

September 28, 2023 Alpena Co. adopts resolution in advance of 2050 goal of carbon neutrality in MI

When the Alpena County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, it adopted a resolution “Opposing any legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments.”

The resolution references Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s 2020-10 Executive Order that addresses climate change and greenhouse emissions and outlines a goal to achieve “economy-wide carbon neutrality” no later than 2050.

The county’s resolution claims the Governor has also proposed the Michigan Public Service Commission “be the sole regulating authority for solar and wind projects” to expedite efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

County commissioners, which passed the resolution unanimously, believe there should be local control on those regulations; and the resolution opposes preemption of local control in solar and wind siting and zoning.

The resolution is supported by the Michigan Association of Counties and is making its way across the state and has been adopted by other counties as well.

August 30, 2023 Labor Day holiday weekend travel

Many Michiganders have travel plans over the upcoming Labor Day Holiday weekend, which unofficially marks the end of the summer travel season.

AAA says booking data for flights, hotels, rental cars, and cruises shows Labor Day weekend travel is up over last year. Domestic bookings are up 4% and international bookings are up 44%.

Drivers taking road trips will likely see gas prices similar to last year. The national average for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$3.78 on Labor Day 2022.

Police remind motorists that the Labor Day holiday weekend is one of the deadliest times of the year in terms of impaired-driving fatalities. An annual “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign continues in Michigan through the weekend. Over the Labor Day holiday weekend from 2018 to 2022, 40 drivers were killed in auto crashes in Michigan. One-third of those drivers were alcohol-impaired.

AAA says the top five domestic destinations for the holiday are Seattle, Orlando, Anchorage, New York, and Las Vegas. Vancouver, Rome, London, Dublin, and Paris are the top five international destinations.

July 24, 2023 Alpena Co. taking 21 parcels to tax delinquent sale

Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Oscoda counties are joining up for a series of land auctions to dispose of properties that were seized after previous owners failed to pay their property taxes.

The tax delinquent property sales, all of which will be held online only, are an opportunity for the counties to recoup lost property taxes from the 2020 tax year.

Properties will be offered through three auctions. During the first two sales, August 22 and September 29, properties will be offered at a “minimum bid,” which is essentially the amount of taxes and associated fees that are owed. Remaining properties will head to the auction block a third time on October 30 when minimum bids will be lowered to as little as \$1.

Alcona County needs to dispose of 12 properties, Alpena 21, Montmorency 5 and Oscoda 34 - all of which are vacant lots.

Alpena County’s 21 properties will be sold in 11 lots. Two of the lots contain six parcels each and are located in Thunder Bay Village. The former JR’s Country Store & Liquor convenience store and gas station on the corner of M-32 and M-65 is on the selling block, along with a cabin in Ossineke Township and a two-story house on Saginaw Street in the City of Alpena.

There is also a home on Tuttle Street, however County Treasurer Kim Ludlow says it is “unsafe” and is paying to have it torn down prior to the sale. That cost of \$43,500 includes required asbestos removal. The house is supposed to be demolished by August 10. The empty lot will be included in the sale.

The county needs to recoup approximately \$29,893 to make itself whole on unpaid taxes, penalties and fees; along with another \$43,639 for the Tuttle Street demo and lawn cutting service for the home on Saginaw Street. The total amount of \$73,531 will continue to rise until sale time as costs continue to add up due to the monthly lawn cutting service, for example.

For additional information on the sales and properties, including photos and descriptions, visit [tax-sale.info](http://tax-sale.info).