

NOTICE OF A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING

The City Clerk has called a Special Meeting of the Municipal Council on the written request of the Mayor to discuss Township Emergency Request for Short-Term Fire Services.

Said meeting will be held virtually on Monday, December 28, 2020 at 6 p.m. This is a joint meeting with the Charter Township of Alpena.

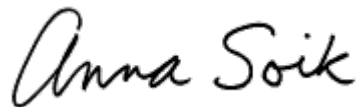
Login: <https://www.gotomeet.me/CityofAlpena>

Phone: [+1 \(646\) 749-3112](tel:+16467493112)

Access Code: 667-050-061

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Approval of the Agenda and Modifications.
4. Township Emergency Request for Short-Term Fire Services.
5. Public Comment.
6. Adjourn.



By: Anna Soik, City Clerk


Dated: December 23, 2020

Posted: December 23, 2020



Alpena Fire Department
Alpena County EMS
501 W Chisholm Street
Alpena, Michigan 49707
www.alpena.mi.us

Fire/EMS

To: Honorable Mayor and Council
From: Bill Forbush, Fire Chief
Date: December 23, 2020 
Re: Township emergency request for short-term coverage

On December 17th, the Alpena Township Board met to discuss an impending staffing crisis in their fire department. Due to several resignations and retirements, they will be left with one full-time firefighter and their fire chief by late December. Township Chief Robbins advised the Board that they would only be able to staff one station until more staff could be hired and trained. Their citizens have been very clear that unmanned stations are unacceptable.

Yesterday afternoon, a virtual meeting was conducted with Mayor Waligora, Mayor ProTem Johnson, City Manager Smolinski, and myself on the City side and Supervisor Skibbe, Trustees Poli and Rhynard and Chief Robbins on the Township side.

The group had extensive discussion on three options that were prepared in response to the request. One involved AFD temporarily staffing the north station, one for staffing the south station and a third to provide service to a portion of the township from our headquarters. The Township/City committee unanimously recommended the first option, which is detailed below:

The project includes these features:

- AFD staffs one ALS ambulance crew at Northside station
- Typically one officer-paramedic, one firefighter-paramedic or EMT
- AFD would accept full responsibility and authority over any emergency in north Alpena Township area
- AFD crew could use Township northside engine for fire calls. Chief Robbins would conduct training for all AFD personnel on their specific apparatus.
- AFD crew could use or request township tanker for fires
- AFD, Alpena Township paid-on-call and/Presque Isle Twp firefighters would respond on first alarm for northside fires
- Township paid-on-call firefighters would respond and operate under AFD on-scene command.
- AFD personnel would not fall under AFD chain of command
- No administrative, CRR, or training support (except on-scene command)
- \$125,000 for six month contract (rationale presented).

A joint virtual meeting will be held on December 28 at 6 pm using the City's GoToMeeting platform. A joint press release co-authored by Chief Robbins and I and approved by the applicable officials was released this morning. Public comment is encouraged prior to and at the December 28 meeting. Township officials have indicated that they urgently need staffing assistance beginning January 1st.

It should be noted that this project is a temporary solution to an urgent staffing shortage and is not a merger of the departments.



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR
EMERGENCY FIRE DEPARTMENT STAFFING AND RESPONSE**

THE CITY OF ALPENA, a Michigan Municipal Corporation located at 208 N. First Avenue, Alpena, Michigan 49707, “the City”, and **THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF ALPENA**, a Michigan Municipal Corporation located at 4385 US23 North, Alpena, Michigan 49707, “the Township”, enter into this agreement subject to the following conditions:

The City is able and willing to provide, and the Township wishes to receive fire department staffing and emergency response services on a temporary basis due to a critical staffing shortage. This agreement is intended to be a short-term solution to a staffing emergency on the part of the Township.

In mutual consideration of the promises made herein the parties agree as follows:

General Terms:

1. The City shall operate one advanced life support (ALS) ambulance with two licensed personnel at the Alpena Township north station, located at 4385 US 23 North, Alpena, MI 49707. This crew will respond to all emergencies in the northern response area.
2. The northside unit will typically be staffed by one certified fire officer/paramedic and one firefighter-paramedic or firefighter-EMT.
3. The City will accept full responsibility and authority over any emergency in north Alpena Township and will be in the “command” role under the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
4. The City northside crew may use Township apparatus and vehicles as needed for fire and emergency response. The Township will make its tender (tanker) available as needed, for use by either City or Township personnel.
5. For fire calls, additional City, Alpena Township paid-on-call and Presque Isle Township firefighters will be dispatched immediately.
6. The Township shall pay the City \$125,000 in exchange for 6-months of service as described in this agreement and paid on a monthly basis.

This agreement between the City and the Township contains the entire agreement of the parties with respect to its subject matter. This Agreement may not be modified except by a written document signed by the parties.

The failure of either party to enforce any specific condition of this Agreement shall not constitute a waiver of its right to enforce every other condition of this Agreement. No provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to have been waived unless the waiver is in writing.