

## THE ALPENA NEWS

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### **Permit approved for Hope House move**

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The Alpena Planning Commission unanimously approved a special use permit to allow Hope House to move into the East Campus Youth and Family Center, formerly known as East Campus.

Alpena Community College transferred ownership of the building to Word of Life Baptist Church in August. The church had to pay \$5,000 in legal and transferral fees.

The church has donated about half the space in the building to Child and Family Services, which administers Hope House, and it will refurbish its portion of the building using money it has raised.

Hope House is a place girls, usually from out of the county, are sent by a court order to straighten out their lives.

CFS Executive Director Lyle Dorr said Hope House will be a respected neighbor at its new location.

"We don't have complaints of our facility. Our girls are very well respected," Dorr said.

Planning commission member Mike Glowinski said he was glad to know there will be activity in the building again.

"I think this facility has been underutilized for years, and (Hope House) fits to me," Glowinski said.

City Planning and Development Director Greg Sundin said a special-use permit is required because there are no zoning districts that include such specific uses such as the Hope House.

Pending approval from the CFS board, \$1.2-\$1.4 million in renovation will be done to the building to accommodate Hope House, and create an abuse and neglect wing in the building. Dorr said he is hopeful the facility will open in 2010.

Board member Randy Boboltz abstained from the vote because he is employed by CFS.

The board also unanimously approved a North Side Neighborhood Revitalization Action Plan. The plan, once approved by Alpena Municipal Council, will allow the city to access \$400,000 in grant money to improve the north side of town.

The plan includes background information, long-term goals, and suggestions for action - but does not specify exactly how the money would be spent. Assistant City Manager Eric Cline said those decisions will be made further down the road.

Cline said city council likely will vote on the plan in November.

The commission also discussed wind energy during a workshop session that followed the official meeting. The city currently is working on a zoning ordinance rewrite, and Sundin discussed with commission members potential changes regarding wind energy to be included in the new ordinance.

He said vertical wind turbines, as well as setback distances should be considered in the new ordinance. Because the turbines are firmly held by their footings, having a required fall space may be unnecessary, he said.

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