

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 22, 2023 – 1:00 p.m.  
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met and was called to order by Chairman Bill Peterson in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Bill Peterson 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; Jesse Osmer, District #2; Robin Lalonde, District #3; Brenda Fournier, District #5; Burt Francisco, District #6; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; Commissioner John Kozlowski, District #8; and Bill Peterson, District #4.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ben Young of Alpena expressed his support and the support of other community members for the DDA Expansion.

Dustin Budd of Alpena expressed his support for the DDA Expansion.

Brian Peterson of Alpena expressed his support for the DDA Expansion.

Melissa Tolan of Alpena expressed her support for the DDA Expansion.

Andrew Kowalski of Alpena expressed his support for the DDA Expansion.

Brian Winter of Alpena expressed his support for the DDA Expansion.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

- A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2023 (\*Minutes only)**
- B) **Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2023**

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval of Home Improvement Project #EM 22-15 with an estimated cost of \$23,425 to replace bricks on the home with vinyl siding and replace porch with a new wooden landing. Funding to come from both Program Income and HPG Funds. Approval is also recommended of MI-HOPE Funding #10003528 with an estimated cost of \$12,850 for insulation and windows with funding expended by MSHDA as presented. The homeowner meets all eligibility requirements to receive assistance.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-2: The Committee recommends approval of the Omega Electric estimate in the amount of \$920 for each meter to be installed at the fairgrounds to monitor power usage at the following buildings: Fair Board Office; Animal Control Building; and MSU Extension Building. Budgeted monies to come from Building & Ground Maintenance Fairgrounds-Electrical Upgrades line item 631-265-975.059 as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-3: The Committee recommends approval of the lowest estimate up to \$2,465.57 for repairs to the 2012 Ford F-250 currently driven by the Fairground's Manager and to approve ordering a replacement vehicle for the County Use vehicle through Enterprise as presented. **(Not approved on consent calendar)**

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-4: The Committee recommends approval to adopt the "Lake Huron Forever" Pledge Resolution as presented. (attachment #1)

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the Consent Calendar which includes actions as listed above and filing of all reports. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### **FCSPC-3: FAIRGROUNDS TRUCK REPAIR REQUEST & ENTERPRISE COUNTY USE VEHICLE REQUEST**

Commissioners Konarzewski and Kozlowski requested Action Item #FCSPC-3 be pulled from the Consent Calendar and split into two items for further discussion. Discussion and recommendation to approve the lowest estimate up to \$2,465.57 for repairs to the 2012 Ford F-250 currently driven by the Fairgrounds Manager as presented. Maintenance Superintendent Wes Wilder will be getting a second quote for the repair. Motion was made by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve the updated action item below. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM # FCSPC-3: Recommendation to approve the lowest estimate up to \$2,465.57 for repairs to the 2012 Ford F-250 currently driven by the Fairgrounds Manager as presented.**

Discussion was made on the second part of action item FCSPC-3 in regard to ordering a replacement County Use vehicle from Enterprise. Commissioner Kozlowski expressed his concerns on the cost of a leased vehicle for the amount the vehicle is used. The current vehicle being used is a retired vehicle from the Sheriff's Office and will need brake work done. Administrator Hannah updated the Board on how the Enterprise leasing program works and offered to have Enterprise come in and do a presentation to review the program for the Board and answer any questions they may have. Motion was made by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Osmer to recommend the updated action item below. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-5: Recommendation to approve repair of the brakes on the currently used County Use Tahoe and to hold off on a new lease for a County Use vehicle as presented.**

### **LONG RAPIDS FIRE DEPARTMENT CITATIONS**

Fire Chief Rob Edmonds of the Alpena City Fire Department presented citations to the Long Rapids Fire Department candidates: Chief Darin Himes; Firefighter Ethan Himes; Firefighter and Medical First Responder Jerrod Villarreal; and Firefighter EMT Adam Lumsden. On June 9, 2023 the Long Rapids Fire Department and Alpena City Fire Department EMS units were dispatched for a single vehicle accident on Thorne Road with possible people trapped and the vehicle on fire. Chief Edmonds believes that without the quick response by the individuals of the Long Rapids Fire Department crew and their quick thinking to mitigate the circumstances they were faced with, the outcome for the accident victim would not have been favorable. Chief Edmonds and Chair Peterson presented each with a lifesaving citation for their efforts that day which saved a life.

### **NEMCSA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Frances Omani with NEMCSA presented the 2022 annual report to the Board. Frances reported they are a trusted agency that has been around for 55 years. They provide a wide variety of programs and services for individuals and families to become self-sufficient. Frances took a moment to recognize Dave Karschnick who was a very active member on their Board and expressed her appreciation for what he did on the Board as a County Commissioner and welcomed Commissioner Lalonde as their new member.

NEMCSA has four core counties, and their headquarters are located here in Alpena. Frances reported their largest division is the Early Childhood Services Division. They provide services from an early age to seniors. Frances presented highlights specifically for Alpena County.

Laurie Sauer with NEMCSA presented information on the Area Agency on Aging. The older population is growing quickly and the need for senior services and adults with disabilities is growing and they help meet that need with the support of local, state, and federal government funds. They work in collaboration with Alpena Senior Center and provide a portion of their funding for services.

Commissioner Francisco inquired about Public Guardianship. Laurie reported that they have not done guardianship oversight directly but as far as collaborating on a project it is certainly a possibility.

### **BILLS TO PAY**

Chief Deputy Clerk Kim Schultz presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$ 59,620.04	\$ 59,620.04

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

### **DDA BOUNDARY EXPANSION AGREEMENT**

Alpena Downtown Development Authority Director Anne Gentry presented the Board with two options for a DDA Boundary Expansion Agreement. Option A is a 30 year agreement with payment amounts to increase in 5 year increments with an added option for reduced annual payments if key milestones are not reached and a period of review in year 10 and another period of review at year 20. Option B is a 25 year agreement with the same total contribution (\$375,000) with a period of review in year 15 to reduce the annual payment amount if the taxable value of the district has not increased as forecasted.

Economic Developer Mike Mahler stated the funds that County would potentially be committing will go right back into the area in the form of subsidies, improvements, programming, and promotion of the expanded district.

Discussion was made regarding paying a one lump sum to the DDA out of ARPA funding. Administrator Hannah would like to check with legal counsel or look at as part of the budgeting process to do a lump sum payment rather than a year-by-year payment.

Motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve action item below. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Francisco, Konarzewski, LaHaie, and Peterson. NAYS: Commissioners Kozlowski, Osmer, Lalonde, and Fournier. Motion failed.

**ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve DDA Boundary Expansion Agreement Option A which includes a 30 year commitment with a period of review in year 10 and in year 20 as presented.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Osmer and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to approve the County Administrator to look into the legality of paying the DDA a one lump sum out of ARPA funding and bring back to the Board at the next Finance, Ways, & Means Committee meeting as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Konarzewski, Kozlowski, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, and Peterson. NAYS: Commissioner LaHaie. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve the County Administrator to inquire with legal counsel on the option to pay the DDA Boundary Expansion Agreement of \$375,000 in a one lump sum from ARPA funding and report back to the Board as presented.**

### **REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES**

**Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update** – Administrator Hannah reported Sheriff Erik Smith had contacted Emergency Services and they are willing to purchase our decommissioned ambulance for about \$1,500. Enterprise could not give an estimate. Chair Konarzewski reported a company he was in contact with from Minnesota is willing to pay \$13,000 as

is and if an inspection is done by the Ford dealership at a cost of \$140, they are willing to pay \$15,000 if they are happy with the inspection results. Chair Konarzewski is waiting to hear from two other contacts and in the event they are willing to give the County more for the ambulance he will bring the information back to the Board. Motion was made by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to recommend the action item below. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation to approve a vehicle inspection from Dean Arbor Ford on the decommissioned ambulance returned from the City in the amount of \$140 as presented.**

**Courts & Public Safety Committee Update** – Chair Kozlowski reported there was a significant increase in the MIDC grant due to an increase in additional employees as part of the program through MIDC but our County match does not change. Discussion was also made to approve the Public Defender Agreement and the MAC Administrator Agreement. The MAC Administrator agreement went up \$200 a month for his services as a result of MIDC increasing the hourly rate from \$100 an hour to \$120 an hour.

**Personnel Committee Update** – Chair Osmer reported the County Administrator’s evaluation was finalized and will go out to the members at the next Personnel meeting to be completed and returned. A Department Head evaluation form was created for the Administrator that would be for internal use only.

**Economic Development Committee Update** – Administrator Hannah thanked the Board for their contribution to the Housing Needs Assessment and reported that the assessment came back showing Alpena County has a desperate need for housing in the region. Housing at every level is needed. The study was very important to complete because funders and developers will need the information as they look to putting together packages for potential new housing. The demand study is the underlying support that they need to put together their financing packet. It is also part of the regional housing assessment as part of the statewide housing plan. Target Alpena was selected as the leader of our region.

### **SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ORDINANCE #2023-01**

Administrator Hannah presented the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Ordinance for approval. (attachment #2) The Board passed the draft ordinance for soil erosion, but it needed to go to EGLE for review. They had a fair number of comments, and an updated draft was presented to the Board for review. All the information from Part 91 was put into our local ordinance. The recommendation was made to remove that language and just refer to the statute. If the statute ever changed the ordinance would need to be amended to make the language come into compliance. EGLE has approved the updated draft ordinance. The only real difference as far a local rule was the requirement about sending in plans. This is not part of the article 91 provisions, but we are allowed to enact and our current Soil Erosion provider feels strongly that this is something they have done in the past and he would like to see continue.

Motion was made by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve the action item below. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to approve the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance #2023-1 as presented.**

## **BOARD POLL – APN AIP/FAA Grant Application for Runway Project Cost**

Administrator Hannah reported the grant application has been submitted and the funds are now available. This will cover the overages on the FAA project.

**POLL ACTION ITEM #1:** To approve the application for federal assistance for the AIP (Airport Improvement Program) funds for the rehabilitation of RWY 1-19 in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 with a potential county match of \$50,000 and to authorize the County Administrator and/or the Board Chair to complete and execute all necessary documents to complete the funding process. The additional funds are required due to the additional costs of the project (repair/replacement of the bond breaker layer and the full depth replacement at the intersection of the runways).

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve the Board Poll Action Item as presented. Motion carried.

## **BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

### 1. Maintenance Vehicle Lease Budget Request

**ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends approval to decrease the 402 Equipment Replacement Fund by \$24,250 and to increase the 2023 budgeted line item #101-265-948 Maintenance Vehicle Lease by \$24,250 as presented.**

Motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the budget adjustment request above as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

### 2. Fairgrounds Vehicle Budget Request (attachment #3)

**ACTION ITEM #2: The Committee recommends approval to decrease the 402 Equipment Replacement Fund by \$2,500 and to create a line item #101-268-934.000 by \$2,500 to cover the maintenance costs for the Fairgrounds Vehicle as presented.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the budget adjustment request above as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

## **OTHER BOARDS**

**Health Department** – Commissioner Fournier reported the DHD4 found a different facility to work out of in Atlanta. The people that own the building that burned have 60 days to get it fixed before they can move back into the facility. There is a new respiratory vaccine for people ages 60 and up and also another dose for younger children. The Health Department is giving away lock boxes to anyone that needs one. They also have a new wrap for their truck to advertise “Lock it Up”.

**Fairboard** – Commissioner Konarzewski reported there were a few complaints from the Fairboard about communication issues and cleaning supplies but overall the fair was a success. He has heard many comments on how nice the fairgrounds look.

**MOA Landfill Authority** – Commissioner Peterson gave an update reporting by September or early October they will be pumping into the injection well. The \$125,000 stipend is not yet known if they will be receiving but will hopefully know by budget time.

**NMCA** – Commissioner Konarzewski presented a handout about the opioid planning settlement and what other counties are doing. There was also discussion on Health Department septic tank inspections. The concerning areas are near area bodies of water.

**NMMA** – Commissioner Francisco reported the company RSS gave a layout of the new recycling facility and future options for expansion to increase capacity and make it more efficient. Recycling bins need to be emptied more frequently and a lot of trash is being left. Discussion was made to put signs up and install cameras. They have an employee policy handbook in place that being revised and should be done within the next couple of months.

**NEMCOG** – Commissioner Francisco was not able to attend the last meeting. A planning and zoning project is ongoing for Wilson Township. The Alpena Township Master Plan is being worked on and in Sanborn Township they are working on a brownfield development grant. NEMCOG is also working with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on a joint land use study between Camp Grayling, CRTC and the local communities.

**Parks** – Commissioner LaHaie gave an update reporting the Parks are doing well this summer and are ahead of last year. The petting zoo at Long Lake Park was removed due to a zoning violation and he gave the Board a financial update.

**Road Commission** – The Road Commission has a lot of maintenance projects they have been working on such as gravel, signs, mowing on the roadsides, road maintenance etc. Projects are all going well. Commissioner Francisco inquired if any further discussion was made on the extension of Third Ave to Tamarack Road because of the Thunder Bay Junior High traffic. Commissioner LaHaie reported there is a meeting in a few days, and he will bring up the topic.

Administrator Hannah reported there was discussion on doing a County wide transportation study. It would be a \$200,000 study and two grants were written each for \$100,000 that would cover the cost but MDOT turned NEMCOG down on the planning grant. There is still the other grant through Safe Routes to School. If that grant is received NEMCOG would most likely come back to the constituent jurisdiction for a contribution.

**Solid Waste Management** – Commissioner Peterson reported discussion was made with Oscoda and Montmorency Counties and they would like to join.

**Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary** – Commissioner Osmer reported he was not able to attend the last meeting and is waiting for the minutes to review.

**Thunder Bay Transportation** – Commissioner Konarzewski reported he was not able to attend the last meeting and the next meeting is scheduled for next Thursday.

## APPOINTMENTS TO ALPENA COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY

Chair Peterson reported the following five people were chosen to be appointed to the Alpena County Land Bank Authority: Alpena County Board Chairman Bill Peterson; City Mayor Matt Waligora; Todd Britton; Russ Rhynard; and County Treasurer Kim Ludlow. The Authority will be setting bylaws and Administrator Hannah will be coordinating with Treasurer Ludlow to set up meeting dates. Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve Chairman Peterson's five appointment recommendations to the Alpena County Land Bank Authority as presented. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Ginter of Alpena supported the Health Department Lock Box program and brought up the numerous pharmacies that have the Yellow Jug program to dispose medication. Kevin also expressed his support for the DDA expansion.

## ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Bill LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Osmer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.



Bill Peterson, Chairman of the Board



Kimberly Schultz, Chief Deputy Clerk

kvm