FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 9, 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:	Keri Bertrand, County Clerk Jesse Osmer, County Administrator Cindy Cebula, County Treasurer Nick Akins, Maintenance Superintendent

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ADOPT AGENDA
Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to adopt the agenda with the following changes: 1) Move Personnel Contract from closed session to be discussed after closed session; 2) Add under closed session an attorney opinion on a millage matter; 3) Add under closed session a personnel matter; and 4) Move Announcement of date/time/location of final vote for Blackwater contract up before public comment. Motion carried.

Chairman Kozlowski reminded everyone that public comment is 3 minutes, comments need to be directed to the board not the audience, and all comments will be made from the podium.

County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported the announcement of the date, time, and location of the final vote for the Blackwater contract was going to be made today and asked the board if there was still interest in moving forward as a lot of organizing will need to be done in preparation of a town hall style meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to end all negotiations with the Blackwater contract as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: Commissioners Ludlow, Bray, and Fournier. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends approval to end all negotiations with the Blackwater NE contract as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENT
Public comments were heard regarding the fairgrounds and the proposal with Blackwater.

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

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	$60,068.28	$60,068.28

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 May 2026.

Moved by Commissioner Britton and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve receiving and filing the monthly Treasurer's reports for May 2026 as presented. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT – VICTIM SERVICES UNIT DONATION
Chair Peterson presented a budget adjustment request on behalf of Sheriff Erik Smith requesting approval to increase the Victim Advocate Services line item in the amount of $468.33 spend the donation received from Resurrection Lutheran Church as intended.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve Sheriff's Office 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 #4: The Committee recommends approval to increase expenditure line item 101-301-801.002 Victim Advocate Services in the amount of $468.33, so the donation from Resurrection Lutheran Church in the amount of $468.33 can be spent as intended as presented.**

2025 DNR MARINE SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION
Chair Peterson presented the 2025 DNR Marine Safety Program grant application on behalf of Sergeant J.P. Ritter for review and approval. Administrator Osmer reported this is a grant that is put in for each year with no county match.

Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve the 2025 DNR Marine Safety Program 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 #5: The Committee recommends approval of the 2025 DNR Marine Safety Program Grant Application (01.01.26/09.30.26) for the Sheriff's Office in the amount of $6,700.00 with no county match. This has been sent to the Grant Review Committee for approval.**

FY25 OPERATION STONEGARDEN GRANT APPLICATION
Chair Peterson presented an updated FY25 Operation Stonegarden grant application on behalf of Sergeant Ritter for review and approval.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to approve the FY25 Operation Stonegarden 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 #6: The Committee recommends approval of the FY25 Operation Stonegarden Grant Application (09.01.25/08.31.27) in the amount of $97,500.00 with no county match. This has been sent to the Grant Review Committee for approval.**

PRESSURE WASHING AT COURTHOUSE

Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins reported three companies were contacted regarding pressure washing the courthouse and only Thunder Bay Pressure Washing submitted a bid in the amount of $9,450.00 with a $4,720.00 deposit. There is a guarantee that it will be completed by the 4th of July.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve the pressure washing on the courthouse as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Peterson. NAYS: Commissioner Kozlowski. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #7: The Committee recommends approval to accept the bid from Thunder Bay Pressure Washing in the amount of $9,450.00 with a $4,720.00 deposit to pressure wash the courthouse as presented.**

RISE & REPORT

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie 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 – May 26, 2026 (***Minutes only**)

B) **Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes** – June 2, 2026

ACTION ITEM #PC-1: The Committee recommends approval to accept the paralegal certificate from Prosecutor's Office employee Tracey Sherlock and compensate an additional $.45 per hour beginning June 9, 2026, as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-2: The Committee recommends approval for the Deputy County Administrator/HR to have access to all county employee timecards as presented.

ACTION ITEM #PC-3: The Committee recommends approval to close the county offices on Columbus Day, October 12, 2026, for paid in-house employee training as presented.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner Peterson 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.

OPIOID FUNDING FOR REBORN RESCUE & REIMBURSEMENT FUNDING FOR HURON HUMANE SOCIETY

At the last meeting Chairman Kozlowski asked for financials from each group. He received financial documentation from Reborn Rescue only on the $15,000.00 that was received last year, not their complete revenues and expenditures.

The Humane Society is beginning their program this year and is asking for reimbursement of the expenses that will be incurred. No financial documentation was provided.

County Administrator Osmer recommended putting guidelines in place on how this board would like reporting to be conducted.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve Resolution #26-09 for Reborn Rescue as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: Commissioners LaHaie and Konarzewski. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #8: Recommendation to approve Resolution #26-09 Opioid Settlement Spending Plan for Reborn Rescue in the amount of $10,000.00 with the request for better financial documents being provided to the county as presented.

Discussion was made based on Huron Humane Society's information to keep one dog and one cat for 365 days would cost $32,120.00 and they are asking for $30,000.00. Also, it was reported that HHS has a specific breed of dogs that they are only allowed to take in.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to not approve any funding for Huron Humane Society as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #9: Recommendation not to approve Resolution #26-10 Opioid Spending Settlement Plan for Huron Humane Society up to the amount of $30,000.00 as presented.

PURCHASE OF FOUR TRASH CANS

Administrator Osmer presented a request to purchase four 40-gallon gray stone all-weather trash cans with lids to be placed at the courthouse and annex building. The current trash cans need to be replaced and can be purchased out of the contingency line item for the grounds and maintenance.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve the purchase of four 40-gallon trash cans with lids as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Konarzewski. NAYS: Commissioner Kozlowski. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #10: Recommendation to approve the purchase of four 40-gallon Gray Stone All-Weather Trash Cans with Lids from Home Depot at $587.67 each to be placed outside the courthouse and annex building as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were heard regarding the fairgrounds, Blackwater NE, and Opioid spending.

CLOSED SESSION

The board went into closed session at 10:46 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter and an attorney opinion on millage and opened session at 11:13 a.m. All members present.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR CONTRACT

Administrator Osmer reported he has just completed his second year with the county under a three-year contract and rather than letting the contract run out to its completion in year 3, he drafted a proposed contract for consideration.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve the proposed contract as presented.

Commissioner Britton presented documentation on pay history and the average wages from 12 comparable counties.

Discussion was made to allow the board more time to review the contract and have further discussion at the next full board meeting.

Commissioner LaHaie and Commissioner Peterson rescinded their motion and support to approve the proposed contract for further discussion at the next meeting.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Fournier stated her reasoning for saying no to stop negotiations with Blackwater was to have the town hall style meeting to give all people an opportunity to say what they'd like to say.

Commissioner Fournier would like to see a new 3-year lease written up for the Fair Board and extended the opportunity for them to take over the fairgrounds. She asked that Administrator Osmer work with Fair Board President Courtney Tauriainen moving forward on a lease agreement.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm