

FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 10, 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

Others Present: Keri Bertrand, County Clerk
Jesse Osmer, County Administrator
Cindy Cebula, County Treasurer
Kim Elkie, Central Dispatch Director
Sheriff Erik Smith
Undersheriff Cash Kroll
Sgt. JP Ritter

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Kozlowski called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken: All committee members present except Commissioner Peterson, excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADOPT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt the agenda with the following changes:

- 1) Remove – DHD4 Rent Reduction Request; 2) Remove – Sale of Scissor Lift; 3) Add – Auditor Invoice; 4) Add – AED Pad Transfer; and 5) Move – Alpena Rink Management Surcharge Letter for discussion as closed session. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BILLS TO PAY

INFORMATION ITEM: Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to pay for approval.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	\$91,283.24	\$91,283.24

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

COUNTY TREASURER MONTHLY REPORTS

Treasurer Cindy Cebula presented the monthly financial reports for February 2026.

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

SEVERE WEATHER SIRENS MAINTENANCE/REPAIR FUNDING

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie presented a request to transfer funds from the ambulance millage to 911's revenue line item 261-325-699.004 (Transfer in – Siren Maintenance – 210 Ambulance Fund) for review and approval.

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

ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends approval to transfer \$5,000.00 from the Ambulance Millage 210 Account to 911's revenue line item 261-325-699.004 (Transfer in – Siren Maintenance 210 Ambulance Fund) to cover the cost of severe weather and sirens maintenance and repair for 2026, as presented.

FY25 STONEGARDEN GRANT APPLICATION

Sgt. JP Ritter presented the FY25 Stonegarden grant application in the amount of \$100,000.00 for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve the FY25 Stonegarden grant application as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends approval of the FY25 Operation Stonegarden Grant Application (09.01.25 to 08.31/27) for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of \$100,000.00 with no County match as presented.

FLOCK CAMERA AGREEMENT AND PURCHASE APPROVAL

Undersheriff Cash Kroll presented a request to purchase and to approve an agreement for flock cameras in the amount of \$54,250.00 with funding to come from the 2025 Stonegarden grant. The cost to purchase and install the cameras is \$30,250.00 and another \$24,000.00 for the annual recurring cost. Discussion was made on the amount of privacy and information the third party would be able to attain through these cameras.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the flock camera agreement and purchase as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Bray and Kozlowski. NAYS: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion failed.

ACTION ITEM #5: The Committee recommends approval of the Sheriff's Office Flock Camera Agreement in the amount of \$30,250.00 for the purchase and installation of the cameras and \$24,000.00 for the annual recurring cost for two years, totaling \$54,250.00 with funding to come from the 2025 Stonegarden grant as presented.

RECIND PRIOR MOTION

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to rescind the motion approving the \$100,000 Stonegarden Grant and instead authorize Sgt. Ritter to move forward with any agreement the Stonegarden Grant representatives decide, with removal of the flock cameras and report back to the board at the next meeting with the final grant funding amount as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

PRISONER'S BOARD BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Sheriff Erik Smith presented a Prisoner's Board budget adjustment request in the amount of \$40,000.00 for review and approval. Since taking on the new contract with Alcona County, there will be an increase in food for the extra inmates.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to approve the transfer of funds as presented.

Discussion was made to wait until June or July in case more funding is required.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to rescind the motion. Motion carried.

MICHIGAN CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION SERVICE AGREEMENT

County Administrator Jesse Osmer presented a service agreement with Michigan Confidential Document Destruction for review and approval. Currently, an employee in Grounds and Maintenance is shredding documents for approximately 3 hours per week. These documents come from each of the departments and courts. Two large shredding bins would be placed at the annex building and one at the courthouse. The bins would be picked up monthly, and the cost is \$2,700 a year with the contract ending in March of 2028. Entering later into the year, the total for 2026 would be \$2,250.00. To cover the 2026 cost, Administrator Osmer is also looking for approval to transfer funds.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the Michigan Confidential Document Destruction service agreement and budget adjustment as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: Commissioner Kozlowski. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: The Committee recommends approval of the Michigan Confidential Document Destruction Service Agreement for a two (2) year term effective March 2026 in the amount of \$225.00 per pick up (\$2,250.00 total for 2026, and \$2,700.00 total for 2027) and authorize the Treasurer to decrease Contingency Fund line item 101-274-955.000 in the amount of \$2,250.00 and increase Grounds and Maintenance Professional Services line item 101-265-801.001 in the amount of \$2,250.00 as presented.

CELLPHONE TOWER CONTRACT

Administrator Osmer presented the cellphone tower contract that has been reviewed by two attorneys. The original agreement brought before the board late last year was \$150,000.00 for a 75-year contract. The current agreement is \$200,000.00 for 75 years and it will cover attorney fees.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to recommend approval of the cellphone tower contract with Horvath Towers VI, LLC as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES:

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

ACTION ITEM #9: The Committee recommends approval of the land lease agreement with Horvath Towers VI, LLC in the amount of \$200,000.00 for 75 years to lease a portion of the property located at the Alpena County Jail for placement of a cellphone tower as presented.

VETERANS BALLOT LANGUAGE PROPOSAL FOR MILLAGE

Administrator Osmer presented the Veterans ballot language proposal request to continue the millage at the current rate of 0.21 mill for four (4) years and approval to place on the November 2026, ballot.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the Veterans ballot language renewal proposal as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #10: The Committee recommends approval of the Veterans ballot language proposal to continue the millage at the current rate of 0.21 mill for a period of four (4) years and authorize the County Clerk to place on the November 2026, ballot as presented.

YOUTH AND REC BALLOT LANGUAGE PROPOSAL FOR MILLAGE

Administrator Osmer presented the Youth and Recreation Committee's ballot language proposal request to continue the millage at the current rate of 0.50 mill for four (4) years and approval to place on the August 2026, ballot.

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

ACTION ITEM #11: The Committee recommends approval of the Youth and Recreation Committee's request to renew the Youth and Recreation millage for a period of four (4) years at 0.50 of one (1) mill and authorize the County Clerk to place on the August 4, 2026, ballot as presented.

OLDER PERSONS BALLOT LANGUAGE PROPOSAL FOR MILLAGE

Administrator Osmer presented the Older Persons Committee's ballot language proposal request to continue the millage at the current rate of 0.55 mill for four (4) years and approval to place on the August 2026, ballot.

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

ACTION ITEM #12: The Committee recommends approval of the Older Persons Committee's request to renew the Older Persons Operating Millage for a period of four (4) years at 0.55 of one (1) mill and authorize the County Clerk to place on the August 4, 2026, ballot as presented.

SUNRISE MISSION PARKING

The County was approached by Sunrise Mission regarding their parking issues and are asking the County for 10-12 parking spaces. Administrator Osmer recommended 6-8 spots located in the annex building parking lot along 9th Ave. This is not a long-term solution but could offer them some temporary relief until they find other options. These spaces would be marked, and a placard would be created for the vehicles so as long as they are parked in those areas. The County would have the right to revoke the assigned placards, ban individuals and/or their vehicles or altogether cancel the agreement at anytime with or without reason. The total cost to implement the plan would not exceed \$500, and at the end of the year those spots would be reserved parking spaces for judges, court officers, etc.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to recommend approval to offer up to 8 parking spaces for Sunrise Mission as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: Commissioners LaHaie and Ludlow. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #13: The Committee recommends approval to offer Sunrise Mission up to eight (8) parking spaces for use at the Annex Building along 9th Ave. between March 16 to May 1, 2026, and September 30 to December 31, 2026, with the County having the right to revoke, ban, or cancel the agreement at any time with or without reason as presented.

CUT FIBER – INSURANCE CLAIM

Administrator Osmer reported the cut fiber line has a \$1,000.00 deductible and the County will not be able to hold the company responsible for the cost of the deductible for cutting the line. The individuals digging followed the flagged path and the fibers were not flagged properly. The individuals responsible for the flagging said that when the fiber was laid, it was never properly mapped out and reported. He is seeking approval to pay the \$1,000.00 deductible and cash the \$14,000.00 check.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve paying the deductible for the cut fiber and cash the \$14,000.00 check as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #14: The Committee recommends approval to pay the deductible for the cut fiber on M-32 in the amount of \$1,000.00 and cash the insurance recovery check in the amount of \$14,190.99 as presented.

ALPENA COUNTY COURTHOUSE SECURITY PART 1 GRANT APPLICATION

Administrator Osmer presented a 2027 Community Funding Project – Alpena County Courthouse Security Part 1 grant application in the amount of \$526,829.00 for review and approval. Late last year the Courts and Public Safety Committee was contacted by attorneys with concerns about making the courthouses more secure. The first step is to secure what we already have and this grant would provide the courthouse with all new windows. Parts 2 and 3 would involve creating an outer shell at the entrances/exits with a security checkpoint.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve the 2027 Community Funding grant application as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #15: The Committee recommends approval of the 2027 Community Funding Project (Alpena County Courthouse Security Part 1) grant application in the amount of \$526,829.00 with no County match as presented.

AUDITOR INVOICE

Administrator Osmer presented an invoice from Straley, Lamp & Kraenzlein in the amount of \$3,895.00 for January's monthly service fee for approval to pay. The invoice came late, and he would like to get the invoice paid.

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

ACTION ITEM #16: The Committee recommends approval to pay Straley, Lamp & Kraenzlein invoice 43751 in the amount of \$3,895.00 for January's monthly service fee as presented.

AED PAD REPLACEMENT

Administrator Osmer reported some of the AED pads will be expiring and will need to be replaced soon. Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins would like to get those ordered and is seeking approval to move funds from contingency into that line item.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to recommend approval of the budget adjustment to purchase new AED pads as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Peterson, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #17: The Committee recommends approval to decrease Contingency line item 101-274-955.000 by \$1,500.00 and increase Defibrillator Maintenance line item 101-265-931.001 by \$1,500.00 for the purchase of replacement AED pads 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 – February 24, 2026 (*Minutes only)**
- B) **Intergovernmental Meeting Minutes – February 5, 2026**
- C) **Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes – March 3, 2026**

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Administrator Osmer presented correspondence regarding an update to the PFAS lawsuit. They are at the point where they are asking for the jury trial, and wanted to keep the County apprised that we are now at that step.

POLL VOTE – VETERANS BOARD APPOINTMENT

Chairman Kozlowski presented a poll vote for a Veterans Board appointment.

POLL VOTE ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to appoint Rick Fluharty to the Veterans Affairs Board for a four (4) year term effective immediately and ending 12/31/2029 as presented.

Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

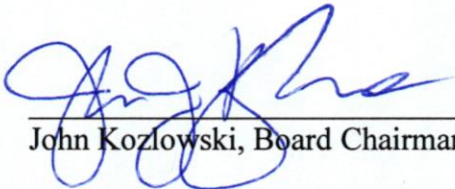
None.

CLOSED SESSION

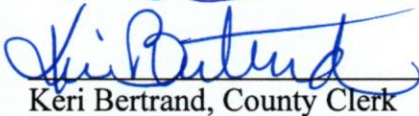
The board went into closed session at 10:52 a.m. to discuss a surcharge letter for Alpena Rink Management and opened session at 11:07 a.m. All members present except Commissioner Peterson, excused.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.



John Kozlowski, Board Chairman



Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm