

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

October 14, 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.

Doug Miron, Alger County Road Commissioner, was present to inform the board of a project that they are doing. He said that they turned in a nomination to the CRAM (County Road Association of Michigan) board to nominate Bob Lindbeck as the Rural Engineer of the Year. Doug said that the Alger County Road Commissioners feel that Bob is worthy of this nomination. He said that he had to send in a resume and application regarding Bob to the CRAM board. He read the resume to the board of commissioners. He said that he was hoping that the Board of Commissioners would support Bob of his efforts and that he would like the board to send a letter of support for Bob. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the chairman to write a letter of support and to send it to CRAM.

Pat Suboski, Equalization Director, presented and explained to the board the 2013 Apportionment Report. It was the consensus of the board to adopt the 2013 Apportionment Report as presented.

Karen LaFoilie was present to discuss her retirement. She asked the board to replace her position in the office with a part-time office position in Schoolcraft County. She said that this part-time person will eventually (within the next two to three years) transition into the full time replacement for the Court Administrator Jill Maddox or the Scheduling Clerk Lori Erickson. She said that they hope to combine services with District Court who will have a retirement coming up next year. She said that they are working on a solution to see what they can do in the near future for the court recorder. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Schoolcraft County to hire a part-time employee, eventually transitioning into a full time replacement, in circuit court being 24 hours a week at a rate of \$13.68 per hour to be paid equally by all four counties. The yearly total for Alger County will be \$4,268.16. This is to be brought back to the judicial committee.

Bill Paige from MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) was not able to attend this board meeting.

The courthouse union contract was discussed. The clerk discussed there being contradictory paragraphs for seniority on page 10 article 13 (b) and on page 11 article 14 (d). The board decided to change both paragraphs to read as page 10 article 13 (b) "Seniority shall be on an employer wide basis, in accordance with the employee's last day of hire. When two or more employees are hired and report for work on the same day, their seniority shall be determined by drawing lots in the presence of the county's representative and a union representative. A record will be made of this procedure and signed by all parties present, with a copy sent to the union." Commissioner Doucette asked the board to review the contract and take a good look at it to be able to vote on it at next week's regular board meeting.

The Michigan Drug Court Grant Program FY 2014 Contract was presented. It was the consensus of the board to have Judge Luoma or someone from District Court to attend the next meeting to discuss the contract.

There was discussion on Abilita, which is a full service e telecom consulting firm. It was discussed that the only time they will get paid is when there is a savings. Abilita will go over cost saving ideas and then the county would pay 50% of all savings realized as a result of the acceptance of recommendations made by Abilita. Based on the commissioner's attending the UPACC conference and asking some questions, it was the consensus of the board to be able to vote on it at next week's regular board meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Kay Powers as a Democrat for the Alger County Board of Canvassers.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Richard M. Hale as a Republican for the Alger County Board of Canvassers.

The sheriff explained the history of the EMD (Emergency Management Department) positions. There was discussion on the resignation of Matt Waldron as the Deputy Emergency Manager position. The sheriff said that they are coming up with a job description and that it will be posted in the sheriff's department. It was the consensus of the board to accept the resignation of Matt Waldron as the Deputy Emergency Manager. Commissioner Pullen asked about the training for the Deputy Emergency Manager. The sheriff said that the Emergency Manager and the Deputy Emergency Manager have not completed the training requirements. He said that Chuck Bouth has said that he would do the training. The sheriff said that he will have a copy of the posting for next week's meeting.

There was discussion on forming an administrative leave committee. The sheriff said that Bill Paige is willing to come and discuss administrative leave. He said that he gave Bill an alternate date and will call him to see if he will be here at next week's meeting. The sheriff asked to form a committee to work on a suggested policy. Some suggestions on members of the committee are Commissioner Doucette, Commissioner Rondeau, the clerk, the treasurer, the sheriff, the undersheriff, and Matt Waldron from the sheriff's union. It was the consensus of the board to form an administrative leave committee.

There was discussion on forming a 911 budget committee. The sheriff said that the maximum amount of the surcharge is at .42 and .19 surcharge on land lines. He said that revenues are dropping for 911 because people are dropping their land lines. He said that if someone buys a track phone at Wal-Mart, Marquette County will collect those revenues. He suggested forming a committee for the future funding of the 911 system in Alger County. The sheriff would like to suggest the two law enforcement committee members, himself, the undersheriff, the clerk, the treasurer, and the former sheriff to be on the committee. He also discussed going for a millage for the 911 system. Commissioner Pullen thinks that they should advertise to the public for some committee members to discuss 911. Commissioner Rondeau asked about how much revenues are being lost. The sheriff said that an average of few thousand dollars per year over the last four years. He said that there is not only a decline in revenues but an increase in operations. Commissioner Rondeau doesn't think they should burden the people with more taxes. The undersheriff said that there is nothing more critical than the 911 system. There was much discussion on committee members. Commissioner Rondeau said that they need to pick the right people to approach the public for funding. The sheriff said the two choices for revenues are an increase in surcharges or property taxes. It was the consensus of the board to form a 911 budget committee and to authorize the sheriff to advertise and have a suggested committee for the November board meeting.

There was discussion on the health insurance and for opting out, an 80/20 plan, or the county authorizing the hard-cap plan. Commissioner Doucette said that he would suggest 80/20 and allow the employees time to look at plans. Commissioner Pullen said that they are having an insurance meeting on October 17th. The undersheriff said that either Sheila or Tina or both of them will attend the meeting. There was much discussion on insurance including getting health history of employees, different insurance companies, and whatever other options there are. There was discussion that the board has to make a decision in October to either opt-out, an 80/20 plan, or the hard-cap plan. This is to be decided on at the next board meeting.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next on the agenda. Commissioner Mattson said there was discussion on 911 and making a pitch at Schoolcraft County to allow their 911 service to be handled here and to have Luce County have some of their inmates be housed in Alger County.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation for October 6 December 2013 in the amount of \$20,745 (101-601-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly mental health appropriation for the quarter ending December 31, 2013 in the amount of \$8,305 (101-649-969.000).

Board bills were next. Commissioner Mattson discussed some of the board bills. He said that Christmas Auto had 16 statements that they believe were not all from last month. Four of the sixteen statements were over the \$500 limit. The undersheriff said that the sheriff's department will get estimates and get authorization before the vehicles will get fixed. He also said that he will talk with Christmas Auto and to have them get the bills to the county in a timely manner. Commissioner Mattson asked the sheriff about a table from Quill in the amount of \$1,300. The sheriff explained that it was discussed and approved at a meeting last year for emergency management for the years 2012/2013. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills that have been reviewed by the audit committee. There was discussion on the Charger getting the steering locked up. It was discussed that the cost will be approximately \$2,600.

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 and amend the following revenues:

REVENUE AMENDMENTS

- A. Authorize the treasurer to transfer from the ORV fund #211 to the miscellaneous revenues in the general fund in the amount of \$3,000 (101-000-677.000).
- B. Authorize the treasurer to transfer from the Building Department fund #249 to the miscellaneous revenues in the general fund in the amount of \$4,000 (101-000-677.000).
- C. Authorize the treasurer to transfer from the Emergency Management fund #259 to the miscellaneous revenues in the general fund in the amount of \$5,000 (101-000-677.000).
- D. Authorize the treasurer to transfer from the Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol fund #260 to the miscellaneous revenues in the general fund in the amount of \$7,000 (101-000-677.000).
- E. Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund miscellaneous revenue in the amount of \$814.50 (101-000-677.000).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the attorneys/consultants budget in the amount of \$814.50 (101-135-969.000).

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Resolutions were next. There were none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot asked to get some feedback regarding the AMCAB presentation. It was discussed that it was informative and could be an annual presentation. He wanted to thank Tony Grahovac for the work that community corrections did. He also discussed the Veteran's Fund and wanted to know what needed to be done to be ready for an election. The clerk said that they need to have the millage wording written up and have the board approve the wording in February. Commissioner Doucette discussed the federal shutdown and a concern is MIWorks. He said that they are going to the UPACC (Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners) conference this week. He said that being the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) 2nd Vice President won't impede on his work as a commissioner. He said that he received an email that Ben Bodkin will be leaving MAC. There was discussion on Lincoln Financial and MAC having to get involved for not correcting the employee's and retiree's insurance coverage and correcting the bills. The board was thankful that MAC got involved and helped take care of it.

Correspondence was read from NACo regarding participation and membership benefits report, LMAS District Board of Health minutes from August 5, 2013 and September 9, 2013, and a Summary Report for 10-Year Transmission System Assessment from the American Transmission Company. These will be placed in the meeting file.

Board comments were next. There were no board comments.

Staff comments were next. The clerk commented that Murray Donnelly was the only person from the U.P. to attend training from worker's compensation and receive a certificate for completing the Park to Protect training course. She said that Murray will be able to train others and charge for the training. She also said that Murray was told about some grants that no one else would know about because they did not attend the course. The clerk discussed the circuit court meeting and the personal safety & security session that Dennis MacDonell, Court Security Specialist, presented. There were no other comments.

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 6:45 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk