

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

June 17, 2013

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 Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

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.

Commissioner VanLandschoot wanted to add Don Belusar from the American Legion Post to discuss the Veterans Relief Fund Act 214 of 1899 as item number 7. On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the Regular Board of Commissioners minutes of May 20, 2013, the Special Board of Commissioners meeting of May 30, 2013, and the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 10, 2013. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

Don Belusar discussed the Veterans Relief Fund Act 214 of 1899. He said that Commissioner VanLandschoot brought this before the Post and that they have reviewed it at several meetings. He said that he made several phone calls and talked to the State and Judge Advocate to get an opinion on it. He said that currently there are three counties that use this either through a levy or a ballot proposal as a millage. The monies are used for indigent veterans of the county. He said that the Post has spent an excess of \$5,600 last year with almost \$2,000 spent just on indigent payments out to Alger County Veterans. He said that they think it is a good thing and would like to pursue it. He said that they could help those indigent veterans of Alger County. Commissioner VanLandschoot stated that the act says that the county shall levy a tax not exceeding 1/10 of a mill and that he believed 1/10 of a mill would bring in over \$20,000. He said that they wouldn't need that much. Don said their criteria is a little more lax than the Veterans Officer's is. The amount the Post is looking for is between \$3,000 - \$5,000. Commissioner Pullen arrived at 4:11 p.m. Don said they wouldn't have to collect the 1/10 of a mill, they could collect less. Commissioner Rondeau said he is all for putting this up for a vote to the people. He said he does not agree with just levying this to the taxes. There was discussion on having a committee to research this and putting this out to the county as a millage question for the August 2014 election. On a motion of Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to form a committee to research the Veterans Relief Fund Act 214 of 1899.

Commissioner VanLandschoot and Commissioner Rondeau are to be on this committee. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that they need to find out how much money is needed for this millage. When Don finds out more information, he is to come before the board to discuss it with them.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Alger County Construction Board of Appeals. Joe Cilc said that he received three names. Those three names were John Deisenroth, Builder; Will Rogers, Draftsman; and Dean Seaberg, Excavating Contractor. Joe said that he would also like to have an electrician on the board. He said that there are to be three to seven members on the board. Commissioner VanLandschoot told Joe to contact Herb Brown to see if he is interested to be the electrician member. Commissioner Rondeau is also to be appointed on the board. It was discussed that there would be a five member board with the names that were given. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to appoint John Deisenroth, Will Rogers, and Dean Seaberg to the Alger County Construction Board of Appeals for two year terms along with Commissioner Rondeau. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. Joe Cilc said that the board has to set a variance fee. The recommendation from Joe was \$250. This is to be put on next month's agenda.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize Alger County to act as the fiduciary agent for the Alger/Schoolcraft Counties Drug/Sobriety Court grant. The funds are to be 100% reimbursed by the grant. Cost allocation expenses are included in the proposal that would be a revenue source for the county as contractual services. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There was discussion on the DDA (Downtown Development Authority). Commissioner Doucette discussed the meeting he attended regarding the DDA. He said that it is becoming a prevalent problem across the state and that MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) is going to take this on as well. He said the only recourse they have is if the DDA wanted to expand. He said that the City is cutting down on their police enforcement and that maybe the county could charge the DDA for some of the coverage expenses from the sheriff's department. There was discussion on the DDA collecting taxes on the assessed value, not the taxable value.

There was discussion on an invoice to AKT Peerless for professional services rendered and project costs incurred to conduct a Site Investigation at Lammi's Store. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize payment to AKT Peerless in the amount of \$3,513.90. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. The monies are to come from the brownfield authority fund. The treasurer stated that this should be the final step.

There was discussion on the commissioner's attending a MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) Summit in Manistique on August 6, 2013. The cost of the registration is \$25 per person with lunch/dinner provided. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize Commissioners Mattson and Rondeau to attend this MAC Summit. Commissioner Doucette said that he is attending as a MAC Director. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Old business was next. There was discussion on changing the renewal date of the health insurance from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2013, which would lock them into any new rates with those rates being a great deal less than it would have cost with the date being January 1st. This is only for major medical. Dental and Morgan White are not guaranteed. This would lock the county in with the current Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) plan with a 7% ó 10% rate increase from December 2013 to December 2014. If it is more than 10%, BCBS will put a hold on the renewal until Alger County agrees to the increase. If they do not change the date, the same plan could have an increase between 38% - 42%. Ron Pierce from City Insurance said that the taxes and fees on the health insurance premiums are also increasing and that those fees are to run the exchange. There was discussion on the difficulties of the compliance with the federal government regarding the health insurance. He said that gives the board time to let the dust settle, see what happens and would not have to be fully compliant until the next year. It was discussed that the plan would not be compliant in 2014 if they did not change the renewal date, but by changing the date would give the current plan another year. Ron said that this does not keep the county from looking at another carrier for a better plan, but would just lock them in on the BCBS plan that the county has currently with a lower rate increase. The change of the renewal date has to be done by July 15th. It is the recommendation of the insurance committee to change the renewal date. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize changing the renewal date of the health insurance to December 31, 2013, which locks in the current BCBS health plan for 2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There were no appropriations.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve payment of all of the board bills. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in general fund miscellaneous revenue budget in the amount of \$1,430.06. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the attorneys/consultants budget in the amount of \$1,430.06. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the treasurer to create a new department #350 in the drug court fund #296 for the Alger/Schoolcraft Drug/Sobriety Court. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There were no miscellaneous items.

There was one resolution. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following Resolution #2013-10 Advocating for Improved Service to Veterans:

RESOLUTION #2013-10

ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVED SERVICE TO VETERANS

WHEREAS, A United States Veteran deserves to be treated with the highest regard for their service to America and her citizens; and

WHEREAS, The workload has more than doubled over the last decade due to wars in Iraq and Afghanistan along with new outreach efforts and presumptive conditions related to Agent Orange exposure; and

WHEREAS, Already over 480,000 (46%) of the more than one million discharged veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have sought care at VA health care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 congressional Budget Office report notes that the VA no longer has the capacity to adequately serve all current enrollees; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that the Veterans Benefits Administration is over 1,000,000 unprocessed claims and that the average waiting time for veterans is 18-36 months until they receive their benefits; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show nearly one third of returning veterans from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have a mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show one veteran commits suicide every 65 seconds, 69% of them are over 50 years of age, and one in every five suicides in the United States is a veteran; and

WHEREAS, Veterans have fought to defend our nation and our freedoms; they should not need to fight to get the medical services and benefits they deserve; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Alger County Board of Commissioners urges the Federal Government to take immediate action to improve and expedite America's veterans access to deserved benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Congressman Dan Benishek, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, State Representative John Kivela, State Senator Tom Casperson, Director Jason Allen DMVA, the National Association of Counties and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Adopted this 17th day of June, 2013.

Jerry Doucette, Chair
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed talking with the Housing Director from AMCAB regarding them doing a presentation to the board. He said that this could be done once a year. It was agreed that this would be a good thing. There was more discussion on doing some of the administrative work of the grant. Commissioner Mattson discussed the budget and some of the expenses. He discussed the Circuit Court budget, Attorneys/Consultants budget, the Sheriff's Department budget, that revenues in PILT are down, and that the expenses of the health insurance are going up. It was discussed that the budget is a board problem, not a committee problem. Commissioner Rondeau discussed going to the health insurance committee meeting and doesn't know how an organization like ours is going to pull out of it. He discussed going to a Road Commission meeting and talked about Sundell Road. Commissioner Pullen discussed going to the Michigan Mental Health and Wellness Public Hearing in Marquette. She also discussed a meeting with ALTRAN and the health care act and that Rochelle is considering opting out of the insurance completely and giving the employees the money to buy their own insurance. Commissioner Doucette discussed the union contracts and that they are hopefully close to being finalized. He discussed reports from MAC that the gas tax issue is becoming a dead issue. He talked about starting up the Regional Governments meetings again.

There was no new correspondence.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the new farm bill and that 80% of the money of the new farm bill is for food stamps. There were no other comments.

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.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk