

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

October 23, 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 4:00 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent ó Commissioner Mattson.

The Board of Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Mattson.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) shall be strategy connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement and also a written opinion of counsel. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Mattson.

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to come out of closed session. No action was taken in closed session. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Mattson.

Attorney Burkhart discussed Public Act 152. He said there were 3 choices for the health insurance; opt out, hard cap, and 80/20. He said that last year Alger County opted out. He said that compounding all of that, there is Proposal 2 to be voted on November 6th. He said that the county has to make a decision for the health insurance. He explained the county's options in closed session. There was discussion on the health insurance regarding Public Act 152. Commissioner Doucette said that being involved in MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) he wanted to bring Attorney Burkhart down to explain Public Act 152. It was discussed that it would give the insurance committee the best plan to fit the employees. Attorney Burkhart said that the county board could address the hard caps and 80/20, which excludes dental and vision. Emil Kezerle, the Police Officers Association of Michigan Representative, had a question on the weight of the insurance committee and what direction to go. Commissioner Doucette said that all reports for the budget is a deficit of \$150,000 - \$170,000 for this year and next year it is projected around \$300,000 plus. He said that this could not wait and had to be brought it to the board. Darlene Dishong said that the county had until December to make a decision on the plans and asked them to wait to look at the numbers of the insurance plans. Steve Webber said that the Sheriff Department's Union asked to have the insurance committee look at the health plans and that there was turmoil and to give them the opportunity to make a presentation to the board before a decision is made. Commissioner Pullen has had some discussion with some of the insurance committee members and that the board has to look at the financial situation of the county. Emil said that last year the County of Alger opted out. Now that they have reflected on it, how did that shake out at opting out? He asked if they accomplish what they had hoped. Commissioner Pullen said that they are sitting here. Sheila Peters asked the board to just hold off a little bit and see where the insurance committee is and what plans are going to work and where the numbers are. They would still like to work hand in hand. Darlene said that by waiting for what the insurance committee comes up with, they will have definite numbers for next year's budgets. She also said that the insurance committee has had a good rapport with all of the employees. Attorney Burkhart discussed Proposal 2 and said that 82 statutes are impacted. He said that they could not rely on a hard cap or 80/20 but would have to rely on negotiating. It all has to be negotiated by December 31st. He said that the commissioners would still have the same pressures and money problems; they would just have to negotiate. Steve said that no one has the intention to sink the county and would like to see the board work with the insurance committee. Commissioner Pullen asked what happens to Arbitration 312 if the proposal passes. Attorney Burkhart said by December 31st everyone should know what plans are in place, what they are going to pay. Attorney Burkhart said that the outcome of Proposal 2 will have a dramatic impact. If the board is considering deferring a decision, he does not need to come to the next meeting and the board has all of the information they need. He said that the insurance committee has a lot of ground to cover after November 6th. Commissioner Rondeau said why not wait until after the

election. Attorney Burkhart said that there will be many plans and it is a highly individualized choice for people to make. He said that one of the dangers of deferring the decision is people will get a false sense of security. Darlene said that she doesn't think we will get all of the individual plans because of the amount of people being covered. Attorney Burkhart discussed that he gave the board options on what could be done. He said that the hard cap is that, but if the board chooses to pick a different number for a hard cap, they would have to opt out and pick that number. Steve Webber asked what a legitimate number of savings could be. The board could not give an answer. Commissioner Pullen said that she is not comfortable making a vote on this issue tonight. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to postpone making a decision on the employees' insurance until the Special Board meeting November 12, 2012 immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 Commissioner Mattson.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau said that he is glad that the decision was postponed. Commissioner VanLandschoot thanked the board, the folks in the room, and Attorney Burkhart for being at the meeting. Commissioner Doucette wanted to reiterate Commissioner VanLandschoot's comments and said that it is a tough decision and it won't go away.

Staff comments were next. There were none.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn this meeting at 6:14 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 Commissioner Mattson.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk