

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**November 12, 2012**

**Minutes are subject to corrections and approval**

Pursuant to recess, the Alger County Board of Commissioners convened in the conference room of the county building at 4:05 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent ó none.

A moment of silence was taken for Veteranø Day. The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Undersheriff Brock congratulated all of the elected officials on the election. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

It was the consensus of the board to look at the minutes and make a motion at Mondayø regular board meeting.

There was board consensus of the agenda as presented.

Marianne Laskay was present for the animal shelter. Commissioner Doucette honored the animal shelter and presented them with an award on behalf of the board and the citizens of Alger County.

Steve Webber presented the board a copy of generators he would like to purchase. The board had authorized him to put the bids out in May. He said that he wants to purchase two Northstar 15,000 watt generators with electric start. One generator is for Mathias Township and the other is for Alger County and is the discretion of the county on where to put it when it is needed. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Steve to purchase the two generators up to the amount of \$8,000. The monies are to come from the emergency management grants (259-000-937.000).

Steve Webber discussed purchasing Garmin eTrex 30 GPSø and the need for them when persons are missing. He said that he already wrote the grant and was approved to spend the money through December. He would like to bypass the bidding process and purchase them from the cheapest place. He said that he will check around. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Steve to bypass the bidding process and to purchase GPSø up to the amount of \$2,400. He said that this should be enough for 8 to 9 units. The monies are to come from the emergency management grants (259-000-937.000).

Steve Webber discussed bypassing the bidding process and purchase a computer, server, and software for U.P. wide law enforcement information (law enforcement reports) from Compudyne in the amount of \$7,080. He said that this will give law enforcement more information on persons. He said that he will make sure that the money is available in a grant. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Steve to bypass the bidding process and to purchase the computer, server, and software from Compudyne in the amount of \$7,080, as long as the grant is approved. The monies are to come from the emergency management grant (259-000-937.000).

Sheila Peters gave a handout to the board for the health insurance. Ron Pierce from City Insurance was also present to discuss health insurance. Sheila said that they would like the board to opt-out and will explain this. She said that the boardø consensus from the health insurance committee was that they would like to step away from the HSA funding, which the county has paid \$108,000 this last year. She said that the new plan the county would fund would be a HRA plan and would cost the county \$13,800, as long as there were no changes with employees. The insurance committee also chose a Morgan White rider for extra insurance coverage. Sheila said that the employees will incur a \$30 copay for office visits, a \$150 copay for ER visits, and a \$15/30/60 copay for prescriptions. She said that they changed to Lincoln Financial for the life and dental insurances, which MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) approved and is highly rated. She said that Morgan White is a third party administrator and for the HRA account that they would go through Health Equity for \$200 of the countyø fund that they will be putting in, which is the total of the \$13,800 for the HRA funding. She said that both of those companies will oversee those monies, which would take Darlene out of it. She said that in 2012 payroll deductions were \$9,828 and in 2013 they proposed a payroll deduction of \$16,510. Sheila said that along with that there is a \$300 per person deductible per plan. She said that if the HRA is not used by the end of the year, the county gets it back. The insurance committee also came up with a plan that everyone 65 and older, being employees and spouses, to be on a Nebco insurance plan, which would be an added savings for employees and the county. It was discussed that those people have to be on Medicare Parts A and B. Sheila talked about a current employee making \$12.10 per hour and covering a family insurance plan. She said that her take home pay is \$622.20 and that if the board went with the hard cap, it would cost that employee \$627.86, which then that employee would be in the negative and not have a paycheck. It was discussed that the hard caps under the current plan would be a savings of \$137,091. She said that if you go to the hard cap on the HRA, there is a savings on a HRA plan of \$53,391.60. She said that figures for the 80/20 under the current plan would cost that same employee \$384.32 per month. She said that the savings is \$72,635.04. She said that under the HRA the cost for the

employee is \$307.53 and the savings for the 80/20 is \$52,825.56. Sheila said that if the county stays where they currently are with no changes, there would be an 11% increase. She said that if the county goes with the HRA plan she discussed, the savings to the county will be \$104,613.16. Commissioner Pullen said that she agrees with the recommendation. Ron said that for 2011 the medical, the prescriptions, the dental, the vision, and the HSA funding cost to the county was \$539,539.00. It was discussed that for 2012 the total cost of the health insurance including buyouts was \$596,122.42. It was discussed that in 2013 the total cost of the HSA renewal plan is \$583,729.68. On the HRA plan it is \$479,116.52. It was discussed that the 2012 insurance cost including the HSA is \$531,000. The 2013 cost for use of the hard caps and 80/20 is \$443,581.92. Ron said that the cost for the 2012 hard cap and 80/20 is \$531,991.24. There were several figures thrown out with discrepancies of savings. Sheila said that right now there is one person on Nebco with the potential of four being on Nebco for a greater savings. Ron said that the Nebco savings would be about \$13,999.00. There was discussion on the insurance opt outs and the figures being used. It was discussed that there was only a savings of \$34,000 for the health insurance. It was also discussed that the total amount of savings of \$104,000 included the dental, vision, and life. There were several more figures thrown out in discussion with a savings of \$50,000. Ron explained that Morgan White is buying an insurance policy to cover the difference between the deductible and the Blue Cross plan. He said that the employees are taking on a large risk in regards to what they are going to be paying out of pocket. The Undersheriff asked the board to give the insurance committee every opportunity to look at the work they've done. The Undersheriff, the Sheriff, Commissioner Pullen, and Commissioner Rondeau commended the insurance committee. Commissioner Mattson thanked the insurance committee for their work. He also discussed the budgets and what the deficit is. Commissioner VanLandschoot also commented on what Commissioner Mattson said and thanked the insurance committee. Attorney Burkhart wanted Ron to comment on the timing of the renewal date. Ron said that Blue Cross Blue Shield would like 45 days to process, but it is not necessary. It was discussed that if the county is charged for 2013 renewal rates, whatever plans that have changed will be credited back to the county. A decision will be discussed at the special board meeting following the committee of the whole.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Joint Advisory Council By-Laws were discussed for the judicial meetings. Commissioner Mattson said that the judicial committee wants the counties to look at the by-laws and approve them. It was the consensus of the board to approve the by-laws of the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court Joint Advisory Council.

There was discussion on changing the Board of Commissioner's paydays and per diems because some of the board members were not turning in their vouchers on time. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the payday to be at the beginning of the month and the per diems to be at the end of the month beginning January 1, 2013.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize refunding Jessica Mickelson \$40 for a divorce packet she paid in advance and decided she did not need.

The audit bids were discussed. There were two. One bid was from Gabridge & Co. and the other bid was from Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC. There were some questions about Gabridge & Co. and the clerk is to look into those questions further. She will have those answers ready for the next board meeting.

The remonumentation program bid was discussed. There was one bid from Peninsula Land Surveying. It was the consensus of the board to select Peninsula Land Surveying for the remonumentation program for the years 2013, 2014, and 2015.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to NorthCare for the convention facility tax for substance abuse in the amount of \$6,174.50. The monies are to come from the substance abuse budget (101-631-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the revenues in the Unpaid Personal Property Tax budget (101-000-417.000) in the amount of \$763.65.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the following expenditures:

*Attorneys/Consultants	\$463.65
*Veterans Burials	\$300.00

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed the airport and that the snow drags at the airport will not take place in 2013. She said that the airport was Plan B. Commissioner Doucette asked about the building out at the airport and wondered if it could be used for storage. It was discussed that the building is Dick Cremerø, that he is charged for personal property tax on it, and that the county cannot use the building. Commissioner Pullen said that there should be a contract in the airport file from around 1998 regarding the building. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that Ed Lindstrom resigned from the AMCAB Board. He had questions on who would appoint the next Alger County person. The clerk will call AMCAB and find out about the appointment.

Correspondence was read, discussed, and will be filed.

Board comments were next. There was none.

There were no staff comments.

Public comment session was open. There was no public comment; thus, the public comment session was closed.

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk