

# Alpena County Central Dispatch

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Date: February 5, 2026

To: Board of Commissioners

Re: Special Election for 911 Surcharge

Commissioners:

While preparing our annual report to the Michigan State 911 Office, I identified some requirements that necessitate action on our part.

The State 911 Office has provided guidance confirming that a special election must be held to certify our \$3.00 monthly surcharge no later than May 4, 2026. This timeline is critical because, by May 15, 2026, we are required to certify the surcharge amount to the State 911 Office for the period of July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027. Certification cannot occur if the surcharge is placed on the ballot in August or November, as the State 911 Office subsequently notifies telephone companies of the applicable surcharge rates for all Michigan counties.

Failure to hold this special election will result in a lapse in surcharge collections beginning January 1, 2027.

Regrettably, review of the prior surcharge ballot process confirms that our current circumstances parallel those of 2021, when comparable timing issues required a special election and produced similar challenges. As occurred in 2021, 911 will be responsible for the cost associated with the 2026 special election.

I am grateful for the proactive support and assistance provided by the County Administrator and County Clerk in facilitating this special election process. Our goal is a successful surcharge renewal, as well as identifying a long-term remedy to the recurring timeline conflict to eliminate the need for future special elections.

I will be prepared to address any questions you may have. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Kim Elkie  
Director, Alpena County Central Dispatch