history have clearly demonstrated the essential role Public Safety Telecommunicators play in the emergency services arena, and

Whereas, on October 9th, 1991, the United States Congress took official legislative action designating the second week in April of each year as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim the week of April 12-18, 2026 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Alpena County, honoring the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our county and citizens safe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners urges county residents to join with them in honoring and commending the Public Safety Telecommunicators of Alpena County who answer and dispatch our 9-1-1 calls for police, fire, and emergency medical assistance.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Bray to adopt Resolution #26-07 Telecommunicators' Week as presented. Motion carried.

JAIL WHISPER ROOMS

Sheriff Erik Smith presented a memo requesting approval to purchase two whisper rooms for the jail at approximately \$8,000.00 each contingent on MIDC funding \$8,000.00 of the purchase through a MIDC grant. The other \$8,000.00 will be covered by the inmate commissary fund.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to approve the purchase of two whisper rooms for the jail as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: The Committee recommends approval for the Sheriff's Office to purchase two (2) whisper rooms, contingent on MIDC funding \$8,000.00 of the purchase as presented.

APN T-HANGARS BID

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented RS&H's recommendation to award the construction of the two ten-unit t-hangars to MacArthur Construction in the amount of \$2,227,847.00.

Commissioner Britton requested to be abstained from voting.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve Commissioner Britton be abstained from voting. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve awarding the two ten unit t-hangar project to MacArthur Construction as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, abstained. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: The Committee approves RS&H's recommendation that MacArthur Construction be awarded the contract for the Alpena County Regional Airport's "Construct Two Ten Unite T-Hangars" project in the bid amount of \$2,227,847.00, subject to legal review, as presented.

TRAVEL POLICY

Administrator Osmer presented a Travel Policy for review and approval. There were some recent issues with notification ahead of time when employees had been planning to travel for conferences.

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

ACTION ITEM #9: The Committee recommends approval of the Alpena County Travel Policy as presented.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB PROPERTY UPDATE

Administrator Osmer reported the process has started with the bank to finalize the sale of the old Boys & Girls Club. The property sold for the asking price of \$250,000.00 and the county will receive \$62,500.00 per the agreement that proceeds were split with 25% going to the county and 75% to the Boys & Girls Club.

RISE & REPORT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to rise and report. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Chairman John Kozlowski presented the consent calendar for approval:

- A) **Approval of the Official Proceedings of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners Regular Session – March 24, 2026 (*Minutes only)**
- B) **Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2026**

ACTION ITEM #PC-1: The Committee recommends approval for Kim MacArthur to act as temporary Program Assistant for the Home Improvement and Public Conservator Offices during the maternity leave period for the current Program Assistant for a stipend of \$6,000.00 paid bi-weekly in the amount of \$1,000.00 beginning June 1, 2026, for a 12-week period as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-2: The Committee recommends approval to make the Animal Control Shelter Manager position full-time as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-3: The Committee recommends approval to hire a non-certified Animal Control Enforcement Officer at a rate of \$22.00 per hour as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-4: The Committee recommends approval of the AI Policy as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-5: The Committee recommends approval for the County Administrator to proceed with Charter Township of Alpena on a draft contract for grounds and maintenance services and bring back to the board for review and approval as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-6: The Committee recommends approval to appoint Donna Hardies to the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee for a term effective immediately and ending December 31, 2026, as presented.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Administrator Osmer presented the fully executed agreement with Horvath Communications for the cellphone tower at the jail. The area has been flagged and painted, and they should be starting the project in the next couple of weeks. Once that happens, Horvath will have 20 days to release the payment of \$200,000.00 to the county with an additional \$500 for the access fee. The invoices from the attorney for the county have been submitted to them for reimbursement as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 10:11 a.m. to discuss a Fairgrounds Proposal and opened session at 10:30 a.m. All members present.

Administrator Osmer reported a proposal has been brought to the county to consider leasing a portion of the fairgrounds to an events and production company for a period not to exceed 30 years and not less than 10 years. His recommendation is to take this matter up at a Special Meeting on Friday, April 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve a Special Meeting on Friday, April 17th at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the fairgrounds proposal as presented. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm