FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 11, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

Commissioners Present:	John Kozlowski, Board Chairman Bill Peterson, Finance Chair (excused) William LaHaie Dan Ludlow Lucille Bray Brenda Fournier Todd Britton Travis Konarzewski (excused)
Others Present:	Jesse Osmer, County Administrator Amanda Repke, Chief Deputy Treasurer Sheriff Erik Smith Sergeant J.P. Ritter Nicki Janish, Home Improvement Director

CALL TO ORDER
Chairman John Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROLL CALL
Roll call was taken. All committee members present except Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski, excused.

ADOPT AGENDA
Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Britton to adopt the agenda with the addition of a HUNT budget adjustment, a resolution for the Public Conservator, and announcement by Commissioner Fournier. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

BILLS TO PAY
Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to pay for approval.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	$143,100.87	$143,100.87

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, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski excused. Motion carried.

COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS
Chief Deputy Treasurer Amanda Repke presented the monthly financial reports for July 2026.

Amanda reported in 2024 quarterly contributions were being made to the housing fund from the general fund with the intention of it being due to due from. In 2025, the transfers were discontinued. A memorandum was received from the Public Conservator requesting in 2026 that the $200,000 from the housing account be put back into the general fund. This was presented as informational only with no action required by the board.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve receiving and filing the monthly Treasurer's reports for June 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

PURCHASE OF NEW POLICE TAHOE

Sergeant J.P. Ritter presented a request to purchase a new Chevrolet Police Package Tahoe, including outfitting, to be fully funded by the FY25 Stonegarden Grant. Multiple dealers in Northern Michigan were contacted but they either cannot order a Police Package Tahoe or could order with an unknown time of delivery. Two bids were solicited, and recommendation was made to approve the quote from Berger Chevrolet in the amount of $56,617.00.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Fourier to approve the purchase of the Police Package Tahoe from Berger Chevrolet as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski excused. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval for the Sheriff's Office to purchase a 2026 Chevrolet Police Package Tahoe, including outfitting, from Berger Chevrolet in the amount of $56,617.00 with grant funding from the FY25 Operation Stonegarden Grant as presented.**

****Commissioner Fournier announced that Sergeant Ritter is the new Director of Emergency Management.***

Discussion was made for the Sheriff's Office to either coordinate with the County Administrator to find fund the funds to purchase the Tahoe and wait for reimbursement or to submit a request for the grant money and wait until the money is received before making the purchase.

USDA-RURAL DEVELOPMENT HOUSING PRESERVATION GRANT

Home Improvement Director Nicki Janish presented a request to apply for a Housing Preservation Grant through Rural Development in the amount of $200,000 with no county match.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve applying for the Housing Preservation Grant as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski excused. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval for the Alpena County Home Improvement Director to apply to USDA – Rural Development for the 2026 Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) in the amount of $200,000 with an organizational match of $80,000 and no County match and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign all pertaining documents as presented. This has been sent to the Grant Review Committee.**

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – 711 BUILDING

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented a budget adjustment request regarding the 711 Building. Work was done on the building, and invoices were submitted using Grounds and Maintenance line items rather than from the 711 Building fund. The adjustment will move the funds from the 711 Building fund back to Grounds & Maintenance.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve the 711 Building budget adjustment as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: The Committee recommends approval of the budget adjustment request to increase 711 Building Maintenance line item 245-265-932.000 in the amount of $9,500 and to authorize the County Treasurer to complete the journal entry and any other adjustments pertaining to this request as presented.

RISE & REPORT
Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to rise and report. Motion carried.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board Chairman John Kozlowski presented the consent calendar for approval:

A) **Approval of the Official Proceedings of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners** Regular Session – June 23, 2026 (***Minutes only**)

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray 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, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioners Peterson and Konarzewski excused. Motion carried.

PARKS COMMISSION LAWSUIT

Administrator Osmer reported a Beaver Lake Park camper has filed a small claims lawsuit looking to recoup their costs. He wanted to make the board aware of this as the lawsuit wrongfully names the County Treasurer so she will need to be involved for a period of time until they can correct the name to the actual Parks Board. The Parks & Recreation Commission will have further discussion on this at their next meeting on Wednesday, August 12th.

UPDATE ON ALPENA GROUNDS SERVICES

Administrator Osmer reported he spoke with the owner's father, and he's assured a smooth transition and apologized that things didn't work out. Everything is on track to finalize on December 31st as planned.

AMUBLANCE RADIO TRANSFER

Administrator Osmer reported that Fire Chief Andy Marceau reached out inquiring if they could transfer the radios from the current ambulance, that they will be getting rid of soon, to the new ambulance as these radios are still in working condition. Administrator Osmer didn't see the board rejected anything that would save money and authorized the transfer.

FREMONT SIGNAGE

Administrator Osmer reported the bench at Fremont Park has been completed and will be looking for a sealant for the base as rust is seeping onto the concrete. Discussion was made to add discussion for signage for the park at the next Facilities Committee meeting.

HUNT BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Administrator Osmer presented a budget adjustment request from HUNT to increase their Insurance Claim Repair line item in the amount of $1,752 for the amount of the check that was received from the insurance company ($1,751.90) so payment can be made to the repair shop.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the HUNT budget adjustment request as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve HUNT's budget adjustment request to increase Insurance Claim Repair expense line item 266-335-934.003 in the amount of $1,752 to pay for the repair of the damaged HUNT vehicle using the insurance check that was receipted as presented.

PUBLIC CONSERVATOR RESOLUTION

Administrator Osmer presented a resolution for Public Conservator Nicki Janish to continue as the representative for the accounts she oversees at Nicolet Bank. The bank has changed their language and added the line "legally adopted at an open meeting held on". The County Clerk is requesting this motion be made so she can affix her signature and that what she is affixing is true.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the resolution for Public Conservator Nicki Janish to continue overseeing Nicolet Bank accounts as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve and sign the resolution allowing Public Conservator Nicki Janish to continue overseeing accounts at Nicolet Bank as presented.

NORTHERN LIGHTS ARENA LIGHTPOLE

Administrator Osmer passed along a photo of a light pole that was repaired at Northern Lights Arena as an FYI.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

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John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

kvm