

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
ALPENA COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

November 4, 2025

The Board of County Road Commissioners of the County of Alpena met in regular session on the above date. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerry MacArthur, at 3:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners MacArthur, Spaulding, and Lucas.  
Absent: None.

Staff present: Ryan Brege, Managing Director; John Bygden, Road Superintendent; Julia Patterson, Finance Director/Board Secretary.

Others Present: Dan Florip, Road Commission Attorney; Bill LaHaie, Alpena County Commissioners; Becky Rivard, Huron Engineering and Surveying; Chuck Hein, Alpena County Road Commissioner.

**AGENDA**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES**

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 7, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

An email dated October 31, 2025, from Brian Kowalski, regarding a culvert under Tolan Road at the corner of Scott Road in Sanborn Township.

**APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no citizens appearing before the Board.

**MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT**

Managing Director Ryan Brege reported the following:

- Long Rapids Road Bridge over North Branch of the Thunder Bay River is continuing on schedule with an open to traffic date of November 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Continuing to work on the FEMA reimbursement.
- Completed the Transportation Asset Management Plan which will need approval under new business.
- Working on prospective projects for the 2026 budget.

**COUNTY ROAD REPORT**

Road Superintendent John Bygden presented the Board with an update on the County Roads.

**SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Finance Director presented the Cash/Cash Equivalents Financial Report for the month ending September 30, 2025.

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, that all reports become part of the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**OCTOBER BILLS**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to approve the October 2025 bills in the amount of \$1,298,534.04. Motion carried unanimously.

**CARBIDE BLADES PURCHASE**

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to accept the quotation from St. Regis Culvert Inc. of Charlotte, MI for 42 (3/4"x6"x4') curved carbide blades at \$577.00 per blade and 300 (5/8"x8"x6') truck blades at \$115.20 per blade for a total of \$58,794.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**PURCHASES**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to approve the following purchases in the amount of \$232,101.54:

Item	PO/Inv.	Date	Description	Amount
1	79473	10/20/25	Cogitate Inc., PFA Support for 11-1-25 through 1-31-26.	\$2,854.00
2	37229	10/21/25	Everett Goodrich Trucking Inc., grade shape & pave 3" asphalt on Lake Winyah Road & Sitting Bull.	\$6,000.00
3	PO 168	10/13/25	Forward Distributing, 2,600 gallons of nolead gas at \$1.9026 per gallon.	\$4,946.76
4	R85677212201	10/8/25	MacAllister Rental, monthly rental of Cat Excavator 317GC.	\$7,728.60
5	1500028534	10/3/25	Pomp's Tire Service, Inc., eight 12R2.5/16 tires at \$493.98 per tire for Truck #059.	\$3,951.84
6	1500028601	10/9/25	Pomp's Tire Service, Inc., eight recap 12R22.5 tires at \$344.33 per tire for inventory.	\$2,754.64
7	878548	10/10/25	Team Elmer's, 3,020.91 tons 23A road gravel at \$13.95 per ton for M-65 Shoulder gravel.	\$42,141.70
8	3053	9/2/25	Zarembo Equipment, 2026 International HX 520 Tandem Truck.	\$161,724.00
<b>TOTAL PURCHASES</b>				<b>\$232,101.54</b>

Motion carried unanimously.

**CONTRACT PAYMENTS**

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the following contract payments in the amount of \$98,175.27:

Item	PO/Inv	Date	Description	Amount
1	3136	10/28/25	L.S. Engineering, Inc., construction engineering services for Long Rapids Road bridge.	\$49,500.00

2	11012025	10/04/25	Michigan Department of Transportation, Progress	
			Billing #4 for Wolf Creek Rd resurfacing project for	
			\$2,458.31 and Billing #1 for Long Rapids Road Bridge	
			for \$46,216.96.	\$48,675.27
				<b>TOTAL CONTRACT PAYMENTS</b> \$98,175.27

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Spaulding questioned if there was any new update on the Third Street Extension.

#### **NEW HIRES, RETIRES, and TRANSFERS**

Managing Director Ryan Brege informed the Board that Engineering Tech, Jake Heltsley, has resigned from the Road Commission. Employment ads are currently being advertised for the engineering tech, a truck driver, and a mechanic position.

#### **EXCAVATOR PURCHASE**

After a brief discussion, the excavator purchase was tabled for a later meeting.

#### **STAFF WAGES**

Managing Director Ryan Brege commented that the union employees per their union contract were to receive a one percent raise effective November 1, 2025. Mr. Brege is recommending that the Board approve a two percent raise effective November 1<sup>st</sup> for the union employees. The non-union staff will receive wage increases per Mr. Brege's recommendations. Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the wage increases per Mr. Brege's recommendations. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **HERRON ROAD PATCH**

Since Herron Road was used as a detour for the Long Rapids Road Bridge project, there has been no new movement with the crack in the road. Bolen Asphalt would hold their bid price from 2024 if the Road Commission wants to have it patched when they are in that area for the Long Rapids Road bridge.

#### **KEETCH ROAD ABANDONMENT**

Managing Director Ryan Brege was approached by a property owner of this seasonal road, Keetch Road. The owner has a petition to abandon it with the seven signatures verified. The Road Commission will need to hold a public hearing.

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas to hold a public hearing at the February 3, 2026 Board meeting. Roll call vote as follows:

MacArthur: Aye  
Spaulding: Aye  
Lucas: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

**SUPPLEMENTAL WEIGHMASTER SERVICE**

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to contract with Michigan State Police (MSP) for supplemental enforcement for the road systems during weight restriction season for a maximum of ten hours per week at approximately \$99.38 per hour. Motion carried unanimously.

**TRANSPORTATION ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

PA 325 of 2018 amended Public Act of 1951 requires road agencies responsible for 100 or more certified centerline miles of public roads to submit asset management plans to the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC). The Alpena County Road Commission's Asset Management Plan must be submitted by October 1, 2024. Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the asset management plan compiled by Managing Director Ryan Brege to be in compliance with PA 325. Motion carried unanimously.

**MERS DEFINED CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT**

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the 2025 MERS Defined Contribution for employees hired after November 1, 2010, to 8  $\frac{3}{4}$ % effective November 1, 2024, and approve the 2026 MERS Defined Contribution rate to 9% effective November 1, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

**CELL PHONE STIPEND**

Managing Director Ryan Brege commented that with the Road Commission plan to utilize electronic timecards, it was suggested that employees use their personal cell phones to input their time and equipment on a daily basis. Mr. Brege suggested that the employees be paid a stipend for this. No decision was made at this time and was tabled to a future meeting.

**SAFETY RECOGNITION**

With the Alpena County Road Commission receiving the CRASIF "Goose Egg" award this year, Mr. Brege suggested the crew get jackets for their safety efforts. Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to authorize Mr. Brege to order jackets for the crew. Motion carried unanimously.

**GARAGE BEAMS**

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to hire an engineer to look at the beams and what the necessary steps are to repair the beams in the salt barn. Motion carried unanimously.

**LONG RAPIDS ROAD BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING**

Since the Long Rapids Road Bridge will not be finished when the Road Commission loses their Engineering Tech, LS Engineering has agreed to provide construction engineering with an estimated cost of \$8,850. Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to approve LS Engineering to complete the construction engineering on the Long Rapids Road Bridge. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**  
**2026 BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to schedule the 2026 Budget Workshop for Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Alpena County Road Commission.  
Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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Gerry MacArthur, Chairman

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Julia G. Patterson,  
Board Secretary