

FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 10, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

Commissioners Present: John Kozlowski, Board Chair
Burt Francisco, Vice Chair/Finance Chair
William LaHaie
Dan Ludlow
Lucille Bray
Bill Peterson
Brenda Fournier
Travis Konarzewski

Others Present: Keri Bertrand, County Clerk
Kim Ludlow, County Treasurer
Jesse Osmer, County Administrator
Kim MacArthur, County Board Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE PROPOSED 2025 BUDGET AT 9:30 A.M.

No Comments.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Finance Chairman Burt Francisco called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken: All committee members present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADOPT AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doris Feys: Advocated for public libraries to uphold First Amendment rights and resist censorship. Mentioned community support for libraries.

Pauline Buchner: Read excerpts criticizing cultural issues related to libraries and LGBTQ+ topics.

Elaine Stanger: Expressed concern over library board appointments affecting community unity and freedoms.

Julia Silkworth: Supports the commissioners' decisions on library board appointments.

Judy Stillion: Criticized the nomination of divisive candidates to the library board and highlighted Lauren Mantlo's qualifications.

Diane O’Conner: Warned against appointing individuals with agendas to undermine library operations.

Dustin Budd: Clarified misunderstandings about his stance on the appointments and emphasized the importance of collaboration.

Dorothy Boyk: Defended Julie Byrnes against allegations of harassment.

Bruce Heath: Thanked the board for considering the library's situation.

Alan Plume: Criticized the library's direction and expressed concern over community representation.

Julie Byrnes: Thanked the board for her nomination and will bring true diversity to the library board.

Julie Gandala: Spoke to give pause and point to the concept of representative government.

Bridget Hollinshead: Feels it is not the board’s responsibility to feel the need to parent.

Frank Volos: Questioned the appropriateness of certain materials in the library.

Nonie Mueller: Advocated for age-appropriate content in libraries.

Kathleen Bauer: Urged the board to represent all constituents and avoid divisiveness.

Joe Garber: Clarifies his position on the library board’s management.

Sarah Grochowski: Speaks against the proposed board members’ actions.

Michelle Cornish: Critiques the current board composition.

Jenny Stanczyk: Calls for understanding and acceptance of diverse community members.

BILLS TO PAY

INFORMATION ITEM: County Clerk Keri Bertrand presented the bills to pay for approval.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	\$91,137.88	\$91,137.88

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve paying the bills as submitted. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Francisco. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS

INFORMATION ITEM: Treasurer Kim Ludlow presented the monthly reports for November 2024.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bary to approve receiving and filing of the monthly Treasurer’s Report for November 2024 as presented. Motion carried.

MOTION TO RISE & REPORT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to rise and report. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Chairman John Kozlowski presented the Minutes and Board Actions from the following meetings for board approval. Commissioner Francisco is recused from voting due to his Veterans Board appointment recommendation in Action Item #PC-3.

- A) **Approval of the Official Proceedings of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners Regular Session – November 26, 2024 (*Minutes only)**

- B) **Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2024**

ACTION ITEM #PC-1: The Committee recommends approval to appoint the following individuals to be seated on the Opioid Steering Committee: Jason Beatty, Vicki Konczak-Mitz, Jennifer Graham, Mary Eagan, and Abe Bruski each for a 2-year term effective January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-2: The Committee recommends approval to reappoint Bob Adrian and appoint Jennifer Graham to the NE MI Community Mental Health Board, each for a 3-year term, beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-3: The Committee recommends approval to appoint the following candidates to the following Boards and Commissions:

- Library Board: Julie Brynes, 5-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2029)
- Library Board: Traci Collins, Partial Term (immediate to 12/31/2027)

- Parks & Recreation: Pam Kirchoff, 3-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2027)
- Parks & Recreation: Michael Rhodes, 3-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2027)

- Road Commission: Gerald Lucas, 6-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2030)

- Planning Commission (Citizen at Large): Michael Kramer, 3-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2027)
- Planning Commission (Business & Industry): Carol Bobolts, 3-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2027)

- Veterans Affairs Board: Burt Francisco, 4-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2028)
- Veterans Affairs Board: Steven Murphy, 4-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2028)

- Central Dispatch: Edna Sorensen, 2-Year Term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2026)

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the Consent Calendar as listed above and filing of all reports as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES:

Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Francisco, recused. Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF 2025 BUDGET

Chairman Kozlowski presented the 2025 Budget for approval and adoption.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve and adopt the 2025 Budget as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve and adopt the 2025 Budget as presented.

2025 BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Kozlowski presented the adoption of the following actions items for the 2025 Budget Policy, regarding fiscal policies and procedures:

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to adopt the 2025 Budget Policy as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to adopt the 2025 Budget Policy, regarding fiscal policies and that they be part of the 2025 Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the resolution for the Component Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve the resolution for the Component Funds.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the resolution for the General Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve the resolution for the General Funds.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the resolution for the Special Reserve Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve the resolution for the Special Reserve Funds.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the resolution for the Debt Service Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation to approve the resolution for the Debt Service Funds.

Moved by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the resolution for the Capital Project Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to approve the resolution for the Capital Project Funds.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the resolution for the Enterprise Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #11: Recommendation to approve the resolution for Enterprise Funds.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the resolution for the Internal Funds as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #12: Recommendation to approve the resolution for the Internal Funds.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the Treasurer's Reserve Recommendations for 2024 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #13: Recommendation to approve the Treasurer's Reserve Recommendations for 2024.

Moved by Commissioner Francisco and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the Treasurer be authorized to pay all remaining bills for 2024 and make any budget adjustments as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #14: Recommendation that the Treasurer be authorized to pay all remaining bills for 2024 and to make any budget adjustments for 2024.

JANUARY ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Chairman Kozlowski asked the board for approval to look at the committee assignments for 2025 and work with each commissioner to decide which committees everyone would serve on. County Administrator Jesse Osmer will send out a list of all the committees.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the poll vote as amended. Roll call vote was taken: Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Francisco. NAYS: None. Commissioner Fournier, excused. Motion carried.

POLL VOTE: TERMINATE SYNCRONIZITIONS CONTRACT

Chairman Kozlowski presented the previously approved poll to terminate the contract with Synchronizations. Commissioner Konarzewski voted aye. Administrator Osmer reported after discussion with Synchronizations LLC, their pay period ends on December 22nd and has requested the termination date be changed to be effective December 22nd.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Francisco to approve the termination of the contract with Synchronizations, LLC with the amended effective date of December 22, 2024, as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

POLL VOTE ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to terminate the contract with Synchronizations, LLC effective December 22, 2024, as presented.

MDOT LEASE RENEWAL

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented the MDOT lease renewal for approval.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the MDOT Lease Renewal as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, Francisco, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #15: Recommendation to approve the final MDOT Lease Renewal as presented.

PLAZA POOL PAY SCALE

Administrator Osmer presented payroll adjustments for the Plaza Pool staff. With the recommended adjustments there will be savings of \$15,200 to the current contractual agreement and payroll.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve the payroll adjustments for the Plaza Pool staff as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Konarzewski, and Francisco. NAYS: Commissioner Kozlowski. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #16: Recommendation to approve the payroll adjustments for the Plaza Pool staff as presented.

TREASURER'S OFFICE VACANCY

Discussion was made on the upcoming vacancy in the Treasure's Office. This will be added to the Special Meeting following the Organizational Meeting on January 2, 2025.

Administrator Osmer reported he received a message from Griffin James stating that he was not going to be accepting the District #2 appointment and will send an official email to the County Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Burt Francisco: Announces he is not continuing his role as the District 6 representative and voiced his concerns on recent appointment voting. He appreciates the board giving him the opportunity to continue to serve the county with his appointment to the Veterans Affairs Board.

Elaine Stanger: Addressed concerns with the level of the road on Bilton Road and the flooding problems her and her neighbors are having.

Diane O'Conner: Expressed her disagreement with the board's decision on the library board appointments.

Michael Kramer: Thanked the board for their overriding intelligence brought to the decision of the library board appointments.

Dustin Budd: Clarified that he is not an agitator but has a diversity of opinions and encourages the community to talk with him and it's ok to have differences of opinion.

Chairman John Kozlowski: Also, wanted to add that he is more than willing to sit down and meet with anybody that has questions about anything and appreciates the individuals that show up to county meetings.

Commissioner Lucille Bray: The community needs to give our commissioners and board members a chance and that they are looking after the community and to trust and move ahead.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Francisco to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm