

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Full Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 12, 2024 – 11:30 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

CALL TO ORDER

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met and was called to order by Chairman John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Monday, August 12, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman John 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; Bill Peterson, District #4; Brenda Fournier, District #5; Burt Francisco, District #6; and John Kozlowski, District #8. Commissioners Robin Lalonde, District #3 and Travis Konarzewski, District #7, excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Kramer of Alpena wanted to address an opportunity for leadership at the County. The financial problem we face is the tip of the iceberg with the destruction of the dollar. It's better that the County gets ahead now and shows leadership.

RESOLUTION 24-21

County Administrator Osmer reported that on Tuesday, August 6th voters voted down the New Separate Tax Limitation proposal. The two biggest hurdles were how the language was written and that there was no cap. Isabella County posted a similar proposal with clearer language and a four-year cap. If the Board chooses to place a Tax Limitation Committee, the County will put forth a simpler version with a cap. The deadline to submit the language to the County Clerk to have placement on November's ballot

is Tuesday, August 13th at 4:00 p.m. Attorney Tim Perrone has reviewed the language. County Administrator Jesse Osmer read Resolution 24-21 aloud:

2024
RESOLUTION 24-21
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION TO ALTER THE FIXED SEPARATE TAX LIMITATION
AND TO CREATE A COUNTY ADVISORY TAX LIMITATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Property Tax Limitation Act, being Public Act 62 of 1933 (MCL 211.201 *et seq*), (“Public Act 62”) allows for separate tax limitations, and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County voters approved such a separate limitation in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the 3 separate millage limitations have been substantially reduced by State rollback provisions from the levels approved by Alpena County voters on August 3rd, 1976; and

WHEREAS, Board of Commissioners has the authority to initiate a review and vote of the electorate as to the appropriateness of altering the current fixed millage limitations pursuant to Section 5k of Public Act 62 (being MCL 211.205k); and

WHEREAS, that upon resolving to alter the fixed millage limitation, the Board of Commissioners is to then notify persons and bodies having appointive powers under Public Act 62 of the resolution so that a “county advisory tax limitation committee” can be created to review and provide a recommendation as to the County fixed millage limitation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners resolves to initiate the statutory procedure to consider altering the existing Alpena County fixed mill separate tax limitations of the county and the townships and the intermediate school district in the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Alpena County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee shall be created composed of the following:

- a. The County Treasurer.
- b. The Chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee of the County Board of Commissioners.
- c. The Intermediate School District Superintendent or his representative.
- d. A resident of a municipality within the county having more than a population of 10,000, who shall be selected by the probate judge of the county.
- e. A member not officially connected with or employed by any local or county unit, who shall be selected by the Board of County Commissioners.
- f. A member who shall be a township supervisor and who shall be selected by a majority of the township supervisors in the county.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as required by statute, the County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee shall meet within 10 days of its selection and shall prepare separate tax limitations for the county and the townships and the intermediate school district in the county, aggregating not more than 7.02 mills that the majority of the committee considers will provide for the financial needs of the county, townships, and the intermediate school district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the separate tax limitations shall be promptly transmitted to the County Board of Commissioners and the functions of the County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee shall then cease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners will then propose a resolution submitting the question of adopting the separate tax limitations prepared by the County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee to a vote of the registered and qualified electors of Alpena County.

YEAS: _____
NAYS: _____
ABSENT: _____

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on _____, notice of which was given pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

(State of Michigan
Alpena County)

Keri Bertrand, Clerk
Alpena County

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt Resolution 24-21 to create a County Advisory Tax Limitation Committee to review and provide a recommendation to the County fixed millage limitation. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Lalonde and Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Administrator Osmer presented ballot language with the addition of a four-year cap. Chairman Kozlowski read the ballot language aloud:

Approval of Fixed Operational Millage

Shall separate tax limitations be established for a four-year time period, or until altered by the voters of Alpena County, for the County of Alpena, Townships and Intermediate School District within the County, the aggregate of which shall not exceed 7.02 mills as follows:

County of Alpena	5.4800 mills
Townships	1.2900 mills
Intermediate School District	0.2500 mills
Total	7.02 mills

Yes
No

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the ballot language as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Lalonde and Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT TO ADVISORY TAX LIMITATION COMMITTEE

Chair Kozlowski reported that he would like to nominate Kevin Ginter for the Tax Advisory Committee.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to appoint Kevin Ginter as a member of the Tax Advisory Committee as presented. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER BRENDA FOURNIER

Commissioner Fournier informed the public that the Board is not sugar coating anything. The County's biggest budget is salaries and the expenses from former Commissioners. If the millage does not pass, they will have to make deep cuts and that means laying off. Commissioner Fournier reported the Commissioners are not making a lot of money as some think they do. In the 8 years since she has been a commissioner, she received \$30 per meeting and today still receives \$30 per meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm