

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DRAFT – Special Full Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 19, 2024 – 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

CALL TO ORDER

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Full Board Meeting and was called to order by Chairman John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Friday, April 19, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon).

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; Bill Peterson, District 4; Brenda Fournier, District 5; Burt Francisco, District #6; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; and John Kozlowski, District #8. The following Commissioners are excused: Jesse Osmer, District #2 (recused); and Robin Lalonde, District 3 (zoom).

CANDIDATES INTERVIEWS - COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

Chairman John Kozlowski presented the first candidate to interview – Mark Justin and each Board of Commissioner introduced themselves as well as Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis.

The board each asked questions of Mr. Justin and he responded accordingly.

Mr. Justin asked the board questions and the board responded. Chair Kozlowski thanked Mr. Justin.

Chairman Kozlowski reported at 1:03 p.m. that the board will go into a 5-minute break before proceeding with the next candidate.

Chairman John Kozlowski presented the second candidate to interview at 1:08 p.m. – Jeff Thornton and each Board of Commissioner introduced themselves as well as Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis.

The board each asked questions of Mr. Thornton and he responded accordingly. Commissioner Robin Lalonde attended in person at 1:33 p.m.

Mr. Thornton asked the board questions and the board responded. Chair Kozlowski thanked Mr. Thornton.

Chairman Kozlowski reported at 2:03 p.m. that the board will go into a 5-minute break before proceeding with the final candidate.

Chairman John Kozlowski presented the final candidate at 2:08 p.m. to interview – Jesse Osmer and he knew each Board of Commissioner as well as the Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist as he is presently a Commission in District 3 for Alpena County.

The board each asked questions of Mr. Osmer and he responded accordingly.

Mr. Osmer asked the board a question about what the next steps would be. Chairman Kozlowski requested that Jennifer report on the next steps. Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis reported that the Board will take a survey and answer questions on each candidate then Amy Cell will coordinate and present the survey results (no recommendations) for the board to review at the Full Board meeting next Tuesday, April 23, 2024. Chairman Kozlowski thanked Mr. Osmer.

The Interview Process concluded at 2:42 p.m.

Vice Chair Burt Francisco reported that three candidates have been interviewed and noted that recently there have been some unbudgeted expenses that need to be addressed. Vice Chair Francisco informed the board that Chair Kozlowski has left his employment (retired?) and is more available to assist the Board, Elected officials, Department heads, and Commissioners office. Vice Chair Francisco recommended to consider remaining status quo until the revenue is figured out for the County Budget and wanted this on record.

Chair John Kozlowski reported that the Commissioners office has been doing a great job, especially Interim County Administrator/HR Specialist Jennifer Mathis as he has spent a lot of time in her office on legal counsel, not official, documents and questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bonnie Krajniak of Long Rapids shared her concerns of the County Administrator position and past experiences and served as a Commissioner for Alpena County for many years.

Bonnie Friedrichs of Alpena reported as the previous County Clerk Thornton left due to budget cuts and noted that the board can go without a county administrator while working with the Clerk, Treasurer, HR Specialist, 911 Director and to rely on the elected officials and department heads to work together with the board.

Joelyn McCallum of Alpena shared her past experiences as County Treasurer and felt the interview process was fair and expressed the importance of working with the County Elected Officials as they have statutory duties and management rights and to rely on them, listen, as they have experience as it is a cooperative effort.

Tammy Bates of Lachine reported that she as the previous Executive Manager, the previous Clerk, and previous Treasurer for Alpena County are in attendance because they care about the County and the people, and share their support.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

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