

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2025 – 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, February 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Craig MacDonald with Harvest Community Church.

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; Travis Konarzewski, District #7 and John Kozlowski, District #8. Commissioner Todd Britton, District #6, excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda with the following change: 1) Move the County Administrator agenda item to after the Commissioners give updates on their boards and commissions. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Sundin of Alpena reported he had read an article in last week's paper regarding moving the recycling bins at Northern Lights Arena. It was stated in the article that Besser Company had deeded the property that the bins sit on to the county to be used solely for soccer. He does not recall it ever being used for soccer; it has always been used for parking for NLA and by that statement the County is in violation of

their agreement. There is not a valid reason to have these bins removed. They serve a community wide purpose and most of the time the parking lot is not being heavily used.

MEDICAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT

Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group Administrator Lisa Kaspriak presented the 2024 Medical Examiner Annual Report. The Medical Examiner’s office represents all unexpected deaths in the county. In 2024 they investigated 126 unexpected deaths. Scene investigations increased by 22%, and suicides increased by 100% from the previous year. Lisa gave an update on 2024 demographics and statistics and reported there is typically high turnover in this type of office, but their company prides themselves in investing in their staff that they are valued, heard, and supported.

BILLS TO PAY

Chair Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$297,538.72	\$297,538.72

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to pay all bills as presented. Discussion was made on the following: 1) \$4,791.00 paid to Michelle Reid; 2) Commissioner Peterson inquired if the liability insurance had been sent out for bids. Administrator Jesse Osmer reported that we just renewed with Alpena Agency; 3) County Parks liability insurance, and; 4) \$4,234.50 paid to Weinkauff Plumbing and Heating. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, excused. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

- A) **Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes** – February 10, 2025
- B) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – February 11, 2025
- C) **Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes** – February 19, 2025

INFORMATIONAL: Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2025

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Fournier 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, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, excused. Motion carried.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Commissioner Peterson reported the Interlocal Agreement Committee and Multi County Materials Management Planning Committee had their first meetings last Friday. They were notified at the meeting that State of Michigan instead of providing funding, this will now a reimbursement grant. The ILA Committee recommends instead of each county paying \$70,000 for the first year that each county pay \$4,000, submit the bills, and see how long it takes to receive reimbursement and move forward. A meeting will be set up with the Treasurer as Alpena County is the Designated Planning Agency and everything must go through us. The State is saying they will reimburse in 30 days.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve Alpena County put \$4,000 towards Materials Management Planning and begin paying bills, submit to the State, and see how quickly the money will be reimbursed as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, excused. Motion carried.

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Chair Konarzewski reported discussion was made on the issue with the placement of the recycling bins at Northern Lights Arena. We want to keep the recycling bins, but we want to move them where they are more suited for the people that are using them and for the people that must deal with them on a regular basis. We will continue to work with the City of Alpena and the recycling committee to create a plan that will work for everyone.

Airport Committee Update – Chair LaHaie reported the CRTC is having a meeting on March 10th to discuss the taxiways. Equipment issues are being worked on.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Chair Bray reported the County is in conversation with Montmorency County to share an Emergency Manager with a savings to the county of \$5-\$10k annually. They also received an update on animal control.

Personnel Committee Update – Chair Fournier had nothing new to report.

OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

Health Board – There is a small deficit in operations for the month but that usually straightens out. DHD4 and DHD2 received a grant for \$49,550.00 that they are going to split. There was a communicable disease report and there were updates to policies.

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

NEMCSA – Unable to attend.

NEMCOG – Presentation on MSU Extension highlighting programs like 4H. They have soil test kits for lawn, garden, and crop.

Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary – Did not meet.

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

LEPC, Central Dispatch, and LPT – Updates are being made to polices and will be reviewed at the next meeting. The new call handling system will be implemented in March. Offsite response plans were approved for Besser and Frontier.

Thunder Bay Transportation – Meeting is this week.

District #4: Commissioner Bill Peterson gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

26th Judicial Court Mgt. Council – Did not meet.

Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority – Not pumping as much in the injection well because everything is frozen this time of year.

Target – Meeting is in March.

District #5: Commissioner Brenda Fournier gave an update on the following boards/commissions she represents:

Parks & Recreation Commission – People are commenting on Campspot and are finding it easier to make their reservations. Parks are already booking up for this coming year.

District #7 Commissioner Travis Konarzewski gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

Community Corrections Advisory Board – Cancelled due to weather.

Northern MI Counties Association – Cancelled due to weather.

District #8 Commissioner John Kozlowski

NE MI Consortium – Discussed budget information and Jail Simulation Release.

NMMMA – Meeting is on Thursday. Commissioner LaHaie will attend.

NEMCSA LEASE

In November 2024 the board approved a renewal lease with NEMCSA at the District Health Department building. The lease was approved for two years at \$50,562.00 with a 1.5% increase for the second year. There was an error in the math, and they would also like to change the term to one year.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve amending the NEMCSA lease to one year with an annual rent of \$40,562.00 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, excused. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into closed session at 1:52 p.m. for a Personnel Matter. Session opened at 2:31 p.m. Roll was called with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. Commissioner Britton, excused.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Kim Schultz, Deputy Clerk