

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 27, 2024 – 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 John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Father Tyler Bischoff of All Saints Parish of Alpena.

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

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Special Full Board Meeting Minutes** – August 12, 2024

- B) **Advisory Tax Limitation Committee Meeting Minutes** – August 12, 2024
- C) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – August 13, 2024
- D) **Airport Adhoc Committee Meeting Minutes** – August 15, 2024

ACTION ITEM #AAC-1: The Committee recommends approval of RS&H’s Statement of Qualifications for Professional Planning Services at the Alpena County Regional Airport as presented.

- E) **Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes** – August 21, 2024

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval for the Friends of the Alpena Animal Control to construct a lean-to on the front of the Animal Control Shelter at no cost to the county (unless a new permit is required) to prevent water from pooling in front of the building and seeping through the front doors as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-2: The Committee recommends approval to begin the minor repairs and maintenance to the District Health Department building. A Request for Quotes will be developed for the parking lot and flooring to get bids out and will be sent to the Full Board for approval as presented.

INFORMATION ONLY:

Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2024

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

BILLS TO PAY

Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$ 82,005.20	\$ 82,005.20

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

FAA GRANT TO ACQUIRE SRE RUNWAY PLOWS

Airport Manager Steve Smigelski presented an FAA Grant Application in the amount of \$1,513,904.00 for the purchase of two SRE Runway Plows with a county match of \$37,847.00 for review and approval. The county match would come out of the Airport Fund with the possibility of being covered through PFC funds.

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

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to approve the FAA Grant Application to acquire two SRE Runway Plows in the amount of \$1,513,904.00 with an organizational match of \$37,874.00 and a county match of \$37,874.00 and to authorize the Chairman of the Board and/or the County Administrator to sign all pertaining documents as presented. The county match portion will be paid out of the Airport Fund. This has Grant Review Committee approval.

HOME IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANT VACANCY

Home Improvement Director and Public Conservator Nicki Janish presented a request to fill the vacancy of the Program Assistant in the Home Improvement and Public Conservator Offices. The position was filled last month but is now vacant again. This is a shared position in both departments and currently Nicki is responsible for 100% of the workload. The two programs cannot operate with only one employee.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve filling the Program Assistant vacancy in the Home Improvement and Public Conservator Offices as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve filling the vacancy of the Program Assistant in the Home Improvement/Public Conservator Offices as presented.

SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER ROOF

Alpena Senior Citizens Center Director Annie Hepburn reported that she had requested levy money for the repair of their roof to the Older Persons Committee with understanding that the correct procedures were being followed. The request should have been brought to the Board of Commissioners for approval along with two quotes. Annie obtained one quote from Meridian Construction for the roof repair and is requesting funding in the amount of \$13,473.00. The roof repair is complete. Treasurer Kim Ludlow reported there is a reserve line in the Older Persons Fund with a balance of \$38,230.00 that is specifically for building repairs and equipment to the Senior Citizens Center and requires 2/3 vote by this board for that money to be spent.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the bid from Meridian Construction in the amount of \$13,473.00 to repair the Alpena Senior Citizens Center roof due to water leaking into the kitchen as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the bid from Meridian Construction in the amount of \$13,473.00 to repair the roof on the Alpena Senior Citizens due to water leakage with funding to come from the Older Persons reserved line for building repairs and equipment as presented.

SOIL EROSION SERVICE AGREEMENT ADDENDUM

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented an addendum to the Soil Erosion Service Agreement for review and approval. The current agreement expired December 31, 2023. The proposed term would extend through June 30, 2025, or until a replacement Soil Erosion Contractor is found.

Moved by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the addendum to the Soil Erosion Service Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve the Soil Erosion Service Agreement term extension through June 30, 2025, or until a replacement contractor is found as presented.

AMBULANCE CONTRACT

Administrator Osmer reported the finishing touches are being made to the Ambulance Contract and it will be available for review at the next meeting.

Alpena City Fire Chief Rob Edmonds reported under the provisions of the ambulance service agreement an ambulance is outlined to be ordered in 2024. Putting the ambulance purchase out for bids will push the timeline out 24-36 months. There are currently trucks available on a first come first served basis and Chief Edmonds is requesting approval to obtain one of these trucks. The anticipated delivery date of the new ambulance is late 2024 to mid-2025.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve the purchase of a new ambulance not to exceed \$400,000 on a first available basis as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve the purchase of a new ambulance with a Stryker Power Load Cot Lift System and 800mz dual head radio system not to exceed a total cost \$400,000 on a first available basis with \$210,000 coming from the Equipment City Contract reserve line item as presented.

HEAT EXCHANGER FOR POOL BOILER

Administrator Osmer reported the heat exchanger at the pool needs to be replaced. The cost to replace the heat exchanger is \$18,475.00 and the cost to replace the whole boiler which includes the heat exchanger is \$35,950.00. Maintenance Superintendent Wes Wilder reported the life span of the boiler is 20-25 years and the current boiler at the pool is 18 years old. Wes recommends replacing just the heat exchanger.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the purchase of a new heat exchanger for the pool as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: Commissioners Lalonde, Fournier, and Konarzewski. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve the purchase of a new heat exchanger for the Plaza Pool from Control Solutions in the amount of \$18,475.00 with funding to come from the 631 Building and Grounds Maintenance Fund as presented.

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Chair Konarzewski reported the Committee discussed the pool heat exchanger and there will be a lean-to put up on the Animal Control Shelter building.

Airport Committee Update – Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee Update – Chair Fournier reported the Committee discussed a hiring freeze, advertising for board vacancies will go out in September, the drug policy, and employee separations.

OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

Planning Commission – Green Township passed an Ordinance to not allow large solar farms.

Veterans Affairs Board Liaison – Meeting next month.

District Health Department #4 – Financial reports were given and discussion on building maintenance and cleaning.

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

Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary – Attended the Viking cruise ship. The ship is not only a cruise ship but a scientific ship.

NEMCSA – Annual report and financials were discussed.

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

Thunder Bay Transportation – Discussed financials and audit and they are very grateful that their millage passed.

Fair Board Liaison – This was one of the most attended fairs in the last 20 years. They are working on a fundraiser for a new sound system.

Parks & Recreation Commission – They are creating booklets for each park with clarity on policies.

District #4 Commissioner Bill Peterson was not present, excused.

District #5 Commissioner Brenda Fournier requested Commissioner LaHaie to report.

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

MOA Landfill Authority – Audit was completed and reviewed. There is a satisfactory fund balance, and the board has authorized each allocations of \$75,000 to Montmorency, Alcona, and Alpena counties.

Northeast Michigan Regional Entity – Nothing significant to report. Meeting next month.

Opioid Update – Nothing significant to report. Meeting next month.

District #7 Commissioner Travis Konarzewski reported he was out of town for the following boards/commissions he represents:

Community Corrections Advisory Board – Did not attend.

Northern MI Counties Association – Did not attend.

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

NE MI Consortium – Will send out the information from the meeting to the board.

Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority (NMMMA) – Unable to attend. Commissioner LaHaie reported the financial report was discussed as well as cameras at Northern Lights Arena.

POLL VOTE: CORRECTIONS OFFICERS

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Poll Vote for the Sheriff's request to fill vacancies for Corrections Officers as informational only.

POLL ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to approve the Sheriff filling the vacated full-time Corrections Officer position and filling two part-time Correction Officer positions; budgeted and replacements, not new positions.

Roll call vote taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Lalonde, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tracy Collins of Wilson Township does not think it would be a wise decision for the whole library board to be removed and there is concern by the community of not seeing any action or updates from the Commissioners.

Bruce Maxwell of Ossineke showed his support for the library board and library staff. They have responded to concern in the community by adopting a new shelving system to help easily identify books

that some may not want their children to access. Kids cannot check out these books without their parents approval of a library card. If there are continuous plans to fire the library board, there are likely to be expensive litigations. There is a closed session on the agenda for personnel action and if it involves the library board it would be illegal and must be in an open session.

Laura Maxwell of Ossineke shared that she loves her library and libraries are for everyone. Parents should use their best judgement according to their values and it is ok if your decision is different than your neighbors. Everyone has the right to make decisions for their families, but not for their neighbor's family. The library staff have been devalued and bullied.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioners went into closed session for discussion on a Personnel Matter at 1:47 p.m. and reopened session at 2:04 p.m. Roll call was taken: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski present. Commissioner Peterson, excused.

COMMISSIONER ROBIN LALONDE

Commissioner Robin Lalonde announced her resignation to the board. She will be leaving the area due to a career advancement opportunity with her last day serving being Friday, September 6, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. Robin reported it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Alpena's 3rd District and thanked every Commissioner for their respect, support, and mentorship.

The position will need to be filled within 30 days as of September 6, 2024 and will be advertised at the time for the board to fill by the meeting on September 24, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm