

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Special Full Board Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 2, 2026 – 1:30 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

CALL TO ORDER

The Alpena County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Full Board Meeting and was called to order by Chairman Kozlowski in the County Annex Building, Howard Male Conference Room, Alpena, Michigan and via Zoom on Thursday, January 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

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; Travis Konarzewski, District #7; and John Kozlowski, District #8.

AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ALPENA COMMUNITY WARMING SHELTER UPDATE

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented a tracking sheet with information regarding the number of people who came into the warming shelter, how many were turned away, and how many incidents there were. He apologized to Judge LaCross noting the cooperative service agreement expires on the 6th not the 9th.

St. Vincent de Paul and All Saints Center for Charity board member Tom LaCross provided an update on the warming shelter during the past 9 days at the merchants building. He first thanked Administrator Osmer and the county for their efforts to respond to the homeless. After checking with their insurance company, running a warming shelter is a new activity for St. Vincent de Paul and since it is risky, insurance is not readily available. The county responded and allowed the homeless shelter to open with trained, vetted volunteers. Judge LaCross is requesting on behalf of St. Vincent de Paul that the county extend their hospitality to give them another week or two to try to obtain the insurance.

Housing Director for Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency Victoria Purvis thanked the board for their leadership. Of the 11 counties that NEMCSA oversees, no other city

or county has stepped up in the way this board has. Director Purvis reported that over 100 individuals are sleeping outdoors in Alpena. During the holiday, churches, families, and friends took in some of these individuals, but now they are all back out sleeping on the street. As of this morning 33 individuals have either self-resolved, left the area, went to a different shelter, or housed themselves. They have contacted 66 other people on their list that have given no reply, but they are hoping to contact them to inform them that the warming shelter is open and is available. It will take some time to get the word out as some individuals do not always have access to charge their phones to get on social media to see that it is open. NEMCSA also employs a street outreach coordinator that will be visiting encampments to let these individuals know this resource is available.

All Saints Center for Charity Director Christina Kihn thanked the board for opening this space for these individuals and allowing resources. There are over 28 people who are willing to volunteer and help buy food items and other resources. The shelter can take on at least 30 individuals and Director Kihn reported she has an additional 15 extra cots as well. One life has already been saved as a physically handicapped and confused individual was dropped off by Dial-A-Ride and EMS was called and took him to the hospital. This individual could have been wandering around on the streets confused and not able to get to a place where it was warm. The warming shelter has had four males and two females. Three people were from outside of the area and were able to stay that night but informed the shelter cannot take in anyone that is not an Alpena County or city resident.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to extend the warming shelter through January 31, 2026, as presented. Chairman Kozlowski and Commissioner Bray will meet with the organizations and provide updates at the next Finance, Ways & Means Committee meeting and again at the January Full Board meeting. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to approve an extension of the Cooperative Service Agreement with St. Vincent de Paul allowing the warming shelter at the Merchant's Building to stay open through January 31, 2026, as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

DRAFT