

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 – 5:30 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 Bill Peterson in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Reverend Nanci Baldwin of Northeast Sanctuary of Alpena.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Bill Peterson 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; Jesse Osmer, District #2; Robin Lalonde, District #3; Brenda Fournier, District #5; Burt Francisco, District #6; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; Commissioner John Kozlowski, District #8; and Bill Peterson, District #4.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Osmer to adopt the agenda with the amendment to move Commissioner Kozlowski's Resolution #23-20 agenda item after Action Item #3. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A) **Animal Control Adhoc Committee Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2023**
- B) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023 (*Minutes only)**

C) **Economic Development Committee Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2023**

ACTION ITEM #EDC-1: The Committee recommends approval of the Property Policy with adjustments as presented.

Not Approved on Consent Calendar

ACTION ITEM #EDC-2: The Committee recommends budgeting an appropriation of \$200,000 in 2024 from the ARPA Fund and committing those funds to the Alpena Land Bank Authority as presented.

Not Approved on Consent Calendar

D) **Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2023**

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the Consent Calendar which includes actions as listed above and filing of all reports. Motion carried.

EDC-1: PROPERTY POLICY APPROVAL REQUEST

Commissioner Kozlowski pulled Action Item #EDC-1 off the Consent Calendar as it will be discussed for approval further down on the agenda.

EDC-2: APPROPRIATION FROM ARPA TO ALPENA LAND BANK AUTHORITY

Commissioner Kozlowski pulled Action Item #EDC-2 off the Consent Calendar for further discussion as this is a change to the motion from a previous meeting and more discussion needs to be made as to why changes were made. Chair Peterson moved the item to be discussed under “New Business” on the agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve moving Action Item #EDC-2 from Consent Calendar to New Business on the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

BILLS TO PAY

Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$ 53,177.59	\$53,177.59

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

BOARD OF CANVASSERS TERM APPOINTMENTS

Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the request to reappoint Linda Ayres (D) and to appoint Todd Britton (R) to the Board of Canvassers each for four-year terms beginning November 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2027.

Motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Osmer to approve the action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to appoint Todd Britton (R) and Lynda Ayres (D) to the Alpena County Board of Canvassers for a four-year term beginning November 1, 2023 and ending October 31, 2027.

RESOLUTION #23-20 OPPOSING LEGISLATION PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR SOLAR AND WIND DEVELOPMENT

Commissioner Kozlowski presented Resolution #23-20 Opposing Legislation Preempting Local Control for Solar and Wind Development for approval.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION #23-20

OPPOSING ANY LEGISLATION PREEMPTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR SOLAR AND WIND DEVELOPMENTS

Whereas Executive Directive 2020-10 aims to achieve 100 percent carbon neutrality in Michigan by 2050; and

Whereas industry leaders have pledged to reduce carbon emissions to help achieve this goal; and

Whereas efforts to expand renewable energy projects will continue to increase in this state; and

Whereas the governor has proposed the Michigan Public Service Commission be the sole regulating authority for solar and wind projects to expedite these efforts; and

Whereas by granting the Michigan Public Service Commission this authority, local control will be preempted; and

Whereas should local control be preempted, a county, township, city or village would be unable to determine the location, size, setback distance, decibel level or any other criteria for a solar or wind facility; and

Whereas should local control be preempted, a county, township, city, or village would be unable to determine requirements for construction, operation, use, or maintenance of a solar or wind facility; and

Whereas if a county already has a solar or wind policy, practice, regulation, rule or ordinance on record it would be null and void; and

Whereas all other types of energy facilities, while regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission, must adhere to local zoning; and

Whereas this proposal grants far more regulating authority to the Michigan Public Service Commission than for any other energy source; and

Whereas the Michigan Association of Counties opposes any legislative action that may grant the Michigan Public Service Commission this power.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ALPENA COUNTY opposes the pre-emption of local control in solar and wind siting and zoning.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Osmer to approve Resolution #23-20 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

CANCELLATION OF FBO SERVICES AGREEMENT

Airport Manager Steve Smigelski presented a request for cancellation of the Fuel Base Operator Services Agreement with Huron Aviation Services for approval. The purpose of the agreement was to have Huron Aviation Services collect ramp and landing fees from transient aircraft both during and after scheduled hours. As of December 10, 2023, Huron Aviation Services will no longer be providing fueling services and it is recommended that this Fuel Base Operator Agreement be severed as of December 9, 2023 so beginning December 10, 2023 when the County takes over fueling we are in a position to collect the fees ourselves.

Motion was made by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the cancellation of the Fuel Base Operator Services Agreement action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve Cancellation of FBO Services Agreement with Huron Aviation Services as of December 9, 2023 as presented.

HURON AVIATION SERVICE COMMERCIAL OPERATORS AGREEMENT EXTENSION

Airport Manager Steve Smigelski presented a request to extend the Huron Aviation Service Commercial Operators Agreement. The Commercial Operators Agreement between Huron Aviation Services and the County of Alpena expired on April 30, 2022. Paperwork was left as is and the agreement has a stipulation in it to continue without being officially extended. Manager Smigelski is asking for approval to officially extend the Huron Aviation Services Agreement to December 9, 2023. In November he will offer an amended COA that would remove the fueling aspects but allow HAS to continue to do things like hangar keeping, aircraft repair, etc.

Motion was made by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the Commercial Operators Agreement extension action item as presented. Roll call vote was

taken: AYES: Commissioners Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve Huron Aviation Service Commercial Operators Agreement Extension until December 9, 2023 and offer a new Commercial Operators Agreement at that time as presented.

RESOLUTION #23-19 FY24 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS GRANT APPLICATION

NE MI Community Corrections Program Director Jessica VanWulfen presented Resolution #23-19 FY24 Community Corrections Grant Application for approval.

RESOLUTION #23-19

**Approval
of the
FY 2024 Community Corrections Grant Application
of the
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments**

WHEREAS, the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) serves as the Fiscal Agent and Program Manager for the Northeast Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board (NEMCCAB), and

WHEREAS, this County is a member of either the NEMCCAB strongly desires to continue to participate with Community Correction's Programs and Services, and

WHEREAS, NEMCOG has worked with the OCC to develop a Community Corrections FY 2024 Grant Application for the NEMCCAB, and

WHEREAS, the FY 2024 Community Corrections Grant Application has been prepared by NEMCOG in the amount \$291,413 for Community Corrections Programs and Services in the counties of: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, and Otsego, and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board, has approved this Grant Application, and recommends its approval by the member counties,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Alpena County hereby approves the Northeast Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board's, FY 2024 Grant Application prepared by NEMCOG for Community Corrections funding in the annual amount of \$291,413 for Programs and Services.

Motion was made by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve Resolution #23-19 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde Fournier, Francisco, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

SECONDARY ROAD PATROL GRANT RENEWAL APPLICATION

Sheriff Erik Smith presented the Secondary Road Patrol Grant Renewal Application 2023/2024 for approval. The total amount of the grant is \$114,749 with an organization match of \$80,941 and a county match of \$33,808.

Motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the Secondary Road Patrol Grant Renewal Application action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, and Peterson. NAYS: Commissioners. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve the renewal of the 2024 Secondary Road Patrol Grant Application (October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024) for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$114,749 with an organizational match of \$80,941 and a County match of \$33,808 and authorize the Chairman of the Board or the County Administrator to sign all pertaining documents as presented. This has Grant Review Committee approval.

PARKS COST ALLOCATION DISCUSSION

Commissioner Fournier reported the Parks & Recreation Commission does not currently pay a cost allocation and recommended they start to pay beginning in 2024. Cost allocation is a way to account for all the central services used by a department.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission Cost Allocation action item as presented. If approved this will go into the draft budget for review. The cost allocation for 2024 for Parks & Recreation would be in the amount of \$33,884. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to include cost allocation in the 2024 draft budget for the Parks & Recreation Commission in the amount of \$33,884 as presented.

LIBRARY 101 PRESENTATION

Library Director Debra Greenacre introduced herself and Assistant Library Director Jessica Luther to the Board. Jessica gave the Board a presentation on how the library operates, and because the Board appointments their trustees it's essential for them to know the important role those trustees play. Currently the Library Board consists of 5 trustees and their role is to adopt the bylaws and rules, maintain control of building and grounds, expenses and funds, approve the budget and more. The library has 21 employees, and they receive their funding with millages, state funding and penal fines. The library also applies for grants, uses fundraising, and receives donations. Jessica provided information on the different services the library offers. Not only do they loan books they provide 24/7 locker pick up, ebooks, WiFi hotspots, GED assistance, tech help and hygiene resources along with many other services. The library wants to make sure they are servicing the whole county and reach out to the people that can't get to them. They will be hosting library events at different locations, providing mobile library services, expanding homebound library services, and scheduling school visits

to and from the library. Jessica invited the Commissioners to call and schedule a tour and visit the library to see all it has to offer and expressed her appreciation for their support.

Commissioner Fournier reported she has received many calls regarding the children's books at the library being inappropriate. Jessica reported they have policies in place at the library and how they choose their books. There is also a formal process the library uses if anyone feels a book needs to be examined. They are happy and willing to listen to all concerns.

MODIFICATION OF HOME IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LOAN

Home Improvement Director Nicki Janish was requested by the Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee to bring her recommendation to modify Home Improvement Program Project #006-19-EM to the Full Board for discussion. The homeowner had asked for the current loan to be reevaluated based on a change of living situation in her home. When assistance was received two years ago they were a married couple with a household of two and per guidelines at that time qualified for a loan within the program with monthly payments at 2% accrual of interest over a 25 year period. After a divorce, the wife is now the sole owner of the home and under today's guidelines she would qualify for a 0% interest deferred loan which becomes due and payable once she no longer owns and occupies the home. The ex-husband is still on the current loan, but our program only considers the household which now is only a one-person home.

Motion was made by Commissioner Osmer and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to approve the Home Improvement Project modification action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners, Osmer, Lalonde, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie and Peterson. NAYS: Commissioner Fournier. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation to approve the request to modify Home Improvement Project #006-19-EM to a 0% interest deferred loan with note to revisit the Home Improvement Program policies and guidelines as presented.

APPROVE PHASE II CONSTRUCTION FOR RUNWAY

County Administrator Mary Catherine Hannah presented the bid from M & M Excavating in the amount of \$18,039,072.50 for the Alpena County Regional Airport Project Rehabilitate Runway 1-19 Pavement & BAK12 Aircraft Arresting System – Phase 2 South for approval. The bid was reviewed by our consultant RS&H and is recommended to be approved for both M & M and RS&H for Type C Services.

Commissioner Kozlowski and Commissioner Konarzewski requested to be recused from voting to approve the bid from M & M Excavating. Motion was made by Commissioner Osmer and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to recuse Commissioner Kozlowski and Commissioner Konarzewski from vote. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the bid from M & M Excavating in the action item as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, LaHaie, Osmer, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to approve the bid from M & M Excavating Co. Inc. in the amount of \$18,039,072.50 for the Alpena County Regional Airport Project Rehabilitate Runway 1-19 Pavement & BAK12 Aircraft Arresting Systems - Phase 2 South and to award the contract and authorize the Board Chair or County Administrator to sign all pertaining documents as presented and to approve the Contract with RS&H for Type C Services in the amount of \$1,353,000.00 and authorize the Board Chair or the County Administrator to sign all pertaining documents as presented. Phase 2 is completely funded through a Cooperative Grant Agreement with the Air National Guard.

APPROPRIATION FROM ARPA TO ALPENA LAND BANK AUTHORITY

This item was pulled from the Consent Calendar and moved under New Business for further discussion. In the original action item in the Economic Development Committee Meeting minutes, the action item read “The Committee recommends approval to transfer \$200,000 from ARPA funding to the Land Bank Authority as presented. The funds will be reimbursed.” Treasurer Kim Ludlow reported the Alpena Land Bank Authority really has no income source at this point. They are eligible for a \$500,000 federal ARPA grant and they have until March 31, 2024 to pick out a project and apply for the grant. When they get the grant, it is a reimbursement grant. As long as they have no money, they have no operational obligation expenses such as banking fees and audits. At this point if the Board chooses to do so Treasurer Ludlow would recommend appropriating the funds in the 2024 budget from the ARPA fund and to not transfer at this time.

Motion was made by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to deny the request to budget an appropriation in 2024 of \$200,000 from the ARPA Fund and commit those funds to the Alpena Land Bank Authority as presented.

*Commissioner Osmer left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Lalonde. NAYS: Commissioners Francisco, LaHaie, Peterson. Motion carried. An appropriation of \$200,000 will not go into the draft budget.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PER DIEM REPORTS

Chair Peterson reminded the Commissioners to turn in their per diem reports and do so in a timely manner according to board policy.

APPROVAL OF SALE OF COUNTY REAL PROPERTY POLICY

County Administrator Hannah reported the Sale of County policy came into discussion at the Economic Development Committee meeting because there was discussion in regards sale of certain property that the county owns and the process for that. Administrator Hannah is unaware if the policy had been approved previously as it was not found in any board policies when looking through board actions. A few updates were made to the Sale of County Real Property Policy and was presented to the Economic Development Committee for review and the Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee for review.

Motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the Sale of County Real Property Policy action item as presented. Commissioner Kozlowski recommended to add language to read “Chairman of the Board and/or County Administrator” for future reference in the event that the County Administrator is absent. An amended motion was made by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the Sale of County Real Property Policy with the addition of “Chairman of the Board and/or County Administrator” as presented. Roll call vote was taken: Commissioners Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Lalonde, Fournier, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Commissioner Osmer, excused.

ACTION ITEM #12: Recommendation to approve the Sale of County Real Property Policy with an amendment to read “Chairman of the Board and/or County Administrator” as presented.

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Chair Konarzewski reported the Committee discussed Home Improvement Program Project requests and asked that the Board put together questions for Director Janish as she will be doing a Home Improvement Program 101 at the October Full Board meeting. Discussion was also made on the Sheriff’s Office radios that will be becoming obsolete and possibly utilizing ARPA funding to replace. There are also potential law enforcement grants that can be looked into.

Economic Development Committee Update – Chair Konarzewski reported the Committee discussed fueling at the Airport and the options for suppliers. Discussion was also made on the lots at the airport and how quickly they should be sold. Commissioner Konarzewski will speak with Gabe at M & M Excavating on pricing of the gravel to see if the County can purchase at a discounted price and store it at the airport for future use. He will get samples of the gravel to see if the material is suitable for use.

Animal Control Ad Hoc Committee Update – Chair Kozlowski reported the Committee is currently reviewing policies and procedures and they are in the process of reviewing the contract between the city and the Huron Humane Society.

OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Health Department – Commissioner Fournier reported Dr. Myers spoke about flu and covid shots and people can get both at the same time. They are moved into their new building and will be starting union contracts.

26TH Judicial Circuit Court Management Council – Commissioner Peterson reported the Council reviewed the budget and are in the process of getting a new security system. They had also asked for a flat \$1,500 raise for their employees.

MOA Landfill Authority – Commissioner Francisco reported Administrator Hannah presented the proposal for joint planning for the Material Management Plan to the Authority. More money can be received for joint planning, and they decided to authorize RRS to draft a proposal for all three counties (Montmorency, Oscoda, and Alpena). The injection well is on a 30-day delay due to overbooking.

The Authority is required to do a Financial Assurance Report which needs to be approved by all three boards. They may have to do a poll action to meet the October 30th deadline.

Fair Board – Commissioner Konarzewski reported the Fairgrounds Manager would like a tractor, revenue is up considerably, and the temporary camping sites during the fair brought in \$1,400. The fairgrounds house is in need of some repairs and Maintenance Superintendent Wes Wilder will be working to get quotes. Commissioner Fournier reported a barn that is used for winter storage was not cleaned up by the Fair Board. Commissioner Konarzewski will inquire about the item at their next meeting.

NEMCSA – Commissioner Lalonde reported that the Cheboygan office needed a new roof, and their annual plan was approved. The Early Head Start Program is short staffed for teachers therefore the program is suffering. They are also looking for an RN in the Gaylord area.

DARE – Commissioner Kozlowski had nothing new to report. Neither the city nor the county have a DARE officer at this time. Sheriff Erik Smith reported that they are fully staffed on the deputy side right now and could possibly have someone appointed as DARE officer.

Parks & Recreation – Commissioner LaHaie reported the Parks are all doing very well and are winding down the camping season. Elmer's has started work on the Long Lake boat launch and Administrator Hannah will send the Commissioners photos on the progress.

Road Commission – Commissioner LaHaie reported the Road Commission has been busy with seal coating, gravel and shoulder maintenance, culvert replacement, roadside mowing, and equipment repairs. There will be a meeting next month with the township for more discussion on the bypass. Commissioner Konarzewski will contact Ryan Brege at the Road Commission for more discussion on gravel for Beaver Lake Road.

NMMMA – Commissioner Francisco reported the NMMMA has a critical cash flow problem and are looking at different mitigation strategies. RRS visited and will provide courses of action for the mitigation strategy which is expected to be received this week.

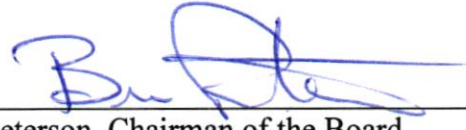
Discussion was made on the status of the sale of the Ambulance. Commissioner Konarzewski reported they struggled with the local ford dealer and received a less than adequate evaluation and will reach out to the potential buyer for further discussion on moving forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

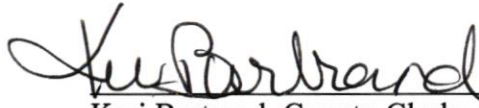
Kevin Ginter of Alpena expressed his passion for public service to Board. He feels that Alpena County needs more firefighters and to keep and retain them. An article in the newspaper reported the Township Supervisor stating that voters didn't supporting the millage. Kevin feels this is a reflection of the mistrust Alpena Township voters have of their elected officials.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



Bill Peterson, Chairman of the Board



Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm