

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.  
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**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.

**PRAYER**

Prayer was offered by County Administrator Jesse Osmer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Kozlowski called for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**AGENDA**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gary Goren of Alpena shared his support in raising the number of the Alpena County Road Commission members from three to a five-member board and provided hypothetical situations for the board to consider.

## **BILLS TO PAY**

Chair Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	<b>SUBMITTED:</b>	<b>APPROVED:</b>
General Fund & Other Funds	\$142,758.49	\$142,758.49

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to pay all bills as presented. 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) **Full Board Meeting Minutes** – March 25, 2025 (minutes only)
- B) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – April 10, 2025 (minutes only)
- C) **MI Works CEO Update**

**INFORMATIONAL: Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes** – March 12, 2025

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski 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.

## **POLL VOTE – TRANSFER FROM CONTINGENCY FUND**

Chair Kozlowski presented Poll Vote #1 as informational.

**POLL VOTE ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to transfer up to \$9,000 from the Contingency Fund (line item #101-941-955.000) to the appropriate line items as presented, below:**

**Not to exceed \$6,900 to line item #101-426-727.003 (for equipment and supplies)**

**Not to exceed \$3,100 to line item #101-265-708.000 (for overtime)**

**and to authorize the spending of such funds by the county administrator, grounds & maintenance superintendent, and/or the emergency manager to complete the objective of collecting brush, branches, limbs, and tree debris from last week's storm for the duration of the collection process.**

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

### **MICHIGAN CLASS**

Michigan CLASS Senior Director Kristen Angel presented information on the Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (Michigan CLASS). Michigan CLASS is a local government investment pool that prioritizes safety, liquidity, convenience, and competitive yield. It is a way for all public agencies to pool funds together to collectively earn dividends on investments.

The Alpena County Road Commission has been interested in participating but cannot invest in Michigan CLASS unless the County does. Alpena County Treasurer Cindy Cebula recommends participation with Michigan CLASS.

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

**ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the County Treasurer's recommendation to participate with Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System (Michigan CLASS) and begin the process of opting in and opening the account as presented.**

### **2024 NEMCSA ANNUAL REPORT**

NEMCSA's Strategy and Development Director Frances Ommani presented NEMCSA's 2024 Annual Report. NEMCSA's mission is to enhance quality of life by empowering individuals and strengthening communities. They are a trusted agency that has been around Alpena for over 55 years providing programs to enhance the lives of people in this community and our surrounding area.

One of the initiative highlights of the year is PACE Northeast Michigan. Frances introduced Executive Director Jeff Meden from PACE Northeast Michigan. PACE is a program for all-inclusive care for the elderly to serve those that are eligible for nursing home care but want to remain independent in their own homes. PACE is very close to becoming operational and may open as soon as August or September of this year.

### **REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update** – Meeting was rescheduled to April 30, 2025.

**Airport Committee Update** – Chair LaHaie reported the next meeting is on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Airport Manager Steve Smigelski's last day will be this Friday.

**Courts & Public Safety Committee Update** – Meeting for April was cancelled.  
**Personnel Committee Update** – Meeting for April was cancelled.

### **SPECIAL ORDERS**

Chair Kozlowski presented tributes to Maintenance Superintendent Wes Wilder and Airport Manager Steve Smigelski in honor of their retirements. Chair Kozlowski read and presented Wes with his tribute and County Administrator Jesse Osmer will get Steve his tribute. There will be cake and coffee on Friday at noon in the courthouse lobby.

### **COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING**

Chair Kozlowski reported in January the Sheriff spoke at the Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting about the drug and alcohol testing the county has been doing. Bruce Duncan owner of Thunder Bay Physical Therapy spoke during public comment at the January Full Board meeting and reached out to the commissioners about the county competing with local businesses for drug and alcohol testing. He had sent a follow up email to the County Administrator in March inquiring on the status of discussion.

In conversations with Deputy Lash Chair Kozlowski reported the testing is for District Court and allows for results the same day which makes a difference prior to sentencing. Deputy Lash is working on a grant to help lower the costs for the individuals that are required of the testing. Alpena is not the only county to do this and the MDOC does all their own drug and alcohol testing.

The county is not seeking to take away business from local businesses but to provide a service to those individuals that go to court and need to be tested and get the results before court. No pre-employment drug testing has been performed for an outside company. Sheriff Smith reported when individuals are given the order from the court all businesses that provide the testing service are given to them and they can choose who they want to go to.

The Board unanimously agreed to remain as is and support the Sheriff.

### **RECYCLE BINS AT NLA**

Chair Kozlowski reported Northeast Michigan Materials Management Director Bailey Barr had reached out to him regarding the motion made at the February Facilities meeting to have the bins moved from Northern Lights Arena within 60 days. The unexpected ice storm has pushed everything back and the board agreed to issue a two-week extension.

### **SURCHARGE FOR CLEAN UP DAY**

Chair Kozlowski reported Northeast Michigan Materials Management Director Bailey Barr had also reached out to him regarding a surcharge for Clean Up Day. Northern Lights Arena Manager Jeremy Winterstein had initially put together an invoice for snowplowing for NLA and had a surcharge on the contract that indicated \$500 would go back to the county for the surcharge fund. The county has never charged a surcharge for the use of either Northern Lights Arena or the fairgrounds. The board agreed not to charge NMMMA a \$500 surcharge to use Northern Lights Arena for Clean Up Day.

### **ICE STORM AFTERMATH CLEAN UP GRANT**

County Administrator Osmer reported a collection site was made for tree debris throughout the county where people were allowed to come and drop off brush, limbs, and branches. The board generously allocated a certain amount of money from the Contingency Fund to get that started. A grant was also submitted through the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan Urgent Needs Fund in which the county was awarded \$5,000 towards the clean up for equipment rental, reimbursement for costs already spent as well as gas cards for volunteers that helped individuals that could not get the debris from their yards and into town on their own. Operations will begin again at the collection site on Thursday through Monday with additional dates added if needed. Twenty to thirty vehicles visit the site each day with some individuals coming multiple times. Chair Kozlowski reported this is in collaboration with the Charter Township of Alpena.

Motion made by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve accepting the \$5,000 grant, create a line item to take in those funds, and disburse as outlined in the grant as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve acceptance of the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan's Urgent Needs Grant in the amount of \$5,000 and authorize the Treasurer to create a line item to take in those funds and to approve disbursement of the funds as outlined in the grant as presented.**

### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT**

Administrator Osmer reported there is a lengthy list of volunteers that helped during the ice storm and would like to do a small appreciation event for these individuals. The event will be held on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse lobby.

### **ROAD COMMISSION EXPANSION DISCUSSION**

Administrator Osmer reported a letter was sent to the Road Commission in March inviting them to this meeting to give input and feedback on increasing their commission members.

Alpena County Road Commission Managing Director Ryan Brege handed out information to the board. In 2007 Ryan reported the county board had addressed this issue and ultimately decided to remain

a three-person board. The Alpena County Road Commission has had three members since 1894. Currently there are 42 Road Commissions with 3 board members and 34 with 5 board members. Adding two more members would impact their budget approximately \$30,000.

In the letter to the Road Commission, it outlined there will be a public hearing on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Howard Male Conference Room. The soonest the board would vote would be on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Chair Kozlowski reported if the board decides to change the Road Commission to 5 members, that will most likely take place at the beginning of next year to not impact their 2025 budget. Ryan reported the handbook states all terms begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Road Commission member Jerry MacArthur promotes add two more members to the board for more expertise, and more wisdom to get the most of taxpayer dollars.

Road Commission member Tom Spaulding is opposed to adding two more members. The Road Commission has been working fine with three members since inception and they don't need five members to get the best for the roads in this county.

### **HURON ENGINEERING**

Administrator Osmer reported the property at Long Lake Park will need to have a study done regardless of any timber sales and asked the board for permission to move forward with the study and report work by Huron Engineering. The timber would not be harvested until around June, but the study still needs to be done.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve moving forward with Huron Engineering to begin the study and report for the Long Lake property as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Britton, excused. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve beginning the study and report work by Huron Engineering for the Long Lake properties with adjustments to the proposal as needed and not to exceed \$14,800 from line item #101-200-801.000 with any revenue from timber sales on that property to be put into that same line item as presented.**

### **SUNKEN LAKE PARK**

Commissioner Fournier reported that Sunken Lake Park may not be opened on May 15<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of damage done due to the recent ice storm.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rob Pellerito, District Director for State Senator Michelle Hoitenga, announced that the Senator will be in Alpena on Friday at Big Boy from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and welcomed all to attend.

Gray Goren of Alpena wanted to clarify his position on the Road Commission. He is not saying they have done anything wrong. He is saying the structure is wrong and not necessarily the work the Road Commission is doing.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

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Keri Bertrand, County Clerk