

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

January 6, 2026

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, Lucas, Augustyn, and Hein.

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 Commissioner; Becky Rivard, Huron Engineering and Surveying.

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 budget workshop meeting of December 2, 2025, the regular meeting of December 2, 2025, and the budget hearing/meeting of December 30, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

A Memo from the Alpena County Board of Commissioners regarding the Road Commission Board Salary and Per Diem Changes for FY 2026.

APPEARING BEFORE THE BOARD/PUBLIC COMMENT

Gary Goren, 109 Glenridge, attended the meeting to welcome the two new Road Commissioners.

Jane Meyer, 9514 Beaver Lake Road, appeared before the Board to follow up on the update to the Beaver Lake Road project.

Virginia Tadajewski, 902 Cowper Road, attended the Board meeting to express her disappointment in the Road Commission crew with the snow removal on Cowper Road.

MANAGING DIRECTOR REPORT

Managing Director Ryan Brege reported the following:

- No updates to the projects.
- Long Rapids Road Bridge over North Branch of the Thunder Bay River was opened to thru traffic on November 14th. Need to complete Silane treatment and epoxy overlay in 2026.
- Reviewing projects for 2026.
- Design engineering RFPs are ready to go out for Beaver Lake Road reconstruction project.
- Worked on the 2026 Budget.
- Contacted Soils & Structures about the salt barn beams repair to do a cost appraisal.

COUNTY ROAD REPORT

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

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

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

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

DECEMBER BILLS

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to approve the December 2025 bills in the amount of \$1,316,496.50. Motion carried unanimously.

PURCHASES

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to approve the following purchases in the amount of \$373,898.97:

9B. PURCHASES				
Item	PO/Inv.	Date	Description	Amount
1	H67878	11/7/25	AIS Construction Equip., 2025 John Deere 770G Motor Grader for \$405,079.24 less \$135,000 trade in #124.	\$270,079.24
2	803096	12/7/25	Blarney Castle, 2,900 gallons of nolead gas at \$2.11867 per gallon.	\$6,144.36
3	PO 175	1/5/26	Forward Energy, 2,800 gallons nolead gas at \$1.9243 per gallon.	\$5,388.04
4	3278	12/19/25	Frost Solutions, mini weather station annual subscription to be split with MDOT.	\$3,000.00
5	T046637	12/3/25	Michigan Pipe & Valve, oil/water separator (Budget item-2025)	\$3,293.33
6	125702	12/16/25	St. Regis Culvert Inc., 42 carbide blades at \$577.00 per blade and 300 carbon blades at \$115.20 per blade.	\$58,794.00
7	PO 174	12/29/25	Scotland Oil Co., 12,500 gallons diesel fuel at \$2.176 per gallon.	\$27,200.00
TOTAL PURCHASES				\$373,898.97

Motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT PAYMENTS

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to approve the following contract payments in the amount of \$37,058.59:

9C. CONTRACT PAYMENTS

Item	PO/Inv	Date	Description	Amount
1	3157	12/18/25	L.S. Engineering, Inc., construction engineering services for Long Rapids Road bridge	\$28,647.50
2	12042025	12/04/25	Michigan Department of Transportation, Progress Billing #3 for Long Rapids Road Bridge	\$8,411.09
TOTAL CONTRACT PAYMENTS				\$37,058.59

Motion carried unanimously.

MINI-EXCAVATOR PURCHASE

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Augustyn, to accept the quote from Michigan Cat for \$191,139.48 for a Caterpillar 309 excavator.
Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Spaulding inquired if the contractor is aware of the dip in the road on the Long Rapids Road bridge.

Commissioner MacArthur stated that he has been made aware that the Road Commission plow trucks are not plowing snow or grading roads but just driving around.

NEW HIRES, RETIRES, and TRANSFERS

No update.

CELL PHONE STIPEND

The cell phone stipend was tabled until a future meeting.

COMMISSIONER CHAIRMANSHIP

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, to eliminate Alpena County Road Commission's Policy #002 Chairmanship. The Chairman will no longer be rotated among members every two years but on an annual voluntary rotation. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD RECESS

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m. for recess.

BOARD RECONVENED

Board Secretary Julia Patterson reconvened the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

The first order of business was the election of officers.

CHAIRMAN

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to nominate Gerry MacArthur as Chairman of the Board for 2026. There being no further nominations, a unanimous vote was cast in favor of Mr. MacArthur.

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Moved by Hein, seconded by Lucas, that Thomas Spaulding be nominated as Vice-Chairman of the Board for 2026. There being no further nominations, a unanimous vote was cast in favor of Mr. Spaulding.

The Board Secretary turned the meeting over to the 2026 Chairman, Gerry MacArthur.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

A. MANAGING DIRECTOR:

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Augustyn, Ryan Brege be appointed as Managing Director for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

B. BOARD SECRETARY:

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Augustyn, that Julia Patterson be appointed as Board Secretary for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

C. LEGAL COUNSEL:

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, that the law firm of Bauer, Florip, & Wojda PLC be retained as the Alpena County Road Commission's Attorneys for 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

SET REGULAR MEETING TIME, DATES AND PLACE FOR 2026

Moved by Hein, seconded by Spaulding, that the regular meetings of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Alpena County for 2026 be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. except for the months of March, August, and November for 2026, and unless a second meeting is needed, in the lower-level conference room at the Road Commission offices. Motion carried unanimously.

CHECKING ACCOUNT DEPOSITORY

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to designate Huntington Bank as the checking account depository for the General Road Fund, Payroll Account, and Accounts Payable Account for 2026. Also, Huntington Bank, PNC Bank, Nicolet, or any other Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or a savings and loan association which is a member of the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation or a credit union which is insured by the National Credit Union Administration maintaining an office in the County that is authorized by statute, be designated as depositories for County Road Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

CHECK SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION

Moved by Lucas, seconded by Spaulding, that Ryan Brege, Managing Director, and Julia Patterson, Finance Director/Board Secretary, are hereby authorized to sign checks for the Payroll Account and for the Accounts Payable Account. Motion carried unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S RETAINER FEE AGREEMENT

Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Lucas, to authorize the Chairman and Board Secretary to sign the annual Retainer Agreement, with the law firm of Bauer, Florip, and Wojda PLC, for one year, from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. The annual retainer fee of \$15,600 per year, payable monthly as the same accrue, at the rate of \$1,300 per month. Retained services in excess of 70 hours of legal services shall be billed as additional charges. The Attorneys shall provide semi-annual billing, showing services performed and time expended on Retained Services. Any additional legal work outside the scope of routine legal work will be at the standard hourly rate charged by the attorney handling the type of service, to the maximum of \$260.00 per hour, plus out-of-pocket expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

MECHANIC POSITION

According to the union contract, all employees are required to have a Class A CDL certification including the mechanics. The Road Commission has been advertising for a mechanic for several weeks but is unable to fill the position due to the CDL requirement. Moved by Spaulding, seconded by Augustyn, to advertise the mechanic position without the CDL requirement. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jane Meyers, 9514 Beaver Lake Road, inquired about the cleanup after the completion of the Wolf Creek Road project.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Alpena County Road Commissioners next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the lower level of the Alpena County Road Commission.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Gerry MacArthur, Chairman

Julia G. Patterson,
Board Secretary