

**Official Proceedings of the
Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority
(NMMMA) February 26, 2026 - 10:30 A.M.**

The Northeast Michigan Materials Management Authority (NMMMA) met in Regular session on Thursday February 26, 2026, 10:30 a.m. at the Charter Township of Alpena, 4385 US 23 N, Alpena, MI 49707.

Directors Present:	Cindy Johnson	City of Alpena
	Rachel Smolinski	City of Alpena
	Lucille Bray	County of Alpena
	Abbi Kaszubowski	Charter Twp of Alpena
	Laura Ellery-Somers	Charter Twp of Alpena
	Julia Silkworth	Maple Ridge Township
	Mary Thomson	Long Rapids Township
	Randy Fairbanks	Ossineke Township
	Don Gilmet	Wilson Township
	Bill LaHaie	County of Alpena
	Gary Stephan	Sanborn Township
	Ron Lucas	Wellington Township

Directors Absent:	Eric Smith	Green Township
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Others Present:	ED Bailey Barr	NMMMA
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Public Comment:	None
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Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Director LaHaie and supported by Treasurer Smolinski to adopt agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Gilmet to approve the consent agenda with a spelling correction. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

BYLAWS

NMMMA bylaws should be adopted with updates removing term limits for board directors and officers, clarifying executive committee duties, and adding staff role provisions.

Moved by Director Gilmet and supported by Director LaHaie to accept the bylaws as presented, effective February 26th, 2026.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Gilmet to add election of officers to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Moved by Director Ellery-Somers and supported by Director Gilmet to add the Charter Township of Alpena updated NMMMA appointment to the agenda.

The current slate of officers should be retained for another term, including the executive committee members who will serve through the ground-breaking of the new facility.

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director LaHaie to maintain the current slate of officers.

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

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Director Ellery-Somers is retiring from the Charter Township of Alpena Board of Trustees effective May 31, 2026. She has decided to step down from the NMMMA Board of Directors effective March 1, 2026. The Charter Township of Alpena BOT have appointed Russ Rhynard as the primary representative to NMMMA, replacing Laura Ellery-Somers. Michele Palevich will serve as his alternate and Steve Lappan will remain as the alternate for Abbi Kaszubowski.

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Lucas to accept Laura's resignation and accept the Charter Township of Alpena representatives Russ Rhynard and Michele Palevich as alternate. Steve Lappan will remain as alternate. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

PRESENTATION – G&M RECYCLING- GENE MIDYETT

The representative from G&M Recycling was not available in person. ED Barr provided an update.

The private curbside recycling service is pausing operations in Alpena County after only 9 of 100+ initial inquiries converted to active participants, citing challenges with existing recycling taxes and Facebook group approvals.

The service is shifting resources to Emmett County where business cardboard partnerships are gaining traction, though they're open to restarting in Alpena County if conditions improve.

Some skepticism was expressed about the Emmett County pivot since that county already has a robust curbside program, and noted local businesses have been reaching out wanting service but not getting responses.

NMMMA will now offer business cardboard pickup service at \$50 per pickup using their new dump trailer, filling the gap left by the private service's departure.

Moved by Director Gilmet and supported by Treasurer Smolinski to receive and file G&M Recycling report presented by ED Barr. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

January household surcharge revenue reached \$118,065, with more expected over the next couple months as collections continue.

Sale of recyclables, especially glass, is performing well, though there's still an outstanding issue with receiving revenue from Iosco County.

Total income reached 27.89% of annual budget in January alone, which is tracking ahead of pace, while total expenses were at 11.45% of budget.

Moved by Director Ellery-Somers and supported by Director Fairbanks to receive and file the financial report as presented. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

The Inclement Weather Policy was revised so all scheduled employees (full-time and part-time) receive half-pay for full-day weather closures, expanding from the previous policy that only covered full-time employees.

For delayed openings or early closures, no lost hours will be paid out, but employees can make up those hours during the same week or on another agreed-upon day.

If employees need to make up hours on a Sunday or when the facility is normally closed, at least two people must be present for safety reasons.

The Board discussed whether drivers called in during facility closures for losco route pickups should receive both scheduled pay plus hours worked, or just scheduled hours.

The Board also discussed potentially modifying the losco agreement for more discretion during closures.

The Board acknowledged they'll be reviewing other sections of the employee handbook and bringing additional changes forward in future meetings.

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Gilmet to add to the Inclement Weather Policy that truck drivers called in during full facility closures will receive their scheduled hours; otherwise, they follow standard inclement weather procedures. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

Director Stephan suggested consolidating sick time into PTO (rolling over 40 hours maximum) to reduce the sick time liability on the books and provide more flexibility to employees.

ED Barr noted that PTO requires supervisor approval while sick time doesn't, which could give supervisors more control over scheduling, particularly during slower periods like December when employees might pad paychecks with sick days.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

ED Barr reported that glass sales are thriving and are the major contributor to revenue, along with some cardboard and scrap metal sales.

Cardboard baling is currently slow due to insufficient incoming material volume, with operations waiting for more material to accumulate before processing.

Materials coming in from Iosco and Alcona are being processed immediately before the next container arrives, indicating efficient throughput despite low overall volumes.

The Western Star truck had recall work completed at the nearest dealer in Traverse City, and the trailer had ABS repairs completed, with all equipment now functioning properly.

Ampliroll initially disputed a \$4,000 PTO warranty claim on the white truck, arguing improper maintenance, but Alpena Diesel provided photographic evidence that a screw wasn't welded correctly at the factory, causing premature failure.

ED Barr had to file small claims to force resolution, as Ampliroll had been sending monthly invoices with 1.5% late fees since fall despite the dispute. The PTO (which typically lasts 5-8 years) failed after only one year.

Ampliroll ultimately agreed to cover the repair cost rather than go to court, though MTech (the truck seller who works directly with Ampliroll) declined to assist despite NMMMA having purchased two trucks from them.

Moved by Director Gilmet and supported by Director Ellery-Somers to receive and file the executive director report. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Ellery-Somers to enter into closed session to discuss the Executive Director employment agreement at 11:26am.

Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

The board returned to open session at 12:14. Director Lucas left at 12:14.

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Ellery-Somers to accept the employment agreement for the executive director with changes to the base salary in section 2.1 on page 2 with an increase to \$73,840 and section 2.3 on page 3 Employer Vehicle with a language change from “Employer shall” to “Employer may” provide Employee with a vehicle to use for business related tasks and or travel.

Roll call was taken. AYES: Chair Johnson, Director Bray, Treasurer Smolinski, Secretary Kaszubowski, Director Ellery-Somers, Director LaHaie, Director Fairbanks, Director Thomson, Director Stephan, Director Lucas. NAYES: Director Silkworth, Director Gilmet. Absent: Director Smith

GENERAL UPDATES

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

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Treasurer Smolinski and supported by Director Ellery-Somers to adjourn meeting at 12:29am. Motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

X

Abbi Kaszubowski
Secretary

X

Cindy Johnson
Chair