

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 28, 2024 – 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, May 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Major Prezza Morrison of the Salvation Army Church of Alpena.

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. Robin Lalonde, District #3, excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Francisco to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION OF TRIBUTE TO REGISTER OF DEEDS CATHERINE MURPHY

Chairman Kozlowski read aloud and presented a resolution of tribute to Register of Deeds Catherine Murphy for her service to the residents of Alpena County for the past 25 years.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dorothy Boyk of Maple Ridge expressed her concerns with the sexually explicit books that are available for children at the Alpena County Library. She suggested putting those books in the adult section, labeling books with sexual content on the covers, or putting up posters on the walls telling parents that these books can be found anywhere in the library.

Julie Byrnes of Alpena Township expressed her concerns with the sexually explicit children's books at the library. Julie reported she filed an appeal in December 2023, and it finally came before the board last month. Her appeal along with three other books were all denied by the staff or board. Citizens don't vote for the library staff or the board so ultimately the decision rests with the Board of Commissioners.

Bruce Heath (no residency given) expressed his concerns with the sexually explicit children's books at the library. Parents have been working diligently to get the pornography books moved out of the teen and children section of the library. If the library cannot get policy in place by the June board meeting the only alternative is to defeat the millage in November.

Nonie Muller of Alpena reported on the trauma of childhood sexual abuse and presented the Board with statistics.

Jacki Bordeau of Presque Isle expressed her concerns with the sexually explicit children's books at the library and does not want these books recommended to children.

Retired Elementary School Teacher (no name or residency given) expressed her concerns with the children's books at the library and various leaders steering children down a dark path. We should be protecting our children and not indoctrinate them.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes and action items for approval.

- A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2024* (*Minutes only)**
- B) **Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2024**

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval of the First Quarter Reimbursement Request from Northern Lights Arena in the amount of \$2,625.58 as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-2: The Committee recommends approval to increase the 2024 budgeted NLA Surcharges/Capital Outlay Buildings/Additions & Improvements line item #272-763-975.000 by \$6,000 to pay for reimbursement requests as presented and approved.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-3: The Committee recommends approval to transfer \$6,800 from the Building and Grounds Fund and put into line item #631-265-975.068 Merchants Building Repair to pay for upgrades to the Merchants Building at the Fairgrounds as presented.

- C) **Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2024**

INFORMATION ONLY:

Alpena County Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2024 & April 24, 2024

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

BILLS TO PAY

Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to be paid. Chair Kozlowski asked that Commissioner Konarzewski be abstained from voting due to his company having an invoice included in the bills.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$ 54,726.30	\$ 54,726.30

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to pay all bills as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, recused. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

1. Clerk Budget Adjustment for Elections – (attached)

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to increase the 2024 budgeted revenue line item # 101-261-677.000 Reimbursements & Refunds by \$45,652.98 and to increase the following 2024 budgeted expense line item numbers and amounts to allow for the reimbursements from the February Presidential Primary Election and to use the funds in the August Primary and November General Elections:

101-261-956.000 Election Expenses	\$4,293.60
101-261-903.000 Printing and Binding	\$40,693.26
101-261-725.000 Board of Canvassers	\$120.00
101-262-860.000 Travel Expense	\$45.00
101-261-708.000 Overtime	<u>\$501.12</u>
Total expenses	\$45,652.98

2. IT Director Budget Transfer Request – (attached)

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to transfer \$1,700 from 2024 budgeted line item # 101-228-703.000 IT Coordinator to 2024 budgeted line item # 101-228-704.001 On Call Stipend to cover the on call costs for the remainder of 2024.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the budget adjustment requests above as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES:

Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

FY25 COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE FUND GRANT

Veterans Affairs Director Dan Perge presented the FY25 County Veterans Service Fund (CVSF) Grant Application for approval. The application has been approved by the Veterans Board.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the FY25 County Veterans Service Fund Grant Application as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the FY25 County Veterans Service Fund (CVSF) Grant Application in the amount of \$23,855 with no County match and authorize the Chairman of the Board and/or the County Administrator to sign all pertaining documents as presented. This has Grant Review Committee approval.

FY24 COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE FUND GRANT AMENDMENT

Veterans Affairs Director Perge presented a request to amend the FY24 County Veterans Service Fund Grant.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the amendment to the FY24 County Veterans Service Fund Grant as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve the Veterans Affairs Director's request to amend the FY24 County Veterans Service Fund (CVSF) from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) in the amount of \$2,500 to purchase the following items: 1) Two Desktop Computers, and 2) Apparel for Veterans Service Officers. These monies are unspent funds due to a change in the number of shipwreck tour tickets purchased. The MVAA approved reallocating these funds to fund other projects.

MAINTENACE POSITIONS

County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported an employee from Maintenance will be leaving to take an open position in the Register of Deeds Office as of June 10, 2024. The Maintenance position will need to be kept vacant for 30 days and it will be up to the Board if they would like to post the position after the 30 days.

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Commissioner Kozlowski reported the Committee discussed bills for Northern Lights Arena.

Commissioner Kozlowski reported he recently received a call from NLA that the recycling bins were moved to their parking lot and there is concern on the long-term effects on the parking lot from the trucks loading and unloading. Further discussion will be made at the next Facilities meeting in June.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Chair Lalonde was not present to give an update. Commissioner Kozlowski reported everything is in the minutes unless anyone had questions.

Personnel Committee Update – Commissioner Fournier reported Al Rapson was hired as the part time Animal Control Manager. There was discussion on an increased salary threshold that will go into effect on July 1st, and applications for the vacancy for the District 2 County Commissioner will be due at the end of the month.

OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

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

Planning Commission – Two new Planning Commission members were appointed, and discussion was made on finances, and airport zoning.

Veteran's Affairs Board – Veterans Director Dan Perge's action items at today's meeting were discussed at the last Veteran's Affairs Board meeting.

District #2 County Administrator Jesse Osmer gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represented:

HUNT – Did not meet since the last meeting.

Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary – Did not meet since the last meeting.

Parks & Recreation Commission – They are planning a possible ribbon cutting for the Long Lake Boat Launch on June 7th at 3:00 p.m. A flier will be provided.

District #3 Commissioner Robin Lalonde was not present to give an update on the following boards/commissions she represents:

Fair Board Liaison –

Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA) –

Thunder Bay Transportation –

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

26th Judicial Circuit Court Management Council – Meeting will take place in August.

Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority – Will be supporting the recycling center with financial funds throughout the year.

Target – Reports have been made in the Alpena News and radio. Aldi's is ready to open, Hampton Inn is progressing, no discussion on DPI, and discussion on going with the old Alpena Power Company property.

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

District Health Department #4 – Commissioner LaHaie attend this meeting. The Health Department gave their annual report, and updated on their finances and everything is going well. Dr. Meyerson gave a report on measles surveillance and an influenza update.

District #6 Commissioner Burt Francisco gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

Local Planning Team (LPT) – Continuing to review annexes for the Emergency Operations Plan specifically special events and cybersecurity.

Central Dispatch Committee – Policy review.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – Working with Holcim on their offsite response plan.

Northeast Michigan Regional Entity – Next meeting is May 6. Currently, the 2024 treatment statistics including admissions are slightly higher than in 2023. Alcohol continues to be the number one drug of use with methamphetamine use being the second of the total admissions.

Opioid Update – At May's Finance, Ways & Means Committee meeting three RFPs were approved for distribution of funds.

Animal Control – The City and County met this morning to coordinate Animal Control, and the next step will be to review the County and City ordinances and synchronize.

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

Community Corrections Advisory Board – No meeting until next quarter.

Road Commission Liaison – Meeting was in Mackinaw and was unable to attend but did review minutes and nothing new to report.

District #8 Commissioner John Kozlowski gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority (NMMMA) – Commissioner Kozlowski reported the recycling committee will be requesting that the County sign as a grantor for a \$750,000 loan to secure money they need to build the facility. At this point there are no documents to agree upon or make a motion he just wanted to make the Board aware.

NEW BUSINESS

HUNT VEHICLE DISCUSSION

Commission Kozlowski reported there was a lot of back and forth with questions on HUNT vehicles. HUNT purchases their vehicles with their own funds, but they cannot own the vehicle. Alpena County is the fiduciary, and the titles are in the County's name. The vehicles are insured by the County and HUNT reimburses. Administrator Osmer wanted something on record that the County agreed to this arrangement. All funds are processed through the County.

Clerk Keri Bertrand reported the issue was that they traded in a vehicle and came to her asking to sign off on the title and she had no record that the vehicle belonged to them as it was titled to Alpena County and there was no record that the VIN number belonged to HUNT. Keri has the new title for the newly purchased vehicle. Administrator Osmer will reach out to HUNT for a list of vehicles and VIN numbers that are titled to the County of Alpena.

ALPENA COUNTY LIBRARY

Discussion was made on library voting. The Board of Commissioners appoints the Library Board members, but the voting is done by the Library Board itself. Chair Kozlowski encouraged members of the audience to apply. A board member's term is for five years, and each December the Commissioners appoint someone to fulfill an expiring term.

Commissioner Francisco recommended the library come to a meeting and answer questions. Recommendation was made to have the library come to the next Facilities Committee meeting for further discussion.

Treasurer Kim Ludlow wanted to clarify that there are two separate library millages. One is the operating millage that will be on the ballot this year and the other is the building authority millage which pays for the bond that will continue to be on tax bills.

RECIND BOARD ACTION #08 FROM MAY 14, 2024 & APPROVE NEW

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to rescind Board Action #08 (Airport Lots 5 & 6) from the Finance, Ways & Means Committee meeting on May 14, 2024. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve updated Board Action #08 (Airport Lots 5 & 6) from the Finance, Ways & Means Committee meeting on May 14, 2024 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

"BOARD ACTION #08:

INFORMATION ITEM: Commissioner Bill Peterson presented the discussion of the Airport Property Commercial Lots. Duane Jennings presented the estimate from Huron Engineering for

Lots 5 & 6 for Access Road, Entrance Drives, Sewer Connection, Water Connection, and Passing Flare requirements.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to convey (deed) lots 5 and 6 (\$135,000) to Duane Jennings and that he incur all costs and anything between \$124,280 and \$135,000 will be paid back to the County. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Francisco. NAYS: Commissioners Osmer and Kozlowski. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

An Amendment of the current Agreement with Duane Jennings will be presented to the Full Board at the June 2024 board meeting for approval.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Kramer of Alpena commented on the trust in government. He has been attending library meetings and they do not care what the people think. They were told they have no right to tell them where books should be placed and he feels if children read these books it is grooming.

Bonnie Krajniak of Posen expressed her concerns on taxes and faulted the spending of the Commissioners as the reason the County is going down.

Dorothy Boyd of Maple Ridge feels the only course is defunding the library.

Kevin Ginter of Alpena reported he had recent interactions with the Clerk’s Office and Commissioner’s Office and had quick turnaround and professional response. It was nice to see a lot of people for the Flander’s Field Memorial Day recognition. Kevin recommended a review or open bid process on the ALS contract and extending one year at the same contract price to look at the bigger picture and how it impacts the County. The same level of service should be provided to people who are close versus people who are further away.

Nonie Muller of Alpena finished reporting on childhood sexual abuse. Children are being exposed to materials that are totally inappropriate.

Gordon Silkwood of Maple Ridge has attended library meetings, and they ask questions but the library will not answer their questions. Patrons are going to diminish. They want more money but if they keep putting out things like this people are going to stop coming.

Chair Kozlowski reminded the audience that they are welcome to come to the Facilities meeting in June and that there are many boards in which members are appointed to and this is a good opportunity to help situations move forward.

CLOSED SESSION

Commissioners went into closed session for discussion on the IT Director’s Employment. Closed session at 2:18 p.m. and Open Session at 3:05 p.m. Roll was called with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners LaHaie, Peterson, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. Commissioner Lalonde, excused. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.



John Kozłowski, Chairman of the Board



Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm