

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

July 21, 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 4:00 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Tom Bowler was present to reiterate the need to provide ingress and egress into structure sites for emergency vehicles in the subdivision where he lives. Commissioner Doucette said that he had done some research on this and talked with townships and that they are not happy in moving forward with an International Fire Code Ordinance and is opposed to it. Commissioner Doucette asked if Mr. Bowler has gone to other townships and asked about it. Mr. Bowler said no only his own township. Commissioner Mattson said that it is up to the association to do something with the road not the county. There was much discussion on the association and the ingress/egress road in the subdivision. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the committee of the whole meeting minutes of June 9, 2014, the regular board meeting minutes of June 16, 2014, the public hearing minutes of July 14, 2014, and the committee of the whole meeting minutes of July 14, 2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

Tom Jordan from MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System of Michigan) was present to explain to the MERS 457 Program to the board. It was discussed that this is to give the employees the option to consider and that there is no cost to the county. Tom said that this is a voluntary supplemental retirement program and is in addition to the defined benefit program that the county already has. He said they contribute on a pre-tax basis until the money is withdrawn. He also discussed Roth contributions. Both of these fall under the MERS 457 Program. This is to be brought before the insurance committee to discuss.

There was discussion on a new postage machine. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize a lease contract with Pitney Bowes for a black / white Connect+ 1000 Series machine at an amount of \$277.35 per month for 60 months. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the CUPPAD (Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission) membership at a prorated rate for the rest of 2014 in the amount of \$2,250 (the cost of \$4,500 for the year). The monies are to come from the commissioner's budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the sheriff to purchase a program to go mobile with their e-medical reports from Accumed in the amount of \$6,885.39 plus annual costs of \$2,376 for the mobile and \$996 for personnel management being broken down into \$281 per month. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize Steve Webber to purchase 22 Bluetooth devices for the 800 MHz radios through the Stonegarden Grant in the amount of \$3,916. The monies are to be reimbursed. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the hiring of Bob Van Putten, an architect with Landmark Design Group, P.C. in Grand Rapids to put something together with the barebones for a jail in the amount of \$1,500. The monies are to come from the jail budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 6 Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the treasurer to transfer the following cost allocation monies:

COST ALLOCATION PLAN

Ambulance	\$ 95,428
Building Department	5,418
Wireless 911	25,195
Foreclosure	543
D.T.R.	0
MSU EXTENSION	7,804
COUNTY AGING	7,259
LIMESTONE SUMMER	37
Homestead	122
Brownfield	<u>44</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 141,850

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

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize payment to continue to help sponsor and defray the cost of the rental arrangement with the Rock River Township Park for the Alger County Fair in the amount of \$750. The monies are to come from the fair's budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to deny the request of Lynn Barron to forgive an AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board) mortgage in the amount of \$16,000. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following UPAAA (Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging) 2015 Annual Implementation Plan and Resolution:

**RESOLUTION
U.P. AREA AGENCY ON AGING
FY 2015 ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SERVICES TO OLDER ADULTS**

WHEREAS UPCAP, which serves as the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, is required to develop a 2015 Annual Implementation Plan that provides development and funding for programs to serve older adults in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, during the 2015 Annual Implementation Plan development process, UPCAP conducted needs surveys, one public hearing, and received input from service providers, older adults, county officials, human services organizations, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, each U.P. county is represented by a county official on the UPCAP Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the UPCAP Board of Directors has unanimously approved the proposed 2015 Annual Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the AAA 2015 Annual Implementation Plan also requires review by individual county boards;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners has received and hereby supports the U.P. Area Agency on Aging 2015 Annual Implementation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted to UPCAP and placed on file.

Authorized Signatory Jerry Doucette, Chairman
(Name/Title of County Official) Alger County Board of Commissioners

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

Old business was next. There was none.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,745. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-601-969.000). . Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-649-969.000). . Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee and the committee of the whole. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot 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, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

There were no miscellaneous items.

There was discussion on resolution #2014-16. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following resolution #2014-16:

RESOLUTION #2014-16

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REFORM WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

WHEREAS, local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services; and

WHEREAS, Michigan businesses have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on business; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's personal property tax is an antiquated unfair double tax on Michigan's small businesses; and

WHEREAS, small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, no other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does ó and most of those states do not tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire, ambulances, schools and jails; and

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have relied on this shrinking source of Personal Property Tax revenue to provide other community services as well, including roads, transportation and libraries;

WHEREAS, with bipartisan support the Michigan legislature has voted to reform the antiquated personal property tax to help increase Michigan's competitiveness with other states and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business investment and create more jobs while making local community more financially stable at the same time;

WHEREAS, this is not a constitutional amendment but the state constitution requires Michigan voters to approve certain changes in local taxes;

WHEREAS, local governments have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services and businesses have with an uncompetitive tax on equipment for years;

WHEREAS, the proposal will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and create local jobs;

WHEREAS, if this proposal is not passed by Michigan voters, the antiquated unfair tax on our state's small businesses and manufacturers will go back into effect and Michigan communities will not have stable revenue to fund local services;

WHEREAS, the proposal is supported by the Michigan Association of Counties, Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Chamber of Commerce.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby expresses its strong support for the proposal to eliminate the unfair double tax and strengthen our communities. We urge our residents to vote YES on this proposal on August 5, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Michigan Association of Counties.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2014.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the following resolution #2014-17:

RESOLUTION #2014-17

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) have released a 371-page draft regulation for Definition of Waters of the U.S. under the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, both agencies are seeking a rule change to give the federal government more authority by expanding the definition of navigable waters in the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the rule change proposed by the EPA and the Corps would subject almost all physical areas with a connection to downstream navigable waters, including features such as ditches, natural or man-made ponds, and flood plains, to the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule change, if adopted, will cause significant harm to local farmers, stall the development of businesses, take control of land used for sustainable food production out of our local providers' hands, and negatively impact county-owned and maintained infrastructure such as roadside ditches and county drains; and

WHEREAS, the cost to our farms, municipalities, and taxpayers will be enormous; and

WHEREAS, House Concurrent Resolution 31 calls for the EPA and Corps to withdraw their proposed rule expanding the definition of waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, this Board concurs with HCR 31; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners wholly supports HCR 31 calling for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw their proposed rule expanding the definition of waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Representative John Kivela, Senator Tom Casperson, Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Association of Counties, Congressman Dan Benishek, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator Carl Levin, and the National Association of Counties.

Adopted this 21st day of July, 2014.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 Commissioner Rondeau.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed the AMCAB Directors Report and he also said that Earl Hawn, Director of AMCAB will be retiring. Commissioner Doucette asked about setting up some meetings for administrative leave. There was also discussion to get a committee together to go over all of the ordinances that Alger County has. It was discussed to have the law enforcement go over some of the county ordinances. Commissioner Doucette reminded the board to go over the courthouse contracts. He said that he is still working on the Cunningham Court Case and talking with the judges. He said that MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) is working with Peter Cohl, Attorney, on this being retroactive. PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) monies were discussed.

Correspondence was read from the United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the Proposed Trust Acquisition of Land for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Burt Township and a letter from Laughing Whitefish Point Property Owners Association regarding opposing the county adopting an ordinance in the Laughing Whitefish Point Subdivision regarding their private road in Onota Township. These will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette said that there is a regional summit with MAC on August 26th over at UPCAP (Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress) in Escanaba and that the MAC Fall Conference is September 14th to 16th. He said that they have a new President in NACo (National Association of Counties). He discussed the NACo Conference in New Orleans. He said a hot item was minimum wage. Commissioner Mattson said if you have any requests or wish list get them to the committee that is going to be meeting prior to the meeting regarding the courthouse union contract.

There were no staff comments.

Public comment session was open. Tom Bowler discussed the correspondence about a fire code ordinance that he previously gave the board and the correspondence from Laughing Whitefish Point Property Owners Association. He said that he was hoping to get the board to pick up on the international fire code. There was no other 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 5:40 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Rondeau.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk