

FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 10, 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, excused
Brenda Fournier
Todd Britton
Travis Konarzewski

Others Present: Keri Bertrand, County Clerk
Jesse Osmer, County Administrator
Cindy Cebula, County Treasurer
Kim Elkie, Central Dispatch Director
Sheriff Erik Smith

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken: All committee members present except Commissioner Bray, excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADOPT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to adopt the agenda with removal of the DHD4 Financial Update. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BILLS TO PAY

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

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	\$112,858.52	\$112,858.52

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

COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS

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

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve receiving and filing the monthly Treasurer's reports for January 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Erik Smith presented a Community Engagement budget adjustment request for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend approval of the Sheriff's budget adjustment as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Commissioner Bray, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval of the Sheriff's budget adjustment request to increase line item 101-301-727.008 Community Engagement in the amount of \$5,923.87 as presented.

Sheriff's Office: Sheriff Smith presented a budget adjustment request for the SOR fee expense line item for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Britton to recommend approval of the Sheriff's budget adjustment as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Commissioner Bray, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval to fund line item 101-301-965.000 SOR in the amount of \$1,000 to cover expenses for 2026 and match the revenue from this service already budgeted as presented.

911 SURCHARGE SPECIAL ELECTION

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie reported a special election for the 911 surcharge must be held as there is no time to put the surcharge renewal on the August or November ballot. The election needs to be completed and certified so the report can go to the state 911 office no later than May 15th. This also happened in 2021, and steps are being taken to remedy the issue so every 6 years a special election doesn't need to be requested. The last time 911 covered the cost of the special election and will do so again this year.

COUNTY OF ALPENA RESOLUTION #26-03
CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION
FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE ALPENA COUNTY ELECTORS A QUESTION OF
WHETHER THE COUNTY MAY LEVY 911 SURCHARGE
JANUARY 2027 TO DECEMBER 2032

At a full board meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alpena, Michigan, held on the 10th day of February 2026 at 9:30 a.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, in the Howard Male Conference Room in Alpena, Michigan there was:

PRESENT: Commissioner William LaHaie, Commissioner Dan Ludlow, Commissioner Bill Peterson, Commissioner Brenda Fournier, Commissioner Todd Britton, Commissioner Travis Konarzewski and Commissioner John Kozlowski.

EXCUSED: Commissioner Lucille Bray.

The following preambles and resolution were offered by Commissioner _____ and seconded by Commissioner _____.

WHEREAS, the County of Alpena, Michigan (the "County") has deemed it necessary to place before the electors of Alpena County to continue to assess a monthly 911 surcharge.

WHEREAS, to fund 911 operations.

WHEREAS, based on estimates and projections, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners has preliminarily determined that it will be necessary to continue the assessment of the 911 surcharges. to cover the costs of 911 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch services within Alpena County, including facilities, equipment and operations; and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners wishes to adopt this Resolution to call a special election for Tuesday, May 5, 2026 (the "Special Election") to present the surcharge reauthorization proposal to the electors of Alpena County.

WHEREAS, the County Clerk must publish a Notice of the last day of Registration and a Notice of Proposal to be submitted at the Special Election which must include the final language of the ballot proposal; and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to approve such ballot proposal and authorize the County Clerk to proceed with the necessary notices for such Special Election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF ALPENA, STATE OF MICHIGAN, as follows:

1. The County shall submit to the registered electors residing within the boundaries of the County of Alpena the surcharge proposal set forth in paragraph 3 below at the Special Election on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.
2. The County Clerk shall cause a Notice of Registration and a Notice of Proposal to be submitted at the Special Election to be published as required by law.
3. The Board of Commissioners certifies to the County Clerk the following proposition which shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the County of Alpena at the Special Election on Tuesday, May 5, 2026:

911 OPERATING SURCHARGE
REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL

For the period beginning on January 1, 2027 and continuing through the month of December in the year 2032 shall Alpena County be authorized to continue to assess a monthly surcharge of up to and not to exceed \$3.00 in the monthly billings of landline, wireless and VOIP service suppliers within the geographic boundaries of Alpena County; to be used exclusively for the continuing funding of 911 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch services within Alpena County, including facilities, equipment and operations.

4. The Alpena County Clerk shall take all actions required by law to call the Special Election on May 5, 2026.
5. The Special Election shall be held in accordance with the General Election Laws of the State of Michigan.

6. The proposition to be voted in the ballot to be used in the Special Election for the purpose of submitting the foregoing proposal to electors shall be substantially in the form set forth in Appendix A.
7. The County Clerk is authorized to take whatever action is necessary under the Election Laws of the State of Michigan to notify electors of the County of Alpena of the proposal being submitted at the May 5, 2026 Special Election and of the last day of registration therefore. The Clerk shall cause appropriate registration and election notices to be published as required by the State Election Law in The Alpena News, Alpena, Michigan a newspaper of general circulation in the County.
8. All resolutions and parts of resolution in conflict with the foregoing are hereby rescinded.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to recommend approval of a special election and to adopt resolution #26-03 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Commissioner Bray, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: The Committee recommends approval of 911's request for a special election and to adopt Resolution #26-03 as presented.

POSTAGE METER LEASES

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented two postage meter leases, one in the Prosecutor's Office and the other in the Register of Deeds office for each of the two buildings.

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

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve the lease agreements for the Pitney Bowes postage meters located in the Prosecutor's Office and Register of Deeds Office each for a term of 60 months billed quarterly at \$467.85 as presented.

INSURANCE PAYMENT ON CUT FIBER

Administrator Osmer is still researching the insurance payment regarding the cut fiber and hopes to have more answers this week. The company that cut the fiber was contacted and claimed they are not liable as the fiber was not properly flagged.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY ON COUNTY GROUNDS

Administrator Osmer presented an updated version of the Alpena County Use of County Grounds policy including that, "No political activity such as campaigning or the collecting of signatures may occur inside of any county building, entrance, exits, steps or walkway to/from the sidewalks or parking areas are not permitted during business hours." There is a correction on page one stating that insurance "will" be required not "may" be required.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the updated Use of County Grounds Policy as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Bray, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve the updated Alpena County Use of County Grounds Policy as presented.

FAA T-HANGAR BID

Administrator Osmer reported the company that submitted their bid and won for the project was required to honor that bid for a 90-day period. The FAA took somewhere between 135 and 138 days to reply and as a result a lot of pricing has changed, and this will need to go back out for rebid.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve RS&H to begin the process of rebidding the t-hangar project as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, abstained. Commissioner Bray, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve RS&H to begin the process of rebidding the t-hangar project at the airport as presented.

RISE & REPORT

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 – January 27, 2026 (*Minutes only)**
- B) **Central Dispatch Committee Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026**

ACTION ITEM #CDC-1: The Committee recommends approval of the Cancellation of Law Enforcement Call Policy, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CDC-2: The Committee recommends deletion of the Calls Received at Law Agency or Secondary PSAP Policy, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CDC-3: The Committee recommends to approve the Dispatch of Ambulance Policy, as amended.

ACTION ITEM #CDC-4: The Committee recommends to approve the Telephone Problems Policy, as amended.

ACTION ITEM #CDC-5: The Committee recommends to approve the Cancellation/Downgrade of EMS Units Policy, as amended.

- C) **Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – February 3, 2026**

ACTION ITEM #PC-1: The Committee recommends approval of the Sheriff's request to proceed with the process to hire a Dt./Sgt. for the Sheriff's Office and to provide a job description at the next Full Board meeting for review and approval as presented.

*Not approved on Consent Calendar.

ACTION ITEM #PC-2: The Committee recommends approval to appoint Kristie Morlan to the Parks & Recreation Commission for a term effective February 10, 2026, through December 31, 2027, as presented.

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

ACTION ITEM #PC-1

Further discussion was made on the hiring of a Dt./Sgt. for the Sheriff's Office.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Brenda to approve the Sheriff's Office to proceed with the process of hiring a Dt./Sgt. for the Sheriff's Office as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: Commissioner Ludlow. Commissioner Bray, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #9: The Committee recommends approval of the Sheriff's request to proceed with the process to hire a Dt./Sgt. for the Sheriff's Office as presented.

AIRPORT FACILITY LEASE AGREEMENT

Discussion was made regarding a lease agreement with Bay Leasing and Renting DBA Avis Car Rental out at the airport.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve the lease agreement with Bay Leasing as presented. Airport Manager Mick Higgins was not present during the meeting for questioning.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to amend the motion to approve the agreement with Bay Leasing effective February 1, 2026, unless there was a prior agreement at which case the county is made whole.

Motion was rescinded by Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to table any action pending further information. Motion carried.

AIRPORT ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE

No discussion pending further information.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

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