

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

May 13, 2013

Minutes are subject to correction 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, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent ó none.

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 the consensus of the board to look at the minutes and make a motion at Monday's regular board meeting.

The agenda was presented.

There was discussion on two erosion problems by the ambulance garage. There are two estimates from Valley Spur Concrete to fix the problems each in the amount \$500. There was discussion with Joe Cilc that if the work was done for both problems within 6 months, it has to be dealt with as one project not two. Board Policy was discussed that services of \$1,000 or more shall be placed out on bids. It was the consensus of the board to have Murray go out on bids to have this work done because the project should be one bid and the cost was \$1,000 for the project.

There was discussion on an administrative leave policy. Commissioner Doucette is asking the board to think about options and that another county said that they pay the person on administrative leave half and hold the other half in an account. Another option is no pay until a decision is made. It was discussed that there is a person getting full pay on administrative leave. Commissioner Doucette said that he will contact MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) and try and get some information about this. Matt Waldron discussed that as far as law enforcement goes if they shoot someone, whether justified or not, they are immediately put on administrative leave until an investigation is done. Commissioner Doucette asked Matt to put some things in writing for the board to look at. It was discussed that administrative leave would have to be defined.

There was discussion on elected officials (Prosecutor, Sheriff, Clerk/Register and Treasurer) and the appointed employees (Terry McLaren and Lynne Maki) receiving a 1.5% raise for the year 2013 and a 1.5% raise in 2014. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the pay raises of 1.5% for the year 2013 and 1.5% in 2014.

There was discussion on current elected officials and appointed employees retiree health. Terry McLaren discussed that he had fully paid health and life insurance after retirement. He said that from what they passed at the last board meeting they were taking something from him. Commissioner Pullen discussed that the retirees who are 65 and have fully paid health insurance have to pay for their Medicare Part B. He is asking to still be included with the past employees as was agreed to before they passed the last health insurance language with the elected officials and appointed employees. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Terry McLaren to get fully paid health insurance as was promised after retirement with the understanding that the county would pay for the supplemental insurance at age 65 and he would pay for the Medicare portion. The life insurance would follow what was passed.

There was discussion on a pay increase of 1.5% for the Schoolcraft County circuit court employees (Lori and Jill) for the Schoolcraft County's fiscal year of 2013/2014. Schoolcraft County's fiscal year runs from October 1, 2013 through to September 30, 2014. It was the consensus of the board to authorize those pay raises of 1.5% for those two Schoolcraft County circuit court employees (Jill and Lori) for their fiscal year of 2013/2014.

The sheriff discussed the bids for a lifting device for the oxygen bottles. He said that he received four bids and that he would recommend going with the lowest bid. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase the Zico lifting device for the oxygen bottles from Michigan First Response in the total amount of \$2,020 including delivery. The monies are to come from the ambulance budget.

There was discussion on FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) charges for GIS information on the 911 system. The sheriff said that no one has set a rate yet. He said that when they had their initial meeting with the company, they said that some places charge between \$500 and \$1,000 for this information. He said that they could go with a happy medium. It was the consensus of the board to charge \$750 for this information.

There was discussion on the Veterans Relief Fund Tax Levy PA 214 of 1899. Commissioner Doucette handed out information about this and said that the levy is 1/10th of a mill. Commissioner VanLandschoot is to talk to the Legion and the Veteran's Officer about this. Commissioner Doucette said that those monies could be used for all of the burial fees for veterans and their spouses. He didn't think that wages could come from it. He said that this is probably not a good time to levy taxes. He said that this is something to look at. He said that if they didn't go for 1/10th of a mill, they could go for a lesser amount. He said that in Schoolcraft County 1/10th of a mill is about \$21,000.


There was discussion on hiring a part-time public defender for Alger County. A letter submitted by Judge Mark Luoma stated that after discussion with the circuit and probate judges, that their position that consideration of a public defender position for Alger County is not feasible at this time. Commissioner Doucette said that Andrew Jones would still like to come and talk to the board.

There was discussion on the law library and that there is a need for a printer. See the following letter from Judge Mark Luoma:

93rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
101 Court Street
Munising, Michigan 49862
(906) 387-3879
Fax: (906) 387-2688

Mark E. Luoma
District Judge

Lynne M. Maki
Magistrate



Karen T. Gurski
Court Recorder

Betty A. Jones
Deputy Clerk

May 8, 2013

Alger County Board of Commissioners
101 Court Street
Munising, MI 49862

RE: Law Library Computer

Dear Commissioners:


The law library is in need of a printer. Legal research can be extensive, but I do not expect more than a ream of paper per year would be used. A word processing program, such as *Microsoft Word*, would also be necessary so that users can cut and paste to avoid printing whole documents.

You may establish a reasonable cost per page to be charged for each page printed. It is anticipated that a sign would be posted informing users of the charges, and directing them to the county clerk's office to pay for pages printed. The cost for implementation of this request is nominal.

The county has no obligation to train or otherwise provide information to anyone regarding the use of *Westlaw* research program or website. Proper legal research on Westlaw is the user's responsibility.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,


Hon. Mark E. Luoma
District Judge

cc: Hon. William W. Carmody
Hon. Charles C. Nebel

There was discussion on this letter. It was the consensus of the board to charge .15 per page and directing people to pay for the copies that they print from the law library to District Court. It was discussed that they will have to print whatever they needed and would not be able to cut and paste.

Joe Cilc was present to discuss the formation of an Alger County Construction Board of Appeals. He said that the code requires for not less than three and no more than seven members with two year terms and qualified in the construction trades. He said that he would recommend appointing three members. He said that this is for appealing electrical and building permits. He gave an example that it should be a builder, an electrician, or an architect or draftsman. It was discussed that they would meet at least once per year or on an as needed basis. He said that there was a board at one time. Joe said that there should be a charge for the appeal that should cover the cost of the board. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Joe Cilc to put an ad in the paper for individuals to apply for the Construction Board of Appeals. This board is to be in place for January 2014.

There was discussion on a letter asking to waive the permit fees for a Soil Erosion Control Permit through Alger County for the Federal Park Service to dredge for the Grand Island Landing (Powell Point) and William's Landing (Grand Island). Joe Cilc said that he received a copy of a DEQ permit for this. He said that they would need a soil erosion permit and that the forest service is not exempt from paying this fee. He said that they could charge a fee for a five year period. He said that he gave them a permit for five years with a 20% reduction for a cost of \$1,000, which is \$250 per year. He said that he has to inspect three times per year. It was the consensus of the board to charge

the Forest Service the \$1,000 permit fee for the five years. Joe also discussed a leak in the front entry way of the courthouse and that it should be fixed correctly.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to advertise for a vacancy on the Alger County Library Board.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly appropriation for April through June 2013 in the amount of \$8,305. The monies are to come from the community mental health appropriation budget (101-649-969.000).

Board bills were next. There was discussion on the credit card that the sheriff's department is using. Commissioner Pullen said that there are problems with this. There were no receipts attached. She said that the undersheriff was keeping them in an envelope at the sheriff's department. She said that if they are going to use the credit card, she wants not only the credit card statement and the receipts, but she wants explanations. She said that they definitely need an expense voucher with the receipts. There was discussion on having a \$27 per day total for meals. She asked if the board is going to allow them to charge \$27 for one meal. It was discussed that they should follow board policy. It was also discussed that they should pay for their meals and put in a voucher for their expense. This is to be discussed at the next law enforcement meeting. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all 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 authorize the treasurer to transfer \$1,000 from the sheriff's secondary road patrol fund into the general fund.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the miscellaneous budget in the amount of \$4,798.12. These funds will be coming from the fund balance.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund - sheriff's secondary road patrol in the amount of \$1,000.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the attorneys/consultants budget in the amount of \$4,798.12.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the general fund ó sheriff's secondary road patrol in the amount of \$1,000 (phone \$150 and service contracts \$850).

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Resolutions were next. Commissioner Pullen said that they have two resolutions but that they were going to have to meet on them.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen said that she gave everybody a copy of a letter to Sheriff Hughes from Pathways regarding Pathways Community Mental Health and the budget challenges they are having and adjusting their services. She discussed being on the Pathways Board and the meetings that they are having. There was discussion about the airport and that the airport opens May 15th. Commissioner Doucette said that he was checking with the treasurer about the rent from the Women's Center.

Correspondence from the USDA regarding a barge purchase and certification of the barge and LMAS board minutes were read and will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. There were none.

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.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk