FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

Commissioners Present:	John Kozlowski, Board Chairman Bill Peterson, Finance Chair William LaHaie Dan Ludlow Lucille Bray Brenda Fournier Todd Britton Travis Konarzewski
Others Present:	Jesse Osmer, County Administrator Keri Bertrand, County Clerk Cindy Cebula, Treasurer Sheriff Erik Smith Nicki Janish, Home Improvement Director Kim Elkie, Central Dispatch Director Beckie Thomson, Alpena Optimist Club Ted Somers, Equalization Director

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Bill Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROLL CALL
Roll call was taken. All committee members present.

ADOPT AGENDA
Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT
None.

BILLS TO PAY
Chair Peterson presented the bills to pay for approval.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	$118,464.28	$118,464.28

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

COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS
Treasurer Cindy Cebula presented the monthly financial reports for August 2026.

Commissioner Kozlowski questioned the significantly low amount of revenue for federal grants that has come in so far this year and will speak with Sheriff Erik Smith for more information.

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

AIRPORT SNOWPLOW INVOICE

Treasurer Cebula presented an invoice from MB Companies for snow removal equipment at the airport in the amount of $198,404.80. Once the balance is paid the County will receive grant funds for a portion and the rest will be paid out of PFC funds.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve payment of the MB Companies invoice as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval to pay the balance due for the Airport Snowplow MB Invoice #305178 in the amount of $198,404.80 by ACH as presented.**

HOME IMP/PUBLIC CONSERVATOR ASSISTANT REDUCTION IN HOURS

Home Improvement Director and Public Conservator Nicki Janish presented a request to reduce the Program Assistant's hours from 40 to 32 hours per week, subject to approval by the union.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve a reduction in hours for the Home Improvement/Public Conservator Program Assistant as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval to reduce the hours for the Program Assistant in the Office of the Public Conservator and Home Improvement Program from a 40-hour per week position to a 32-hour per week position still classified as a full-time employee, subject to approval by the union, as presented.**

SEALED BID REQUEST FOR FIRE RADIO PROJECT

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie presented a request to conduct a sealed bid process for a new 911 budgeted fire department radio and pager purchase project. The project will provide matching funds to Alpena County fire departments with $20,000 available in 2026 as matching funds. The last time this request was made and approved was in 2022, for a 3-year contract.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the sealed bid process for the fire radio project as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #5: The Committee recommends approval of sealed bids for an 800 MHz radio and pager project using Ambulance Millage funds allocated to 911's budget for a 3-year contract at State-bid pricing, providing matching funds for the participating Alpena County fire departments as presented.**

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE – PRIVATE DONATION

Sheriff Erik Smith presented a budget adjustment request to increase the Community Promotion expense line item by $5,923.86 for a donation that was received and deposited into the Private Donations line item.

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

ACTION ITEM #6: The Committee recommends approval of the Sheriff's budget adjustment request to increase expenditure line item 101-301-727.008 Community Promotion from Private Donation by $5,923.86 for a donation received and deposited into the Private Donations revenue line item as presented.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Smith presented a list of budget adjustments to help with deficiencies in some of their line items for review and approval.

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

ACTION ITEM #7: The Committee recommends approval of the Sheriff's 2026 Budget Review Requested Adjustments as follows:

301 Road Patrol Budget

Reduce

101-301-702.004 Animal Control Officer	**$30,000.00**
101-301-708.002 Deputy Overtime	**$ 5,000.00**
101-301-708.003 Animal Control Overtime	**$ 3,000.00**
Total	**$38,000.00**

Increase

101-301-727.005 Electronic Monitoring Expense	**$15,000.00**
101-301-920.000 Natural Gas	**$ 5,500.00**
101-301-934.000 Vehicle Maintenance	**$17,500.00**
Total	**$38,000.00**

351 Jail Budget

Reduce

101-351-702.009 Master Control Operator	**$30,000.00**
101-351-704.000 PT Corrections/Control Officer	**$15,000.00**
101-351-708.008 Correction Officer Overtime	**$30,000.00**
101-351-746.000 Clothing Allowance/Uniforms	**$ 5,000.00**
Total	**$80,000.00**

Increase

101-351-817.000 Prisoners Board	**$100,000.00**
101-351-932.000 Building Maintenance	**$ 5,000.00**
101-351-931.000 Equipment Maintenance	**$ 5,000.00**
Total	**$110,000.00**

Increase Revenue 101-351-699.321 $30,000.00

Increase Expense 631-265-995.000 $30,000.00
Journal Entry to Transfer the $30,000.00 from 631 to 101-351 and to authorize any other necessary actions by the Treasurer to accomplish the adjustments as presented.

LIVESCAN DEVICE GRANT APPLICATION
Sheriff Smith presented a grant application for a livescan fingerprinting device for the bailiff's office at District Court. The grant is for the purchase of the equipment with a one-year warranty from the date of installation. Effective 2028, there will be an annual maintenance fee of $3,495.00 for this device.

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

ACTION ITEM #8: The Committee recommends approval of the 2025 National Criminal History Improvement Program Grant Agreement between the Michigan State Police and the Alpena County Sheriff's Office for a Livescan Palm Print Reader Device to be placed in the Bailiff's Office in District Court in the amount of $16,988.00 with no county match as presented. Effective 2028, the County will have an annual maintenance fee of $3,495.00. This has been sent to Grant Review Committee.

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

OPTIMIST CLUB PLAYGROUND AT FAIRGROUNDS
Optimist Club President Beckie Thomson reported the club wants to keep the playground going and every spring they come in and mulch, spread dirt around, and check the equipment. The tractor in the playground has some issues and needs repair. It was reported that Murphy Builders had volunteered to do the repairs, but they have not yet been to the park to look at it yet. The Optimist Club's intentions are to either have the tractor repaired if possible or replaced. They are waiting to hear back from Murphy Builders.

Chairman Kozlowski reported there had been discussion in past years about moving the playground to enlarge the camping area, but the County does not have the funding to invest, and the board has no intention of moving the playground.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the Optimist Club move forward with improvements and repairs to the playground at the fairgrounds as presented. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation to approve the Optimist Club of Alpena proceed with improvements and repairs to the playground at the Alpena County Fairgrounds as presented.

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 Britton and supported by Commissioner LaHaie 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, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ASSESSOR DISCUSSION

Chairman Kozlowski recently had conversations with Equalization Director Ted Somers regarding assessing issues found that are being done in the city and townships with significant information not being documented properly. Director Somers stated for the last 3 or 4 years they have been discovering missing improvements from the assessed roles and are continuing to find them. Any type of new construction directly impacts taxable value, and it is not fair to the other property owners that are being taxed fairly. Some of these properties have been finalized for over three years and still not on the assessment roles.

Discussion was made to document this issue with letters notifying the city and townships along with a formal letter to the State Tax Commission.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve sending formal letters to each unit of government and cc'ing the State Tax Commission as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to approve sending formal letters to each unit of government affected by incorrect and/or missing assessing information with copies of each letter to be sent to the State Tax Commission so that they are aware of the specific areas cited as presented.

SALARY EMPLOYEE UNPAID PTO

County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported the current policy does not speak to the matter of unpaid time off. Once an employee uses all their PTO some units will allow them to use additional PTO at which time they can pay it back as they continue working and others don't allow that at all, and the employee takes time off without pay. Administrator Osmer recommends the second option that once all PTO is used the employee can take time off, but it would not be paid.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve an unpaid time off policy as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #11: Recommendation to approve including into County policy that if an employee has used up all of their PTO, at that time they may take time off, but it will not be paid as presented.

RESOLUTION #26-13 GOOSE HUNT AT FAIRGROUNDS

Administrator Osmer reported City Council recently voted down the city goose hunt and there has been increased posting on social media and phone calls to the county asking to please revisit the issue and to consider allowing the hunt to take place for 2026. He presented a resolution that if passed he will present this evening at the City Council meeting.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION NO. 26-13

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE CITY OF ALPENA REVISIT AND AUTHORIZE A CONTROLLED GOOSE HUNT WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of maintaining a healthy and balanced wildlife population within Alpena County and the surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the population of geese in and around the City of Alpena has increased in recent years, resulting in growing concerns among residents regarding the impact of these birds on public and private property, parks, recreational areas, agricultural lands, waterways, roads, and the general quality and enjoyment of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners shares the concerns expressed by citizens regarding the increasing goose population and the resulting impacts on the Alpena area; and

WHEREAS, regulated hunting has long been an important component of wildlife management and population control in Michigan and throughout northern Michigan, and hunting remains an important part of the heritage, culture, tradition, and way of life of many residents of our region; and

WHEREAS, the controlled and lawful harvest of geese has historically served as one means of assisting in the management and control of goose populations; and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners believes that a carefully regulated and controlled goose hunt within appropriate areas of the City of Alpena could assist in reducing the local goose population to a more acceptable and sustainable level while providing an additional wildlife-management tool for the community; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes that any hunting activity conducted within the City of Alpena must be authorized by the appropriate municipal authorities and must comply with all applicable federal and State of Michigan laws, regulations, wildlife-management requirements, and local ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners is willing to make the Alpena County Fairgrounds available for use in connection with such a controlled goose hunt, subject to appropriate planning, scheduling, safety requirements, and compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the County supports an approach that balances public safety, private property rights, recreational interests, wildlife management, and the concerns of residents regarding the growing goose population; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that resuming a controlled goose hunt following the previous pause in such activity may provide a practical and responsible means of assisting in the restoration of the goose population to a more manageable number.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby respectfully requests that the City of Alpena reconsider and authorize, as permitted by law, a controlled goose hunt on county property, within the City of Alpena for the purpose of assisting with the responsible management and control of the local goose population.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve resolution #26-13 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

SOIL EROSION OFFICER

Administrator Osmer reported our current Soil Erosion Officer Mike Kieliszewski has been looking to retire for quite some time. The position has been posted, and two letters of interest have been received. Discussion was made to choose one of the two interested parties or leave the posting up for more candidates.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve contracting with Huron Engineering for Soil Erosion purposes as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #13: Recommendation to approve contracting with Huron Engineering for Soil Erosion purposes 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 10:37 a.m.

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John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

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Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm