

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

August 18, 2014

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 4:02 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 – none.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Ben Travis from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was present to discuss a land purchase by the DNR of 80 Acres in Limestone Township. There was discussion on the location of the property purchase being near the AuTrain Basin and how it fits in well with their plans for the AuTrain Basin Waterfowl Project. He also mentioned that there are properties the DNR is looking to sell. Mr. Travis asked for the endorsement of the Alger County Board or at the least, remain neutral, and for this to be reflected in the minutes. There was majority support by the board and agreement that this was a good move by the DNR. There was no other public comment; thus, the public comment session was closed.

Commissioner Pullen stated that she would like to amend the agenda under item #18 Resolutions to include a resolution regarding the FY 2015 Interior and Environment Appropriations bill. A motion was made by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting of July 21, 2014 and the committee of the whole meeting of August 11, 2014 with the correction to the committee of the whole meeting minutes under the 7th paragraph to say “Legislators” and not “Legislation”. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

Joe Verlin from Gabridge and Company was present to discuss and review the 2013 audit. It was pointed out by Mr. Verlin that Alger County received an “Unmodified Opinion” and that this is the highest standard issued. Mr. Verlin reviewed the financial highlights and pointed out that the cost to retiree’s obligation will increase significantly each year. Mr. Verlin reviewed the positive change in expenses from 2013 to 2014. It was also pointed out that all departments came in on budget as well as all funds. There were no deficiencies in internal control’s that are in place and he stated that there is a very solid system currently in place.

Murray Donnelly from the building and grounds department was present to discuss the Pre-Purchase Program with Bowman Gas Co., and the benefits it has. He said that a benefit in working with Bowman Gas is the guarantee that the county will never run out of gas and the other local companies could not make this guarantee. Two different purchase options were discussed with the Pre-Purchase Program being the most favorable. The other option was a 12 month budget plan. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to go with the Pre-Purchase Program with 400 gallons at a rate of \$2.08 per gallon plus applicable sales tax. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve to submit District Court’s Drug Court Grant. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following Letters of Support for the Alger County Conservation District:

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

To: Teri Grout
Alger Conservation District
101 Court Street
Munising, MI 49862

RE: Central UP (MI) Invasive Plant Prevention and Control Project

Dear Ms. Grout,

The Alger County Board of Commissioners would like to express its support for the **Central UP (MI) Invasive Plant Prevention and Control Project**.

By protecting our Lake Superior Shoreline and inland waters from aquatic invasive plants, your project will help to preserve our environment, economy and recreation opportunities. We understand that it makes good economic sense to go after these infestations before they become unmanageable, and we feel your project will thereby provide great benefits to our county and constituents. We also appreciate the employment opportunities that your project will provide for work crews.

We are proud to partner with you to conduct this work in the county. We will continue to support your operations by providing office space in the Courthouse to you at no cost.

Sincerely,


Jerry Doucette

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

To: Darcy Rutkowski
Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Council
129 West Baraga, Suite F
Marquette, MI 49855

RE: Phragmites Prevention and Control Coalition of Michigan's UP.

Dear Ms. Rutkowski,

The Alger County Board of Commissioners strongly supports the Phragmites Prevention and Control Coalition of Michigan's UP. We understand that protecting our Lake Superior Shoreline and inland waters from the havoc wreaked in other areas by the invasive plant phragmites is of paramount importance to preserving our environment, economy and quality of life. By tackling the infestations already present before they become unmanageable, we feel your project will provide great benefits to our county and constituents.

We are proud to partner with you and with the Alger Conservation District to conduct this work in the county. We provide office space in our Courthouse to the Conservation District to serve as a local base of operations.

Sincerely,


Jerry Doucette

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

There was discussion on a wage increase for the circuit court employees in Schoolcraft County. See the following letter:

**SCHOOLCRAFT COUNTY BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS**
300 Walnut Street
Manistique, MI 49854

August 4, 2014

TO: Luce, Alger and Mackinaw County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Allen Grimm, Chairperson
Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners

RE: Circuit Court Wages

Commissioners,

This shall serve as the required notice that Schoolcraft County is intending to recommend a \$0.30 cents per hour wage increase for Circuit Court Employees. This has not been officially acted on by the Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners, but it is the intent of the Schoolcraft County Finance Committee to recommend a \$0.30 cent per hour pay increase for all employees, including Circuit Court Employees shared by our four counties. The plan is for this pay increase being implemented on October 1, 2014. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Allen Grimm, Chairperson
Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to NOT approve the Circuit Court Wage Increase for Schoolcraft County Employees. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to reappoint Anita J. Bouth to the Alger County Library Board for another 3-year term. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve of the MSHDA (Michigan State Housing Development Authority) Grant Amendment to extend the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) to 12/31/2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Five UP County Blight Elimination Project. Treasurer Pam Johnson was there to explain the procedure. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize two employees to attend a basic 40-hour dispatch school in the amount of \$1,300. Sheriff Hughes was there to explain the request and that the funds will come out of the 911 training fund which currently has a \$5,000.00 balance. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

Old business was next. There was none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$6,698.50. Monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve payment of all board bills. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve financial reports for all funds. Commissioner Mattson complimented Treasurer Pam Johnson and Clerk Mary Ann Froberg on doing a good job and wanted to thank them. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the treasurer to increase revenues in the Federal Park Patrol in the amount of \$464.03. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the treasurer to increase revenues in the County Inmate Room and Board in the amount of \$2,039.00. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

A motion was made by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the clerk to increase expenditures in the Federal Park Patrol budget in the amount of \$2,503.03. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve an Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill Resolution that she had added to the agenda, as long as it is not a duplicate. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none.

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the Conservation District meeting and the fact that there are some financial problems. A possible millage was discussed. Commissioner Doucette discussed the issues that were addressed at the building and grounds committee meeting in regards to the current building at the Hanley Airport being beyond repair. There was discussion on contacting the owner of the private hanger that is currently on the property and possible use of this for airport purposes. Commissioner VanLandschoot will attempt to make contact with him. It was discussed that an administrative leave committee meeting will be coming up next week. Commissioner Doucette said that he is still in the process of setting up regional government meetings and has been in contact with several local officials regarding this.

Correspondence was reviewed. A letter from AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board) regarding unspent CDBG grant dollars was received. A Memorandum of Understanding regarding “Five UP County Blight Elimination Project” was received. A Public Notice of Nonmetallic Mineral (Sand and Gravel) Lease Nomination 2014-7 was received from the Department of Natural Resources regarding a request from the Alger County Road Commission. A copy of the Hiawatha National Forest Service Grand Island Business Plan was received as well. These will be placed in the board meeting file.

Staff comments were next. Carmon Decet briefly mentioned the MERS 457 plan and that it is something to look into as a benefit to the employees. Commissioner Pullen stressed her concerns with the fact that there are already three other companies that offer this and maybe it isn’t necessarily needed to add another one.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen mentioned a letter from Blue Cross Blue Shield regarding taxes being charged. It was discussed if those charges need to be passed on to the retirees. Commissioner Rondeau read a brief weather forecast for the upcoming winter season. Commissioner Mattson wanted to state a reminder on the audit and its importance and the fact that there are some concerns with what it points out about the financial situation of the county. Commissioner VanLandschoot turned the floor over to Alger County Road Commissioner Doug Miron to talk about a memorial committee that was formed to honor former Lieutenant Governor Connie Binsfeld. Commissioner VanLandschoot has agreed to sit on this committee. Doug said that they are working on a project at Bay Shore Park to honor her. Commissioner VanLandschoot also mentioned John Madigan’s resignation from the Department of Natural Resources Commission.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none