OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ALPENA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 23, 2026 – 5:30 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, June 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

PRAYER

Prayer was offered by Pastor Doug Lopez with Resurrection Lutheran Church.

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

AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to adopt the agenda with the addition of an Emergency Management invoice for payment. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tricia Udell of Herron thanked the board again for ending negotiations with Blackwater. She is on the FOIA committee that submitted a request for FOIA and wanted to make the board aware that they are still waiting for information.

BILLS TO PAY

Chairman Kozlowski presented the bills to be paid.

	SUBMITTED:	APPROVED:
General Fund & Other Funds	$107,479.33	$107,479.33

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Kozlowski presented the Consent Calendar with minutes for approval.

A) **Finance Ways & Means Committee Meeting Minutes –** June 9, 2026

B) **Grants & Contracts Committee Meeting Minutes** – June 11, 2026

ACTION ITEM #GCC-1: The Committee recommends approval of the parking agreement with Sunrise Mission with the modifications that vehicle insurance and registration are required as presented.

C) **Courts & Public Safety Committee Meeting Minutes** – June 16, 2026

ACTION ITEM #CPSC-1: The Committee recommends approval of a $500 per month stipend to be paid to Central Dispatch Director Kim Elkie while performing the additional duties of the Emergency Manager until the vacancy is filled as presented.

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2026

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Bray 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, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

MEDICAL EXAMINER ANNUAL REPORT

Mid-Michigan Medical Examiner Group Administrator Lisa Kaspriak presented the 2025 Medical Examiner's annual report.

NEMCSA ANNUAL REPORT

NEMCSA Strategy & Development Director Francis Ommani presented the 2025 NEMCSA annual report.

HUNT ANNUAL REPORT

D/Lt. Ray Rollet with HUNT presented the 2025 HUNT annual report.

WIFI DONATION DURING FAIR WEEK & USE AGREEMENT

County Administrator Jesse Osmer reported the fair board is looking to partner with Lakeshore Fiber who would like to donate Wi-Fi during the fair. Lakeshore would place five devices at three different access points. With the board's permission they will work with an electrical contractor to provide an extension of power for plugs. They would remove the devices once the event is over, but the plugs could stay if the county chooses to keep them.

Fair Board President Courtney Tauriainen reported they will be working with fairs.com this year which is a new ticketing system that would require Wi-Fi to be able to use efficiently. They would have had to look into temporary options such as Starlink or Verizon hotspots, but Lakeshore Fiber has offered to donate to them this service.

Moved by Commissioner Peterson and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve Lakeshore Fiber installing temporary Wi-Fi during the fair as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #1: Recommendation to approve Lakeshore Fiber installing five temporary devices and three power sources for internet service at the fairgrounds during the fair as presented.

FAIRGROUND USE AGREEMENTS

Chairman Kozlowski presented discussion on use agreements for the fairgrounds. He asked that the fair board put in a use agreement each time they would like to use the fairgrounds for tracking and scheduling purposes. Maintenance Superintendent Nick Akins will review all use agreements for approval.

HORVATH COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Administrator Osmer reported Horvath Communications has done the public posting on or around June 17th in the Alpena News and the county is allotted 30 days to respond if there are any issues with the building of the tower. There was an issue with utilities and at Horvath's expense they will reroute the utilities approximately 10-15 feet. They are currently working through the zoning request and looking to break ground in the first quarter of 2027. If the zoning request goes well, they could break ground sometime late in the third quarter or early fourth quarter of this year.

FREMONT PARK

Administrator Osmer reported the sidewalk and sculpture are in place at the courthouse at Fremont Park. Discussion was made to add a stone bench which would cost approximately $5,000.00 between the bench and some additional pouring of concrete to be paid from contingency.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Britton to approve placing a stone bench at Fremont Park as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: Recommendation to approve pouring additional concrete and placing a stone bench at Fremont Park at the courthouse not to exceed $5,500.00 to be paid from contingency as presented.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS – INSURANCE RECOVERY & MMP

Administrator Osmer presented two budget adjustment requests. The first is per auditor's recommendation for the Materials Management Planning Fund. The other is for the refund received from the insurance company for fiber repair. The memo presented should exclude the bottom portion regarding the transfer of funds. Only an increase to line 101-200-801.000 needs to be made.

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

ACTION ITEM #3: Recommendation to approve the auditor adjustment to the MMP Fund to complete the Alpena County project contributions for 2025:

Increase line item #297-523-581.001 by $7,300

Transfer $7,300.00 from: 101-969-995-297 Appropriations/Other County Funds
Transfer $7,300.00 to: 297-523-581.000 Materials Management Planning

ACTION ITEM #4: Recommendation to approve the increase to the Professional Services expenditure line item #101-200-801.000 in the amount of $14,191.00 due to the refund that was received by the insurance company for fiber repair as presented.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE INVOICE

Administrator Osmer presented an invoice necessary for reporting for emergency management in the amount of $500.00.

Moved by Commissioner Bray and supported by Commissioner Ludlow to approve paying the EM invoice in the amount of $500.00 as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Ludlow, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, Britton, and Kozlowski. NAYS: None. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #5: Recommendation to approve paying IDSi International Invoice #2026031 in the amount of $500.00 from line item 101-426-955.002 as presented.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL OR AD HOC COMMITTEES

Facilities, Capital & Strategic Planning Committee Update – Meeting was cancelled due to lack of discussion items. Chair Britton presented the monthly reports for the meeting.

Grants and Contracts Committee Update – Chair Ludlow had no new updates. Everything discussed was in the meeting minutes.

Courts & Public Safety Committee Update – Chair Bray had no new updates. Everything discussed was in the meeting minutes.

Personnel Committee Update – Chair Fournier had no new updates. Everything discussed was in the meeting minutes.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS OF OTHER BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

District #1: Commissioner Bill LaHaie gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

Health Board – Everything is going well and they have a decent fund balance.

Planning Commission – Meeting was cancelled.

District #2: Commissioner Dan Ludlow gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

NEMCOG – Nothing new to discuss.

Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary – Nothing new to discuss.

District #3: Commissioner Lucille Bray gave an update on the following boards/commissions she represents:

Thunder Bay Transportation – The roof repair is complete and they had a good audit.

District #4: Commissioner Bill Peterson gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

26th Judicial Court Mgt. Council – No update.

Montmorency Oscoda Alpena (MOA) Landfill Authority – They are in the process of putting a new cell in at approximately $2.6 million. It's excavated out and just waiting for the liner to come in. The new cell should be completed by August or September.

Target – Three new board members were appointed.

Materials Management Planning – The first payment has come in, and a town hall meeting will be coordinated to introduce people to the work that's being done and what the plans are going forward.

District #5: Commissioner Brenda Fournier gave an update on the following boards/commissions she represents:

Parks & Recreation Commission – Campers are down a bit but overall, the parks are doing well.

Administrator Osmer reported by state statute the Parks & Rec Board must have 10 members, which is larger than this Board of Commissioners. There is a bill currently moving through the House to lower that number and allow the ability for the Drain Commissioner to appoint a proxy should they choose not to sit on that board. He addressed rumors and reported this bill was not recently submitted, they are not trying to take away authority of the board, and the Parks & Rec Board has nothing to do with the fairgrounds. They only oversee Long Lake Park, Beaver Lake Park, Sunken Lake Park, and Manning Hill.

District #7 Commissioner Travis Konarzewski, excused.

Community Corrections Advisory Board – No update.

Northern MI Counties Association – No update.

District #8 Commissioner John Kozlowski gave an update on the following boards/commissions he represents:

NE MI Consortium – There is $5,776,332.00 budgeted for this coming year.

NEMMA – As of June 29th there should be a new design for the building. The original proposal did not include actual numbers for electrical, plumbing, and mechanical.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & GENERAL ORDERS

Chairman Kozlowski presented discussion on the County Administrator's contract and what appropriate wage increase to recommend. Minor issues with the contract can be worked out at a later date.

Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Peterson to approve a 3-year contract at $100,000.00 with 3% stipend, and a 3% per year increase as presented. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Commissioners LaHaie, Bray, Peterson, Fournier, and Britton. NAYS: Commissioners Ludlow and Kozlowski. Commissioner Konarzewski, excused. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #6: Recommendation to approve a 3-year contract with County Administrator Jesse Osmer at $100,000.00 with a 3% stipend for 2027, and a 3% increase for 2028, and 2029 as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Don Gilmet thanked the commissioners for their hard work and is glad Administrator Osmer received a well-deserved raise.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Commissioner LaHaie and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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John Kozlowski, Chairman of the Board

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Keri Bertrand, County Clerk