

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 24, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

CALL TO ORDER

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met, and the meeting was called to order by Chairman John Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Pastor Joe Collins of Huron Shores Fellowship.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman 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; Dan Ludlow, District #2; Lucille Bray, District #3; Bill Peterson, District #4; Brenda Fournier, District #5; Todd Britton, District #6; and John Kozlowski, District #8. Commissioner Travis Konarzewski, District #7, excused.

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to adopt the agenda with the following changes: Removal of 1) Temporary Campsites for Fair Week and 2) Alpena Rink Management Surcharge Letter; and add 1) County Administrator's budget adjustments and journal entries. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BILLS TO PAY

Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	\$133,519.19	\$133,519.19

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – February 10, 2026

B) **Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes** – February 18, 2026

ACTION ITEM #FCSP-1: The Committee recommends approval of the Airport Facility Lease Agreement with Bay Leasing and Renting; DBA Avis Rent A Car for a term backdated to November 1, 2025, continuing for one (1) year in the amount of \$1,500 per year (increasing 3% annually) with the option for an additional one (1) year extension among mutual consent of both parties as presented.

ACTION ITEM #FCSP-2: The Committee recommends approval of the Assignment of Lease between Alpena County (Landlord), Howard E. Riley Jr. (Assignor), and Edward (Mick) Higgins (Assignee), on October 1, 2025, with respect to certain premises located at 1435 Airport Road as presented.

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

VETERANS BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Veteran's Affairs Director Dan Perge presented a budget adjustment request in the amount of \$12,893.00 regarding the FY26 County Veterans Service Fund Grant. The grant was changed in FY26 to a reimbursement grant as opposed to being funded upfront as in years past. After the FY26 Veterans Affairs budget was submitted, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency notified them that the grant was changing back to the original grant project criteria, and the requested projects did qualify for approval.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the Veterans Affairs budget adjustment request as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the Veterans Affairs Office budget adjustment request to increase revenue line item 293-682-553.000 State Grant in the amount of \$12,893.00 and increase expense line item 293-682-903.001 Grant Marketing in the amount of \$12,893.00 as presented.

TREASURER BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Treasurer Cindy Cebula presented a budget adjustment request in the amount of \$4,000.00 to move funds from the Contingency Fund to Education and Training line item 101-253-955.001 for her staff to receive further training.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the Treasurer's budget adjustment request as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the Treasurer's Office budget adjustment request to move \$4,000.00 from the Contingency Fund to Education and Training line item 101-253-955.001 as presented.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented a budget adjustment request in the amount of \$160.00 to increase the Community Promotion line item. The increase is to cover the cost of spouses who attended a recent event in which payment has been received from each spouse.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the County Administrator's budget adjustment request as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve an increase to line item 101-101-880.000 Community Promotion in the amount of \$160.00 as presented.

RESOLUTION #26-04

Treasurer Cebula presented Resolution #26-04 Waive Collection Fees/Senior Citizens for review and adoption.

RESOLUTION #26-04

WAIVE COLLECTION FEES/SENIOR CITIZENS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners waive, through April 30, 2026 the collection fees and interest in excess of those charged prior to February 15, 2026, on the 2025 property taxes currently being collected. This exemption applies only to qualified senior citizens – 62 years or older, paraplegics, eligible servicemen, and eligible veterans, and blind and totally and permanently disabled as defined in the State Income Tax Act who have filed Homestead Property Tax Credit prior to February 15, 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the adoption of Resolution #26-04 as presented. Motion carried.

MAINTENANCE FLAT BED TRUCKS

Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins presented a request to trade the old 2005 Chevy flatbed pickup truck for the labor performed on the newly acquired 2005 Chevy flatbed truck in the amount of \$2,850.00.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the trade of the flatbed truck for labor on the newer truck as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve trading the old 2005 Chevy flatbed truck for the labor performed on the newly acquired 2005 Chevy flatbed truck in the amount of \$2,850.00 as presented.

USE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VEHICLE

Emergency Management Director Nic Modzrynski presented a request to use the Emergency Management vehicle to and from work.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the Emergency Manager to use the Emergency Management vehicle to and from work as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, and Britton. NAYS: Commissioner Kozlowski. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation to approve the Alpena County Emergency Manager to use the Emergency Management vehicle to and from work as presented.

PUBLIC SAFETY CRITICAL INCIDENT MAPPING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie presented three grant applications for the Michigan State Police Public Safety Critical Incident Mapping Competitive Grant Program totaling \$73,463.00 for review and approval. Each applicant can apply for up to three \$25,000 grants for developing high-quality indoor critical incident maps.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the three grant applications as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to approve the three (3) Michigan State Police 2026 Michigan Public Safety Critical Incident Mapping Competitive Grant applications totaling \$73,463.00 with no county match and authorize the Board Chairman, County Treasurer, and Central Dispatch Director to sign all pertaining documents as presented. This has had Grant Review Committee approval.

MEDIA ROOM RENOVATIONS

At February's Facilities Committee meeting the IT Director had requested to do some remodeling in their department. Commissioner Britton along with Maintenance Superintendent Akins looked at the project, which is viable, but with upcoming projects the Maintenance Department has, this project should be pushed out to 2027. They have a \$15,000 budget for the project.

Move by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to table the IT remodeling and have further discussion at March's Facilities meeting. Motion carried.

BUMP & RUN FUNDRAISERS FOR FAIR BOARD

Fair Board President Courtney Tauriainen presented a request to use the fairgrounds for two bump and run events outside of fair season. These events would be held on March 14th and June 6th to help raise money to put concrete in the sheep and goat barn. They are hoping to raise the \$25,000 needed to have the project completed before fair time. There would be no cost to the county.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the Fair Board's two bump and run events as presented. Motion carried.

ADDITIONAL CAMPSITES FOR FAIRGROUNDS

While discussing the fairgrounds, Commissioner Fournier inquired about moving the Kiwanis Club playground equipment to free up river frontage and add additional campsites. This will be added to March's Facilities agenda for further discussion.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

County Administrator Osmer presented three budget adjustments/journal entries for review and approval. These adjustments will correct some of the shortages in the 210, and 402 funds. The money is already there it is just a matter of getting the funds from one area of the budget to another.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the County Administrator's budget adjustment requests as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve the following budget adjustments/journal entries as presented:

- 1. Increase the following line items and execute the transfer of funds from GF 101 to Funds 402 and 631 respectively:**

631-265-699.000 / Transfer from Other Funds / + \$100,000.00
402-234-699.000 / Transfer from Other Funds / + \$130,000.00
101-351-995.402 / Transfer to 402 Equipment Fund / \$130,000.00
101-351-995.631 / Transfer to 631 B&G Fund / \$100,000.00

2. Increase the following line items:

210-651-727.000 / Supplies-Restocking Drub Boxes/Kits / + \$40,000.00

210-651-727.001 / City Disposal 1st Responder Supplies / + \$86,000.00

3. Decrease the following line items:

631-265-975.003 / Courthouse Front Step Repair / \$5,000.00 to \$0.00 (\$5,000.00)

402-234-980.251 / Data Processing / \$210,000.00 to \$194,000.00 (\$16,000.00)

631-265-955.000 / Contingency Fund / \$20,000.00 to \$15,000.00 (\$5,000.00)

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – The two main topics discussed were the AVIS vehicle rental company and the assignment of a hangar.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Meeting was cancelled.

Personnel Committee Update – Personnel Chair Brenda Fournier reported a new member was appointed for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

THUNDER BAY TRANSPORTATION ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

Chair Kozlowski presented Thunder Bay Transportation's amended Articles of Incorporation for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the amended Articles of Incorporation as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #11: Recommendation to approve Thunder Bay Transportation's amendments to their Articles of Incorporation as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session for discussion on a personnel matter at 1:55 p.m. and opened session at 2:17 p.m. Roll call was taken. All members were present except Commissioner Konarzewski, excused.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Bray reported that someone had reached out to her about approval of a grant for cats. She will forward the email to Sheriff Erik Smith.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

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