**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**
**OF THE**
**ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
**Full Board Meeting Minutes**
**Tuesday, August 25, 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, August 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

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

## AGENDA

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Lynn Borke of Hubbard Lake sincerely thanked the commissioners that came to the fair for the luncheon with the 4-Hers. She stated there are 5 people on the Fair Board that are under the age of 30 and asked the commissioners to please respect them as they are the people who will be leading our community into the future.

Farrah Wallen of Wilson Township thanked Commissioners Konarzewski, Britton and Kozlowski for attending the public picnic at the Alpena County Fair. The kids were excited to see them attend and their participation in the fair was greatly appreciated. Farrah thanked the businesses and community leaders who helped support the fair and livestock auction.

David Gordier of Alpena looked for an update on the fairgrounds and the status on finding someone to do a full inspection. He questioned why the fairgrounds couldn't make more money and why the campground can't be more profitable and if anyone has reached out to the President of the Michigan Association of Fairs Ian Kemp for resources.

## BILLS TO PAY

Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

| | SUBMITTED: | APPROVED: |
|---|---|---|
| General Fund & Other Funds | $168,486.08 | $168,486.08 |

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

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Emergency Management Director Sgt. J.P. Ritter presented a budget adjustment request to increase the Outfit Vehicle line item for outfitting the 2026 Police Package Tahoe purchased from Berger Chevrolet. The FY25 Stonegarden grant will cover 100% of the price of the vehicle and outfitting.

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

**ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to approve increasing Outfit Vehicle line item 101-312-934.001 in the amount of $16,783 for outfitting the 2026 Police Package Tahoe from Berger Chevrolet as presented. The FY25 Operation Stonegarden Grant will cover 100% of the price of the vehicle and $16,783 towards outfitting.**

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – BOARD OF CANVASSERS

Treasurer Cindy Cebula presented a budget adjustment request on behalf of County Clerk Keri Bertrand for review and approval.

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

**ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve increasing expense line item 101-262-725.000 Board of Canvassers by $300 and increase expense line item 101-262-860.000 Travel Expense by $70 to allow the Alpena County Clerk to pay the County Board of Canvassers for the meetings to be held in November 2026, as presented.**

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – CENTRAL DISPATCH

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie presented a payroll budget adjustment request for review and approval. Currently, the budget will not have enough funds to finish the year. Director Elkie will be transferring funds within her budget so it will not have impact on the General Fund or the 911 Fund Balance.

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

**ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the 911 budget adjustment request with no impact on the General Fund or 911 Fund Balance as follows:**

**From 261-325-970.000 E0911 Improvements in the amount of $8,000**
**To 261-325-717.000 MERS Defined Benefit**

**From 261-325-946.000 Tower Expense in the amount of $7,000**
**To 261-325-724.018 HAS**

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – CENTRAL DISPATCH

Central Dispatch Director Elkie presented a budget adjustment request to reimburse the various Clerk's Offices for reasonable costs related to the 911 surcharge ballot election in May totaling $48,954.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the budget adjustment request for reasonable costs related to the 911 surcharge ballot election as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve the reimbursement request for reasonable costs related to conducting the 911 surcharge ballot election with total reimbursement of $48,954 with an increase to expense item 261-325-995 Transfer to Other Funds by $48,854 and transfer to 101-261-677 Elections Reimbursements and Refunds to reimburse the various clerk's offices as presented.**

## BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – REIMBURSE LOCAL CLERKS

Treasurer Cebula presented a budget adjustment request on behalf of Clerk Betrand for review and approval.

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

**ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to increase expense line item 101-261-956.000 Election Expenses by $33,706 to allow the Alpena County Clerk to pay the reimbursement amounts out to the Local Clerks as presented.**

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes** – August 11, 2026

B) **Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes** – August 19, 2026

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1: The Committee recommends approval to pay the invoice from Jeremy Winterstein to Alpena Rink Management in the amount of $7,800 for the labor performed on the dehumidifier refurbish at Northern Lights Arena as presented.
*Pulled from Consent Calendar.*

ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-2: The Committee recommends approval to place two signs supplied by Thunder Bay Arts Council at Fremont Park using boulders that were removed from Long Lake Park and approval to purchase another sign with funding leftover from the project as presented.

**Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes** – July 8, 2026

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski 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, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

## ACTION ITEM #FCSPC-1 JEREMY WINTERSTEIN INVOICE

Chairman Kozlowski pulled Action Item #FCSPC-1 for further discussion. In the future the board would like to see estimates for in-housework work prior to the start of the project.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve paying Jeremy Winterstein's invoice with the stipulation that estimates be provided in the future as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: Commissioners Ludlow and Kozlowski. Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Bray to retract the previous motion and make a new motion to approve payment of the invoice upon receipt of Alpena Rink Management's 2$^{nd}$ Quarter Reimbursement documentation as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: Commissioners Ludlow and Kozlowski. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #7: Recommendation to approve paying the invoice from Jeremy Winterstein to Alpena Rink Management in the amount of $7,800 for the labor performed on the**

**dehumidifier refurbish at Northern Lights Arena upon receipt of the 2nd Quarter Reimbursement documentation with the stipulation that estimates are to be provided for future projects as presented.**

## REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES

Facilities Chair Britton provided an update from August's Facilities Committee meeting. There was a lot of activity at the airport last month with Northern Strike, Civil Air Patrol Encampment, F-18s, and other exercises. Enplanements were up and fuel sales were down a bit. Maintenance has many projects going on and discussion was made on the Optimist playground at the fairgrounds.

Chairman Kozlowski reported that he spoke with Optimist Club President Beckie Thomson after last week's Facilities meeting and they are potentially going to put $12,000 into the playground but they have been holding off on any repairs pending what the county was going to do with the fairgrounds.

Chair Britton reported that it was also discussed at the Facilities meeting that Murphy Builders had volunteered to help with some of the repair work. Chairman Kozlowski will reach out to the Optimist Club and have them coordinate with Murphy Builders on the repairs and have them come back to the board to report their plans. Discussion was made on moving the playground for safety purposes and for more public awareness. Chairman Kozlowski will relay the information to President Thomson and have her attend a meeting to present.

Commissioner Peterson reported the Materials Management Plan has been approved and will be going out for public comment. A public hearing will be held prior to the full board meeting in September at 5:00 p.m. The plan will be posted online, and a copy will be available in the Commissioner's office as well for review.

## MGT SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Prosecutor Cynthia Muszynski and Child Support Investigator/Clerk Stacey Stewart presented an amendment to the master service agreement with MGT Impact Solutions, LLC for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the amendment to the MGT services agreement as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve Amendment No.1 to the existing Master Services Agreement dated October 1, 2024, with MGT Impact Solutions, LLC, which amends the existing contract to handle and process all IV-D grant fund reports and State reimbursements, adding electronic transmission services vs manual for the Prosecutor's Office and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign all pertaining documents as presented.**

## MOA LANDFILL CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER LETTER

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented the required annual Montmorency, Oscoda, Alpena Landfill Chief Financial Officer Letter for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to recommend approval of the MOA letter as presented. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation to approve the Montmorency, Oscoda, Alpena Landfill Chief Financial Officer Letter and all pertaining documents and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign as presented.**

## RESOLUTION #26-12 MERS TRANSFERS

Administrator Osmer presented a resolution that will allow employees to carry over their MERS into a new position. The county is currently not set up that way with MERS, and this resolution will allow that change to be made.

WHEREAS, the ______________________________________ is a participating municipality or court in the Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan ("MERS"); and

WHEREAS, under Section 20 of the MERS Plan Document, all transferred employees (and rehired employees) are covered under the open employee plan associated with the defined employee group unless the participating municipality or court elects plan continuation for transfers and rehires;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 20 of the MERS Plan Document, the participating municipality or court may adopt for all its MERS divisions (present and future) a plan continuation transfer and rehire policy which allows all transferred and rehired employees to be placed in the division, whether open or closed, covered by the plan from which the employee transferred from, or the rehired employee previously was enrolled, so long as the plan type is the same, and such plan type exists. If none, then the covered employee will be placed into the open division;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that effective _______________, 20___, the Governing Body adopts this Resolution (or for a participating court, the Chief Judge by Administrative Order) for all present and future employee divisions requiring that all transferred and rehired employees (select only one):

Shall be enrolled in the open plan in the division into which they are transferred as set forth in the Standard Transfer Chart (see Standard Participant Transfer Rules).

Shall be enrolled in the applicable division, whether closed or open, covered by the plan from which the employee transferred from, or the rehired employee previously was enrolled, so long as the plan type is the same, and such plan type exists. If none, the open division as set forth in the Continuation Chart (see Plan Continuation Rules).

MERS' transfer and rehire procedures are an administrative process subject to the MERS' Plan Document. Changes to the Plan Document may impact MERS' ability to administer this election in the future.

CERTIFICATION FOR PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY OR COURT

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by (check one):

The Governing Body of the ________________________________________________ at its meeting held on ____________________.

Administrative Order No. __________ adopted by the Chief Judge of t he__________________________________________________________________, on________.

Signature of Authorized Official: ______________________________, Date: _______________
Printed name:__________________________________ Title: ____________________________

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve Resolution #26-12 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

## BUDGET SOP

Administrator Osmer requested changing the delivery date of the budget package to the board from September 1st to September 7th. Due to waiting for cost allocation, insurance costs, training, etc., they are running a couple days behind schedule. A two-week cushion was placed in the schedule, and this one-week extension will allow them to collect the rest of the numbers to give a more accurate projection.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve the timeline change for the budget as presented. Motion carried.

## COURTS & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented the reports from the Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting that was cancelled on August 17th.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to receive and file the August Courts & Public Safety Committee meeting reports as presented. Motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Connie Lucas thanked the three commissioners that came to the luncheon and expressed how much the kids enjoyed the experience. She will be doing the luncheon again next year and hopes to have more attendance. She gave kudos to the Fair Board as the fair was well attended with very positive feedback from the community.

Lynn Borke stated there is a very special niche market with the fairgrounds and asked for the board to look at the possibilities of bringing in large groups, family reunions, weddings and more utilizing the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Konarzewski commented on David Gordier's questions from the first public comment session. Ian Kemp with the Michigan Association of Fairs attended the fair luncheon. The Fair

Board has been communicating with him, and he has been a good resource for them. He reported an inspection was carried out at the fairgrounds several years ago and he would be happy to share those results with him.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

kvm