

Alpena County I.T. Department

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DATE: November 10, 2022

TO: Alpena Commissioners

FROM: Steve Mousseau, I.T. Director

SUBJECT: Website Update

The Alpena County website was created a number of years ago in-house and has expanded considerably since that time. It was determined that the site had become so bloated and user-unfriendly, so many fundamental changes were necessary that it would serve the County better to create a new website rather than trying to try to update the current one. A budget line item was initially set up in the 2022 budget to pay for the upcoming costs.

Our current website is maintained by Jeanette Tolan who was contracted to support our site until July 2022. We had selected a local web developer to design a new site for us and planned on having them complete the new website by the July deadline. The plan was to have the new site up and running by July and then convert to a new contract with them at the same time Jeanette Tolan's contract ended. Although we had planned to begin development well in advance of the July date, we were making little progress and it was quickly discovered that this developer did not have the experience needed to complete the project. We had reached the July deadline with the website nowhere near being completed. Since we still needed someone to support our existing website, I contacted Jeanette Tolan and we reached an agreement where she would continue to maintain our website on a month-to-month basis until we are able to get our new website running.

We began a new search, and this time concentrated our search on developers that were experienced in County websites. In total, there were 22 developers that were evaluated. This list was then narrowed down to 3 based on cost and experience with County governments. Each developer had varied features, strengths, and weaknesses, and the final vendor was selected based on cost, features beneficial to the County, and governmental experience.

The cost of the update will be \$20,560 for the initial development and \$7,670 annually beginning in 2024 for maintenance. We currently pay \$12,000 annually for maintenance.

Payback Period for New Website:

2023 Development Cost	\$20,560
2023 Maintenance Saved in Year 1 *	(12,000)
2024 Annual Maintenance Savings	(4,330)
2025 Annual Maintenance Savings	<u>(4,330)</u>
Balance	\$(100)

* Year 1 maintenance cost is included in the development cost.

Payback Period = 3 years

Thereafter we will realize a savings of \$4,330 annually.

Thank you,

Steve Mousseau