FINANCE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 12, 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 Ted Somers, Equalization Director Kim Elkie, Central Dispatch Director (zoom) 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 Bray and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adopt the agenda with removal of RRS Invoice SIN006943 from the bills to pay and addition of the Emergency Management bill packet from the ice storm. Motion carried.

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

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

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Funds & Other Funds	$88,904.08	$88,904.08

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier 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 April 2026.

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

L-4029 TAX RATE REQUEST

Equalization Director Ted Somers presented the 2026 Tax Rate Request for Alpena County. This is for the summer only and he will bring back another request in the fall.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Konarzewski to approve the L-4029 Tax Rate Request 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 of the L-4029 Tax Rate Request for Alpena County Operating Millage to be collected on the Summer 2026 tax billing cycle as presented.**

RESOLUTION #26-08 CONTINUATION OF BALLOT SUPPORTED 911 SURCHARGE

Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie presented Resolution #26-08 for approval to send to the state regarding the surcharge authorization for the next year.

RESOLUTION #26-08
911 OPERATING
SURCHARGE

WHEREAS, the following ballot language was previously approved in 2021:

911 OPERATING SURCHARGE
REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL

> For the period beginning on January 1, 2022 and continuing through the month of December in the year 2026, Alpena County shall be authorized to continue to assess a monthly surcharge of up to and not to exceed $3.00 in the monthly billings of landline, wireless and VOIP service suppliers within the geographic boundaries of Alpena County; to be used exclusively for the continuing funding of 911 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch services within Alpena County, including facilities, equipment and operations

And **WHEREAS,** the following ballot language was approved in 2026:

911 OPERATING SURCHARGE
REAUTHORIZATION PROPOSAL

> For the period beginning on January 1, 2027 and continuing through the month of December in the year 2032 shall Alpena County be authorized to continue to assess a monthly surcharge of up to and not to exceed $3.00 in the monthly billings of landline, wireless and VOIP service suppliers within the geographic boundaries of Alpena County; to be used exclusively for the continuing funding of 911 emergency telephone call answering and dispatch services within Alpena County, including facilities, equipment and operations.

WHEREAS, the intent of the 911 Operating Surcharge funding is to benefit the citizens of Alpena County by providing a well-known emergency telephone number, and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners continues to believe that the 911 service will benefit the citizens of Alpena County,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners continues to approve the collection of its ballot-supported 911 surcharge of $3.00 with no change in the amount from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

LET IT BE FUTHER RESOLVED, that the Alpena County Board of Commissioners approve this resolution and authorize the Alpena County 911 Director to sign the letter advising of such.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve Resolution #26-08 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

FAIRGROUNDS CARETAKER HOME – FASCIA & GUTTER REPLACEMENT
Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins presented a request to replace the fascia and gutters on the Fairground Caretaker's home. It was difficult to find a company that would do both, so two different companies were presented.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve the fascia and gutter replacement on the Fairground Caretaker's home 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 for JenDel Home Improvements to replace the fascia on the Fairgrounds Caretaker's home for a total of $2,600.00 ($1,600.00 to begin the job and $1,000.00 upon completion) and D&D Renovations to install the gutters for a total of $890.00 ($267.00 to begin the job and $623.00 upon completion) as presented.**

FAIRGROUNDS DISCUSSION
County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported on May 5th the Fair Board had a meeting with their members and decided to end negotiations with Blackwater. He took the 8 items that Fair Board President Courtney Tauriainen had listed as items that they could not move forward with and put together some compromises that may work for all parties involved. Not only would the Fair Board contract stay intact it would include some extended courtesies. Administrator Osmer read Courtney's synopsis of the 8 items with a compromise for each for the board's consideration.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve continuing negotiations with Blackwater NE 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 to continue negotiations with Blackwater NE and will consider a proposal within the next two weeks which combines the previous contract and the compromises offered by the county as presented.**

SIDEWALK FOR SCULPTURE
Administrator Osmer provided an update on the sidewalk for the eagle sculpture from the Thunder Bay Arts Council. The sculpture is expected to be placed in late May, early June with an event they are coordinating with the city for the unveiling. The sidewalk will mimic the opposite side with the Veterans memorial. The work is expected to be completed within the next week.

OPIOID FUNDING RESOLUTIONS FOR REBORN RESCUE & HURON HUMANE SOCIETY

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 12, 2026
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING PLAN
RESOLUTION #26-09

WHEREAS, Alpena County participated and signed on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has the ability to file lawsuits for any forthcoming opioid-related settlements; and

WHEREAS, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, by the approval of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, in consultation with the Alpena County Administrator, Reborn Rescue has been awarded a funding in the amount of $10,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee does now present this expenditure of Opioid Remediation Funds to the Board of Commissioners on May 12, 2026 ; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee that the Board of Commissioners direct the execution of release of these funds at their earliest convenience;

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Administrator has reviewed all applications and has attended the open meetings held by the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, and has determined all actions allowable and having met the criteria for reporting compliance, does concur;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the above described spending of opioid settlement funds, directs staff to proceed with agreements with mentioned recipients for services related to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery and authorizes the County Administrator to sign on behalf of Alpena County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no funds will be distributed until the fully executed agreements have been received by Alpena County.

ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 12, 2026
RESOLUTION TO ADOPT OPIOID SETTLEMENT SPENDING PLAN
RESOLUTION #26-10

WHEREAS, Alpena County participated and signed on in national litigation against manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies for their role in the opioid and overdose crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners has the ability to file lawsuits for any forthcoming opioid-related settlements; and

WHEREAS, the use of opioid settlement funds must meet certain requirements as outlined in Settlement Agreement Exhibit E and by the definition of opioid remediation as outlined in the settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, by the approval of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, in consultation with the Alpena County Administrator, Huron Humane Society has been awarded by reimbursement funding up to $30,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee does now present this expenditure of Opioid Remediation Funds to the Board of Commissioners on May 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee that the Board of Commissioners direct the execution of release of these funds upon receipt of submission of the receipts at their earliest convenience;

WHEREAS, the Alpena County Administrator has reviewed all applications and has attended the open meetings held by the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee, and has determined all actions allowable and having met the criteria for reporting compliance, does concur;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Alpena County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the above described spending of opioid settlement funds, directs staff to proceed with agreements with mentioned recipients for services related to prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery and authorizes the County Administrator to sign on behalf of Alpena County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no funds will be distributed until the fully executed agreements have been received by Alpena County.

Administrator Osmer presented Resolution #26-09 Opioid Remediation Funds – Reborn Rescue for funding in the amount of $10,000.00 and Resolution #26-10 Opioid Remediation Funds – Huron Humane Society for reimbursement funding in the amount up to $30,000.00 for review and approval. These recommendations were approved by the Opioid Remediation Fund Steering Committee. Both organizations help individuals who are going into rehabilitation or seeking medical treatment because of opioid abuse or misuse boarding their animals and taking care of them while they are away.

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray to approve Resolution #26-09 Opioid Remediation Funds – Reborn Rescue as presented. Discussion was made on the eligibility of organizations and how the timeline for funding is awarded.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to table funding to Reborn Rescue and Huron Humane Society pending further details before the next meeting. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS
Administrator Osmer presented the following budget adjustments for review and approval:

1. Decrease revenue line item 101-200-677.002 (Landfill Prof Fee Reimb) by $75,000

2. Decrease expense line item 631-265-975.073 (Fairgrounds Driveway Gravel) by $40,000
3. Decrease expense line item 631-265-975.017 (HMCR Upgrades) by $5,000
4. Decrease expense line item 101-101-955.001 (Registrations) by $2,000
5. Decrease expense line item 101-101-725.000 (Comm Reimb.) by $13,000
6. Decrease expense line item 402-234-980.251 (Data Processing) by $25,000
7. Increase revenue line item 101-200-677.000 (Reimb. and Refunds) $2,220
8. Create a new line item (631-234-975.075) for "Sculpture Sidewalk" and fund it at $7,500
9. Transfer $40,000 from 631-265-995.631 to 402-234-699.631 (board action/journal entry)

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

> **ACTION ITEM #9: The Committee recommends approval of the Budget Adjustments as presented.**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INVOICES

Administrator Osmer presented Emergency Management invoices that came through during the ice storm but received after today's agenda was already published. The same thing that was done last year during this time would be to move money from the contingency fund to the line item to pay the invoices and then seek reimbursement from FEMA.

Moved by Commissioner Konarzewski and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve moving money from the contingency fund to the EM budget as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #10: The Committee recommends approval to transfer $3,500.00 from Contingency Fund line item 101-274-955.000 into Emergency Preparedness Supplies line item 101-426-727.001 and pay the EM invoices as presented.**

WEX FUEL CARDS AND ENTERPRISE FLEET MANAGEMENT INVOICES

Administrator Osmer presented a request to authorize the County Clerk to pay the monthly WEX Fuel and Enterprise Fleet Management invoices upon receipt. Depending on the day/date the invoice is received, processed, board reviewed and approved, and payment is sent out there are times that payment is received later than the due date and we are having to get late penalties waived.

Moved by Commissioner Ludlow and supported by Commissioner LaHaie to authorize the County Clerk to pay the WEX Fuel and Enterprise Fleet Management invoices upon receipt as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Fournier, Britton, Konarzewski, Kozlowski, and Peterson. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

> **ACTION ITEM #11: The Committee recommends approval to authorize the County Clerk to pay the monthly invoices for both the WEX fuel cards and Enterprise Fleet Management upon receipt to ensure timely payment with expenditures subject to budgetary limits as presented.**

RISE & REPORT

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

<u>CONSENT CALENDAR</u>

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 – April 28, 2026 (***Minutes only**)

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Ludlow 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

John Kozlowski, Board Chairman

Keri Bertrand, County Clerk

kvm