

**Official Proceedings of the
Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority
(NMMMA) January 22, 2026 - 10:30 A.M.**

The Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority (NMMMA) met in Regular session on Thursday, December 11, 2025, 10:30 a.m. at the Charter Township of Alpena, 4385 US 23 N, Alpena, MI 49707.

Directors Present:	Cindy Johnson John Kozlowski Abbi Kaszubowski Laura Ellery-Somer Julia Silkworth Mary Thomson Randy Fairbanks Don Gilmet Bill LaHaie Gary Stephan	City of Alpena County of Alpena Charter Twp of Alpena Charter Twp of Alpena Maple Ridge Township Long Rapids Township Ossineke Township Wilson Township County of Alpena Sanborn Township
Directors Absent:	Rachel Smolinski Eric Smith Ron Lucas	City of Alpena Green Township Wellington Township
Others Present:	ED Bailey Barr Kayla Wikaryasz Annie White	NMMMA The Alpena News RRS
Public Comment:	None	
Others via Zoom:	Annie White	RRS

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken: the following Board Directors were present: Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Kozlowski, Secretary Kaszubowski, Director Ellery-Somers, Director Silkworth, Director LaHaie, Director Fairbanks, Director Gilmet, Director Thomson, Director Stephan. Absent: Treasurer Smolinski, Director Smith, Director Lucas.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Director Ellery-Somers and supported by Director Gilmet to adopt agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

BYLAWS

Moved by Secretary Kaszubowski and supported by Director Gilmet to postpone bylaws discussions until the February 2026 meeting. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Director LaHaie and supported by Vice-Chair Kozlowski to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

PRESENTATION – G&M RECYCLING- GENE MIDYETT

Presentation postponed due to presenter unable to make the meeting.

A private hauling service operator from Petoskey who currently serves Petoskey, Cheboygan, Rogers City and Presque Isle was scheduled to present but could not attend due to travel concerns. The hauler is considering expansion into Alpena County (suggested by EGLE) since the county currently lacks curbside recycling pickup, and has been gathering interest through Facebook. The proposed service

would offer monthly or bi-weekly pickups with a phased rollout approach. The cost would be \$12.50-\$20 per month to collect recyclables and deliver them to the NMMMA facility, essentially acting as a transportation intermediary. The hauler confirmed that materials collected in Alpena County would be delivered directly to the local MRF (not transported back to Emmet County) and would follow Alpena's sorting requirements.

OUT-OF-COUNTY AND BUSINESS CUSTOMERS

The board determined that out-of-county customers using the previously discussed curb-side service must purchase the \$60 out-of-county permit to maintain consistency with direct users of the facility, and the service operator would need to provide their names to NMMMA. Annie (RRS) raised concerns about processing fees, noting that Alpena County residents' fees cover processing costs, but out-of-county material would require additional processing fee revenue for financial sustainability. The board discussed that businesses using the pickup service would need to maintain proper NMMMA memberships. The service operator would need to provide a list of business customers to ensure they have appropriate memberships.

NEW FACILITY UPDATE

- The USDA requires a signed letter of intent and grant agreement documents from both NMMMA and the county before they can release funds for the project.
- The board reviewed the documents that require signatures.
- A motion was made and approved to allow the Chair to sign the USDA letter of intent and grant agreement, enabling the next step in the USDA funding process.
- The original RFP for the new facility should have required bidders to include engineering drawings, but this wasn't included. USDA suggested using Wightman for engineering services at an additional cost.
- Wightman would work directly with DeVere (the contractor) to finalize shop drawings over a 2-3 month period. This step is necessary before DeVere can begin their engineering work on the building.

- Using Whiteman is preferable because they're already familiar with the project (having done preliminary work for the RFP) and are recommended by USDA. DeVere hiring their own architect would likely cost 10-15% more.

Moved by Director Ellery-Somers and supported by Director Stephan to allow Chair Johnson to sign the USDA letter of intent.

Roll call was taken. AYES: Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Kozlowski, Secretary Kaszubowski, Director Ellery-Somers, Director Silkworth, Director LaHaie, Director Fairbanks, Director Gilmet, Director Thomson, Director Stephan. NAYES: None
Absent: Treasurer Smolinski, Director Smith, Director Lucas.

Moved by Director Ellery-Somers and supported by Director LaHaie to accept Wightman's proposal for architectural and structural services and authorize ED Barr to sign the agreement in the amount of \$96,000 plus expenses.

Roll call was taken. AYES: Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Kozlowski, Secretary Kaszubowski, Director Ellery-Somers, Director Silkworth, Director LaHaie, Director Fairbanks, Director Gilmet, Director Thomson, Director Stephan. NAYES: None
Absent: Treasurer Smolinski, Director Smith, Director Lucas.

CLOVER POS LEASE

- The facility currently leases point of sale equipment through Clover at \$156 monthly (\$115 lease + \$41 Clover Services), totaling approximately \$1,800 annually. The lease is set to end in May 2027.
- Breaking out of the current Clover lease and returning the equipment would cost \$1,363. The original agreement was misrepresented as lease-to-own, but actually requires continued payments even after the initial term.
- The current Clover system has required shipping back for replacement twice, and their customer support is problematic with long hold times. It took 2.5 months to obtain the actual signed lease document.
- The proposed replacement is Square, which has no monthly fees or equipment leases. The one-time equipment purchase would cost \$469, and the organization would own the equipment outright.

- Square will still have credit card processing fees but no fee to sync with QuickBooks, unlike the current system which charges \$27 monthly just for QuickBooks integration. The director consulted with other local businesses using Square for feedback.

Moved by Secretary Kaszubowski and supported by Director Gilmet to approve ending the Clover POS lease in the amount of \$1,363.

Roll call was taken. AYES: Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Kozlowski, Secretary Kaszubowski, Director Ellery-Somers, Director Silkworth, Director LaHaie, Director Fairbanks, Director Gilmet, Director Thomson, Director Stephan. NAYES: None Absent: Treasurer Smolinski, Director Smith, Director Lucas.

Moved by Director Ellery-Somers and supported by Director Gilmet to approve changing the POS to Square and purchase equipment in the amount of \$469.

Roll call was taken. AYES: Chair Johnson, Vice-Chair Kozlowski, Secretary Kaszubowski, Director Ellery-Somers, Director Silkworth, Director LaHaie, Director Fairbanks, Director Gilmet, Director Thomson, Director Stephan. NAYES: None Absent: Treasurer Smolinski, Director Smith, Director Lucas.

RECYCLING MARKET CHALLENGES

- The December 2025 material sold report showed smooth operations. The year-end recap showed that while NMMMA sold 200 more tons of material in 2025 compared to previous year, the revenue was actually less due to market drops.
- Cardboard remains the primary revenue source. Market prices dropped across all materials in 2025 except for plastic, though plastic markets are still challenging overall. When plastic recycling exceeds storage capacity, excess will be baled with garbage temporarily and later broken open for proper sorting when the organization moves to its new facility.
- No plastic truck has been sold since May 2025 because they can't sell it for any profit. This is due to NMMMA currently sorting plastic by 2 numbers rather than all 7 numbers. No facilities currently take mixed plastics. This has resulted in accumulation of plastic at the facility.

- Revenue was noted to be less in 2025 than in 2024, with the Authority coming in just shy of \$40,000 under roll for 2025. A full financial report was included in the meeting materials.

EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS UPDATES

- ED Barr reported that the alternate quote for the front loader came in higher, so he proceeded with signing the John Deere loader contract to secure 2025 pricing as authorized in the previous meeting.
- Workers' compensation insurance has been changed from Liberty Mutual to a new plan through Alpena Agency that will save \$600 annually.
- Amrize has purchased the two current glass bins and has committed to buying two additional bins - one this quarter and another in the last quarter of 2026.
- Two townships (Sanborn and Green Township) have expressed interest in receiving glass recycling bins. These would be funded through the Amrize donation program.
- ED Barr announced that the facility would be closed the following day (January 23, 2026) due to weather concerns, prompting a discussion about developing a more formal closure policy.
- ED Barr reminded township representatives to communicate any needs regarding site spacing for plowing or other maintenance issues, mentioning previous instances where ice removal or salting was required.

COUNTY WIDE CLEAN UP DAY 2026

- ED Barr confirmed that the June 6 cleanup event at Northern Lights Arena has been approved, and will now proceed with securing vendors and other preparations.
- A reminder was given about the December 11th request for township allocations to fund the cleanup event. Only two townships have responded so far, with funding of \$1,500 per township.
- A request was made for blight information sheets to be sent out for distribution to community members, with ED Barr agreeing to create and distribute promotional materials.

- An increase in promotional efforts will take place by running radio announcements every other week leading up to the event to ensure good community awareness and participation.

GENERAL UPDATES

Next meeting date: February 26th, 2026 10:30a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Vice-Chair Kozlowski and supported by Director Stephan to adjourn meeting at 11:57am. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

X

Abbi Kaszubowski
Secretary

X

Cindy Johnson
Chair