

FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.  
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

Commissioners Present: John Kozlowski, Board Chair  
Burt Francisco, Vice Chair/Finance Chair  
William LaHaie  
Dan Ludlow  
Lucille Bray  
Bill Peterson  
Brenda Fournier  
Travis Konarzewski

Others Present: Keri Bertrand, County Clerk  
Kim Ludlow, County Treasurer  
Jennifer Mathis, HR Specialist  
Kim MacArthur, County Board Assistant  
Wes Wilder, Maintenance Superintendent  
Ted Somers, Equalization Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Finance Chairman Burt Francisco called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken: All committee members present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ADOPT AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the agenda with the addition of 2025 Budget Committee Discussion and removal of the Personnel Committee Meeting minutes from the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judy Stillion of Alpena retired as the director of the library in 2008. The hastily made decision by this board without much thought to trade removing offensive signs for firing the library board has caused a first-class mess. The library has won many awards and brings people from all over the country. It will be hard to find someone qualified even remotely interested in moving to Alpena and jumping into the chaos. She asked the board pause and let the library find a director and then untangle the malicious web.

Bob Case of Alpena has been a pastor for 50 years and has never seen a division like there is now. The community is divided and not everyone agrees. It should be left up to the parents to look over the books and not the county to determine what their children read.

Diane O'Conner of Alpena shared her concerns with the board accepting a bribe and voting 6-1 to remove the library board. She made a report to the State Attorney General's Office which has not yet been resolved. It was disturbing how the board made downgrading remarks and inappropriate comments about the library board. This board chose these positions based on their qualifications. They are volunteers and this board owes the library board and the community an apology.

Bruce Maxwell of Ossineke praised Library Board President Joe Garber and reported Joe, and his colleagues are under attack. Members of this board lied when they said the library took no action in response to complaints about certain books. Joe was slandered and it is a disgraceful way to treat a public servant. The library board and staff



have bent over backward to address concerns. He asks the board to reconsider removing the library board. Their actions have brought shame to our community.

Dan McNeil of Alpena shared the library was a shadow of what it is now and it's a jewel to this community. It provides education for children, adults and the community at large. The board is talented, and it is unacceptable to remove them, and he asks them to reconsider removing them.

Gordon Silkworth of Alpena is one that has concerns about the books his children and grandchildren are allowed to take out without consent. The library board was asked to contain the books behind the desk where only a parent could check them out for their kids, but they refused that, and the books are still on the shelves. The library board has done a good job, but the books are very graphic.

**BILLS TO PAY**

INFORMATION ITEM: County Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to pay for approval.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	\$81,658.06	\$81,658.06

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

INFORMATION ITEM: Maintenance Superintendent Wes Wilder is requesting approval to transfer \$21,750 from the Building and Grounds Fund (631) into the Equipment and Replacement fund (402) line item to pay the outstanding invoice #18562 from Control Solutions in the amount of \$21,741.75. Treasurer Kim Ludlow reported the funds are available.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to recommend approval to transfer \$21,750 from the 631 Fund into the 402 Fund as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Francisco. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends approval to transfer \$21,750 from the Building and Grounds Fund (631) into the Equipment and Replacement Fund (402) line item 402-234-980.252 to pay the outstanding Control Solutions invoice 18562 in the amount of \$21,741.75 as presented.**

INFORMATION ITEM: Maintenance Superintendent Wilder reported there are safety concerns with the conditions of the steps going to the boiler room at the Annex, the porch at 911, and the blocks in the front of the Department of Corrections building. Wes is seeking an additional quote and would like to be approved to move forward with the project as soon as possible.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend approval to repair the step projects up to the amount of \$2,000 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Francisco. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #2: The Committee recommends approval of an expenditure up to the amount of \$2,000 to repair the steps at the Annex building, 911 building, and Department of Corrections to be paid from Building Maintenance line item 101-265-932.000 as presented.**

INFORMATION ITEM: Equalization Director Ted Somers presented and read a copy of Resolution #24-25 approving the 2024 Apportionment Report for approval.

**RESOLUTION 24-25**

**ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 APPORTIONMENT REPORT  
PURSANT TO MICHIGAN COMPILED LAW 211.37**

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.36 requires each township clerk to submit to the County Clerk on or before September 30 each year a statement which sets forth the amount of money to be raised in the Township by Taxation;

WHEREAS, Michigan Compiled Law 211.37 requires the County Board of Commissioners to hold an apportionment session and approve an Apportionment Report in October of each year;

WHEREAS, at the annual apportionment session, the County Board of Commissioners must examine documents and records submitted to the Board that show the amount of money to be raised by ad valorem levies in each Township for schools, highway, drains, township operations, and all other purposes as authorized by law and required the correction of any defects or omissions with regard to those levies; and

WHEREAS, the action of the County Board of Commissioners concerning the spread of these levies is final, except in situations where a change is made to the equalization of the County through an equalization appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal or a Levy passed at the November elections; and

WHEREAS, the action of the County Board of Commissioners for 2024 will be the official authorization for 16 taxing authorities within the County to levy property taxes for 2024, and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Equalization Department has prepared an Apportionment Report for consideration by the County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Apportionment Report, if approved, will provide final authorization for the levy of property taxes upon which taxing authorities depend to provide educational, health, economic development, public safety, and other services which are important to the well-being of the county's economy and Alpena County Residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached 2024 Apportionment Report showing the millage levies apportioned to various taxing authorities in Alpena County for the year 2024 is hereby approved in accordance with Michigan Compiled Law 211.37; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alpena Board of Commissioners, under the authority of Michigan Compiled Law 211.37, directs that the millage rates specified in the attached 2024 Apportionment Report for Township, school, highway, drain, and all other purposes as authorized by law shall be spread against the taxable value of properties on the proper assessment rolls of the Townships and Cities in the County.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to adopt Resolution #24-25 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Francisco. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval to adopt Resolution #24-25 approving the 2024 Apportionment Report as presented.**

**COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS**

INFORMATION ITEM: Treasurer Kim Ludlow presented the monthly report for September 2024.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve receiving and filing of the monthly Treasurer's Report for September 2024 as presented. Motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEM: Treasurer Ludlow presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Adjustments for approval.



Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to recommend approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Adjustments for 2024 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Francisco. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Budget Adjustments for 2024 as presented.**

INFORMATION ITEM: County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported the Commissioners were broken into workgroups and came back with their recommended budget cuts. The shortfall began at \$917,632 and is currently at \$519,000. Chair Francisco announced a proposed cut of \$41,000 to the MSU Extension and cuts to the Sheriff's Office budget. There are significant decisions that need to be made and should the millage pass, services should be able to be continued.

**MOTION TO RISE & REPORT**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to rise and report. Motion carried.

**LONG LAKE PARK LOTS**

Long Lake Park camper Daniel Gapske went before the Parks Commission and was denied his request to not pay for the whole season as he was shorted 5 weeks. Mr. Gapske will pay the remaining \$335 owed for 2024 and receive a 1-month credit on his 2025 lot.

**LIBRARY UPDATE**

County Administrator Jesse Osmer gave a brief timeline on how the library process has played out. At the May Full Board meeting constituents expressed their concerns on the placement of specific books at the Alpena County Library. In July it was announced there was to be an informational presentation to the Full Board and shortly after the Library Director submitted her resignation and the meeting was never scheduled and did not occur. At the Full Board meeting in July, Commissioner Konarzewski moved to begin the process to remove the entire library board due to lack of any action being taken. Administrator Osmer presented two options to the board. They could remove one trustee, usually the president, or take no action and wait as there are two months before interviews would begin and two vacancies will be filled.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to take no action in removing the library board and move forward with replacing the two vacancies as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to take no action with removal of the entire Library Board and to move forward with filling the current vacancy and upcoming vacancy as presented.**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Board Chairman John Kozlowski presented the Minutes and Board Actions from the following meetings for board approval.

- A) **Approval of the Official Proceedings of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners Regular Session**  
– September 24, 2024 (\*Minutes only)
  
- B) **Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes** – October 1, 2024  
*Pulled from Consent Calendar*



ACTION ITEM #PC-1: The Committee recommends approval to pay Chief Deputy Treasurer Cindy Cebula for her unused estimated 76.13 PTO hours (estimated \$1,966.44) that are remaining at the end of 2024 as presented.  
*Pulled from Consent Calendar*

ACTION ITEM #PC-2: The Committee recommends approval for the County Administrator to move forward with the process of moving in lieu of payment discussions from union contracts to the Health Steering Committee for negotiating as presented.  
*Pulled from Consent Calendar*

C) **LEPC Meeting Minutes** – October 3, 2024

ACTION ITEM #LEPC-1: The Committee recommends approval of Frontier's Off-Site Response Plan as presented.

D) **LPT Meeting Minutes** – October 3, 2024

ACTION ITEM #LPT-1: The Committee recommends approval of the Mass Care – Emergency Assistance and Human Services Annex as presented.

E) **Central Dispatch Committee Meeting Minutes** – October 3, 2024

ACTION ITEM #CDC-1: The Committee recommends approval of Policy I-25 Airport Emergencies with updates as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CDC-2: The Committee recommends approval of Policy IV-04 Dispatch of Medical First Responders with updates as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CDC-3: The Committee recommends approval of Policy IV-06 Dispatch of Ambulance as presented.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier 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, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**POLL VOTE: SHERIFF BOAT PURCHASE**

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Poll Vote for the Sheriff's Office request to purchase a commercial grade rubber-sided boat. Commissioner Konarzewski inquired about the add-ons that are required to go along with the boat. Sheriff Erik Smith reported Sgt. Ritter was approved for next year's Stonegarden Grant and the add-ons would come from that grant funding. Discussion was made on which budget year the boat would be purchased in. Previous roll call was taken: AYES: Commissioners Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: Commissioner Ludlow. Motion carried. Commissioners LaHaie and Konarzewski both voted AYE during the meeting.

**POLL VOTE ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to approve the Sheriff's Office purchasing a commercial grade rubber-sided boat in the amount of \$57,795 to go into the 2025 Budget as presented. The Stonegarden Grant covers the cost and there is no county match.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

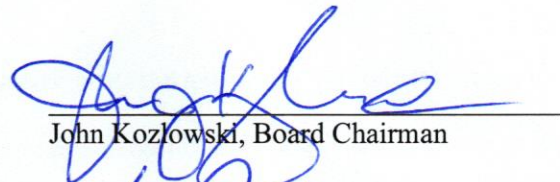
Bob Case of Alpena commented on how difficult budgeting is and shared his concern that the community should have known the ARPA funding was coming to end and asked that the board let the community know how the budget is coming together.

Sheriff Erik Smith shared his disappointment with the news today and how the community will suffer with public safety.

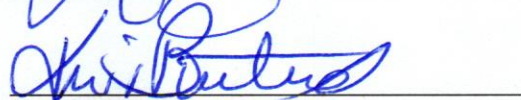
Commissioner Brenda Fournier feels the same as Sheriff Smith and it's a shame that this must come down to public safety and thanked Sheriff Smith for the outstanding work he has done for this community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



John Kozlowski, Board Chairman



Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm