

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 23, 2023 – 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 Bill Peterson in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Major Prezza Morrison of The Salvation Army Church 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; John Kozlowski, District #8; and Bill Peterson, District #4.

Chairman Peterson welcomed District 3 County Commissioner Robin Lalonde.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julie Uribe of Alpena was at the meeting representing Friends of the Alpena Animal Control Shelter. The group feels that the survey is skewed and the rumors of the Animal Control Shelter shutting down are becoming real. Nancy McSwain of Alpena passed out folders to each Commissioner that contained a petition with approximately 200 signatures requesting the County continue to fund the Animal Control Shelter in full.

Nancy McSwain of Alpena shared her concerns of the Animal Control Survey and her support for Animal Control and Animal Control Officer Michelle Reid.

Kevin Ginter of Alpena shared his concerns about changes for the Ambulance Fee Schedule.

CONSENT CALENDAR

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2023 (*Minutes only)**

B) **Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2023**

ACTION ITEM #CPSC-1: The Committee recommends approval for the Prosecutor’s Office to purchase Karpel Solutions Software to replace their current software which will expire and become obsolete and for the matter to be placed on the Finance Ways & Means Committee agenda for funding recommendation as presented.

ACTION ITEM #CPSC-2: The Committee recommends approval of increasing the Ambulance Fee Schedule for Basic Life Support Base Rate from \$498.75 to \$525.00 and to approve a new Treat No-Transport rate of \$250.00 as presented.

C) **Facilities, Capital, & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2023**

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval of Home Improvement Project #EM 21-19 with a project cost of \$23,000-\$28,000 for new siding/soffit & fascia/window-door trim with funding to come from program income and HPG funds combined as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-2: The Committee recommends approval of Home Improvement Project #EM 21-24 with a project cost of \$24,500 for a well replacement contingent on delinquent property taxes being paid before project begins with funding to come from program income and HPG funds combined as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-3: The Committee recommends cosmetic upgrading to the Merchant’s Building at the Fairgrounds (Painting, Epoxy on Floor, Light Bulb Replacement, Light Fixture Replacements, Shower Fans, and Shower Floor Sealer) and to decrease ARPA Fund by \$3,000 and increase Fairgrounds Building Maintenance Line Item #101-268-932 by \$3,000 and to authorize the Treasurer to make the necessary budget adjustments as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Parks Commission Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2023

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

BILLS TO PAY

Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$32,475.17	\$32,475.17

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

AMBULANCE AND EMT 101

Alpena Fire Chief Rob Edmonds presented a PowerPoint to the Commissioners about Ambulance and EMT Services. Currently they have 30 approved staffing positions and are in the process right now of hiring 5 more people with 2 vacancies left to fill before they are fully staffed. It has been about 10 years since they have had full staff.

Chief Edmonds reported they can purchase an ambulance every two years and one was just purchased from Charter Township of Alpena. He will be working with County Administrator Mary Catherine Hannah to extend the replacement cycle from 2 years to 3 years. The current fleet is in very good condition. They have mutual aid agreements with MyMichigan EMS-Alpena, Alcona County EMS, Hillman EMS, and East Grand Lake Fire Department and partnerships with MyMichigan EMS-Alpena, CRTC, and Holcim.

The average response time in the County is 11.1 minutes and, in the City, the average response time is 6.12 minutes. The Commissioners thanked Chief Edmonds for his presentation, and he offered to give the Commissioners a tour of the facility and rigs anytime they would like.

FUNDS TRANSFER REQUEST – VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Affairs Counselor Dan Perge presented a transfer of funds request to the Board for review. Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the action item below. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Lalonde, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommend approval to transfer funds in the amount of \$900 from line item #293-682-955.001 and put into line item #293-682-725.000 and authorize the Treasurer to do the transfers as presented to pay per diem for the Veterans Board members.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR APLEX POOL EXPANSION

County Administrator Mary Catherine Hannah asked to table the discussion. The third candidate for the conceptual design for the APlex pool expansion has not yet been interviewed and the Pool Workgroup is not ready to make a recommendation at this time.

REPORTS OF REGULAR COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Nothing new to report.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Chair John Kozlowski reported that discussion was made on the Prosecutor’s Karpel Software, Ambulance Fee Schedule, and Animal Control. Commissioner Kozlowski stressed that no Commissioner ever said the Animal Control Shelter was being shut down. The Committee also asked the Animal Control Officer for a copy of the Animal Control policies to be presented to them before the next meeting.

Juvenile Justice Adhoc Committee – Chair Burt Francisco reported nothing will be scheduled pending the grant application status from the state of Michigan for a local juvenile detention facility. Chair Francisco will continue to attend the long-term residential treatment facility meetings.

Personnel Committee Update – Chair Jesse Osmer reported that the Committee discussed looking for new agents for Employee Benefits and they went through the interview process to fill the seat for District 3 which went well.

OTHER BOARDS

Health Department – Commissioner Fournier reported you no longer need to wear a mask at the hospital and that Covid is not discussed at meetings anymore. There may also be a possibility that sump tanks will begin to be checked.

NEMCOG – Commissioner Francisco reported the three items of discussion at the meeting were the Neighborhood Exclusion Zone, Materials Management Plan, and NE Michigan housing initiatives.

Parks – Discussion was made on picnic tables. Long Lake Park will go forward with a sole manager and Commissioner Kozlowski reported the Parks Tour was this past Saturday.

MOA Landfill Authority – Commissioner Peterson reported the injection well has been completed and they are just waiting for the ok from EGLE.

DARE – Commissioner Kozlowski reported there was a DARE basketball game and the Board does not meet often as they do not have a DARE officer at this time.

Target Alpena – Commissioner Osmer reported Lenny Avery was hired to help with grant writing.

Veterans – Commissioner Francisco commended Dan Perge and Bill Stypick for their outstanding job in taking care of Veteran’s family and providing support and services. The 2024 CVSF grant application has been submitted and he reminded everyone of the Memorial Day services next week.

Road Commission – Commissioner LaHaie reported the Alpena County Road Commission’s finances look good. Herron Road will have the blacktop taken off the section that settled and more gravel will be put in. If the section does not settle again, they will repave in the fall. The Commission also discussed upcoming projects. Commissioner Konarzewski inquired about changing the Board from 3 members to 5 members. Motion was made by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend moving the Road Commission Board from 3 to 5 members with more discussion at the next Finance, Ways, & Means Committee meeting in June. Roll Call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Fournier,

Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND GENERAL ORDERS

Administrator Hannah presented a late bill that came in for the Home Depot Credit Card for the Airport. If it is bumped to the next meeting the bill will be late getting paid which will cause a late payment on the credit card bill. The total bill is \$718.38 for folding chairs, folding table, cabinet cleaner, bathroom supplies, and soap. Motion was made by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Lalonde to recommend the action item below. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, LaHaie, Osmer, Lalonde, Fournier, and Commissioner Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommend approval to pay Airport Home Depot credit card invoice in the amount of \$718.38 as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Peterson reported the next Intergovernmental Council meeting will be held on June 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Charter Township of Alpena.

Commissioner Osmer asked that the process for donations for the Animal Control Program be placed on the next Finance, Ways, & Means Committee meeting to clarify the process.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Peterson presented updated appointments to the Standing Committee for Economic Development and for Various Board Appointments for 2023 for approval. Moved by Commissioner and supported by Commissioner to approve the below action item. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Osmer, Fournier, Francisco, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #11: Recommendation to approve the Board Chairman's appointments as follows:

Standing Committees:

**Economic Development Committee – Add: Commissioner Robin Lalonde
Remove: Commissioner Jesse Osmer**

Various Board Appointments:

**4-County Health Board – Alternate: Commissioner Robin Lalonde
NE Michigan Consortium – Commissioner Robin Lalonde
MI Northern Counties Association – Alternate: Commissioner Robin Lalonde
NEMCSA - Commissioner Robin Lalonde
Thunder Bay Transportation – Alternate: Commissioner Robin Lalonde
911 Advisory Executive Board – Commissioner Robin Lalonde**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Julie Uribe of Alpena shared statistics with the Board and encouraged them to look at these statistics and to be assured that the constituents are committed that animal control continues to serve the best interest of the community.

Nancy McSwain of Alpena shared more on her support for Animal Control and expressed how much people care in Alpena County.

Jennifer Ordway of Alpena expressed her support for Animal Control and Animal Control Officer Michelle Reid.

Kayla Miller of Alpena expressed her support for Animal Control and Animal Control Officer Michelle Reid.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Lalonde and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Bill Peterson, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, Clerk

kvm