

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

March 17, 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, 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.

Commissioner Doucette stated that he would like to amend the agenda under 14 (A) of old business to include discussion on the Register of Deeds position. A motion was made by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Regular Board of Commissioners minutes of February 17, 2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following MSU Extension 2014 Memorandum of Agreement:

**Agreement for Extension Services provided by
Michigan State University to ALGER County
Annual Work Plan FY 2014 (Exhibit A)**

A. Specific Contributions by MSUE:

1. At least 1.0 FTE Extension Educator whose primary office of operation will be the county Extension office included in the assessment.
2. _____ additional extension educators. Areas of Expertise: _____
3. _____ FTE - 4-H program coordinator(s) included in assessment whose primary office of operation will be the county Extension office.
4. _____ FTE - additional 4-H program coordinators/other paraprofessional.
5. Administrative oversight included in annual assessment.
6. Access to Extension Educators with expertise in each of the MSUE Institutes included in annual assessment.
7. Supervision of University provided academic and paraprofessional staff. Supervision of county clerical staff and/or county staff upon request. Supervision is included in the annual assessment.
8. Annual reporting of services provided, audiences served, and impact of programs in the county.

B. Specific Contributions provided by the Alger County MSUE Millage:

1. Office space for a County Extension office. The office will include space for at least one Extension educator, one 4-H program coordinator and one clerical staff person, access to space for delivering Extension programs, and utilities, including telephone. Office space will be available for additional MSUE and/or county staff as mutually agreed. The office must be provided high-speed internet sufficient to meet the needs of MSUE Personnel. Minimum standards for internet access can be found in Appendix A. The office space must be at least comparable to the average office space used by County employees.
2. Clerical staff for the Extension office that will perform clerical functions, including assisting county residents in accessing MSUE resources by office visit, telephone, email, internet and media. This can be a county employee or the county can contract with MSU for their services.
3. General operating expenses for the office and non-MSU Personnel.
4. The Assessment Fee and costs for additional personnel, as described above in Section A. If MSUE receives at least a 2% increase in appropriations from the State of Michigan (SOM), the County will be given a 3% credit, thereby leaving the assessment at the 2013 level.

ALGER County FY 2014
Name Year

C. Assessment to County:

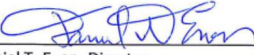
MSU Assessment	\$ 37022
Credit to county from SOM appropriations	minus 3142
2014 TOTAL Assessment	\$ 33880
ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL	
1. Educator (.8 FTE) at \$73,336 \$9,167 per 0.1 FTE	\$ 0
2. 4-H Program Coordinators	
a. 1.0 FTE at \$56,650	\$
b. 0.5 FTE at \$28,325	\$
3. Support Staff at \$56,650 per FTE	
a. If contracted with MSUE 0.5 FTE	\$ 28325
4. Other Staff included in MOA	
a. Title and rate	\$
5. Other:	\$
TOTAL COUNTY PAYMENT FOR 2014	\$ 62,205.00


For the period, January 2014 to December 2014, ALGER County shall pay to MSUE \$ 62,205.00, which is the cost of the assessment (minus the credit) plus any additional personnel costs. Payment will be made the first month of each quarter of the county fiscal year. Payments should be sent to

MSUE Extension Budget Office
446 W. Circle Dr.
160 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

ALGER COUNTY

By: 
Daniel T. Evon, Director,
Contract & Grant Administration

By: 
Chairman, Alger County
Title: Board of Commissioners

Date: 3/28/14

Date: March 17, 2014

ALGER County FY 2014
Name Year

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the Intergovernmental Contract with NorthCare. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following 911 millage wording:

Shall the tax limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against the assessed and equalized value of all taxable property in Alger County, Michigan, be increased by up to one half (.5) mill, a mill being 1/10 of one cent of every property tax dollar, effective January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2018, inclusive, the funds resulting therefrom to be used exclusively for financing the operation of Alger County 9-1-1 Emergency Telephone Dispatch System? (This millage of 0.5 of a mill equals 0.50 cents per \$1,000.00 of taxable property value. The millage will raise up to \$180,349.07 in the first year).

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the purchase of Kevlar drive belts that operate the Hovercraft fans in the amount of \$1,483.02. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. (Monies are to come from ambulance fund in the rescue supplies line item 210-000-727.040)

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the chair to sign the following letter of support for the Alger County Conservation District:

March 19, 2014

Dr. Guy Meadows
Great Lakes Research Center
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton, Michigan 49931-1295

Dear Dr. Meadows:

Alger County is pleased to support *Community-Based Research to Understand Lake Superior Coastal Storms Risk and Vulnerability at Au Train, MI*, as proposed by Michigan Technological University. The proposed project promises significant strides toward resolving one of our county's longest standing problems.

We need the detailed scientific input this research will provide in order to move forward with planning/policy decisions to address shoreline erosion/flooding impacts and watershed protection. A thorough understanding of the coastal dynamics and the associated risks to infrastructure will inform emergency management, climate adaptation planning, and site specific mitigation/adaptation strategies and techniques, and contribute to a cooperative, proactive plan for shoreline protection and hazard reduction that is based upon understanding and preserving the natural system.

The county's Board of Commissioners anticipates working with the watershed program director at Alger Conservation District and a local stakeholders' committee in AuTrain to promote public workshops that communicate the research results, integrate the research into ongoing land use planning, and foster effective, locally led watershed management for the coastal zone. Uncertainty about shoreline recession and river mouth realignment is currently the major obstacle to effective planning and zoning for this site, and to watershed planning in general. It is our hope that this research will help clarify the actual risks so that planning for shoreline protection can proceed appropriately.

The Board of Commissioners supports watershed protection in Alger County through in-kind contributions to Alger Conservation District operations.

Sincerely,

Jerry Doucette, Chair
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to send a letter to Marquette Township regretfully denying their request for funds regarding the Big Box / Dark Stores. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none. Commissioner Doucette will draft this letter.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve a 1.5% raise for the Veteran's Officer and Building Inspector for 2014. A brief discussion took place on this subject. Presently the Building Inspector is being paid a salary through payroll and an additional commission on building / soil permits through accounts payable. Commissioner Pullen believes that he was hired as an independent contractor not as an employee of Alger County which means that he should not be receiving any wages through payroll. Commissioner Doucette had made an inquiry to both Delta and Marquette Counties regarding the payment of their Building Inspectors. He learned that Delta County's Building Inspector is paid solely through accounts payable, and this payment equals 100% of the building permit monies. They do supply him with an office, a computer, and a phone. Commissioner Doucette added that he had a conversation with Don Kinnunen regarding the Building Inspector. Don Kinnunen stated that he should be paid through accounts payable and to the best of his knowledge it was set up that way originally. Commissioner Rondeau asked that if the intent originally was to pay the Building Inspector his earnings through accounts payable as an independent contractor, how we would go about getting him out of the payroll system at this point so as to correct the situation. Commissioner Mattson said that we had budgeted for these two individuals to have an increase, and we did it on an equity type thing and that is the basis for the motion he made earlier. Commissioner Pullen stated that if payroll was the defining factor for unemployment insurance, then we can't continue this mistake of treating independent contractors as employees. Commissioner Doucette added that the county also supplied the vehicle that was used by the Building Inspector and this was the reason that there never were mileage reimbursements to him. It was also mentioned that, because of their definitions of employment, the Veteran's Officer and the Building Inspector should have been looked at as two separate agenda items. Commissioner Mattson stated that there was already a motion and support on the floor. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays - Commissioners Pullen and Rondeau. Absent 0 none.

Old business was next. Commissioner Doucette updated the Board with what has been going on with the Register of Deeds position as the current Chief Deputy Register of Deeds would be retiring. He stated that the finance and executive committee had approached the Clerk with the possibility of replacing this full-time position with two part-time employees. By doing this it would give the Clerk's office more work hours weekly and also show a substantial savings to Alger County by way of not having to pay the costs of benefits. This possibility was put to the Courthouse Union for discussion and Commissioner Doucette passed out to the Board a copy of the written response from the Union showing that they (the Union) had voted no as to filling the full-time position with two part-time employees. He stated that they would keep the position as full-time as it was already budgeted in that way for 2014. Commissioner Doucette also passed out to the Board copies of two drafts that he had done to send back to the Courthouse Union regarding their response. He was looking for a Board decision on which letter should be sent to the Courthouse Union. Both drafts were similar with the exception that letter number two had four sentences in the second paragraph whereas letter number one only had three sentences in the second paragraph. It was the unanimous consensus of the Board to send letter number two to the Courthouse Union.

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

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen 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.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the Treasurer to transfer revenues from 2014 that were for 2013.

JOURNAL ENTRY			TV	
			12/31/2013	
REMARKS	TRANSFER REVENUE RECEIVED IN 2014 BACK TO 2013 BUDGET PER MARCH 17, 2014 BOARD			
			DEBIT	CREDIT
12/31/2013	101-000-040-000	ACCTS RECEIVABLE	\$20,200.90	
	101-000-403-000	Current Tax Collection		\$8,818.19
	101-000-403-010	Current Tax Coll. Interest		\$252.41
	101-000-502-000	FOC Co-Op		\$7,080.43
	101-000-591-000	Dept. Human Services		\$3,852.06
	101-000-676-000	Reimbursements		\$197.81

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the Clerk to transfer the following 2013 expenditures.

- *\$34.13 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the Circuit Court budget
- *\$89.01 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the District Court budget
- *\$51.20 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the Friend of the Court budget
- *\$71.94 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the Prosecuting Attorney budget
- *\$620.29 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the Building and Grounds budget
- *\$89.01 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the Sheriff Department budget
- *\$3,227.70 from the Employee Fringe Benefits budget into the Substance Abuse budget
- *\$3,771.84 from the Jail budget into the Substance Abuse budget
- *\$1,447.50 from the Bond Payment budget into the Substance Abuse budget
- *\$1,642.46 from the County Clerk/ROD budget into the Substance Abuse budget

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.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following resolution #2014-07:

RESOLUTION #2014-07

**A RESOLUTION HONORING THE OFFICER OF THE YEAR
FOR THE ALGER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY**

TODD KENT

WHEREAS, in the spirit of excellence in the Department of Corrections for the State of Michigan and the County of Alger; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will serve to focus attention on the exemplary commitment and discipline that distinguish exceptional officers and to recognize them for their efforts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners commend and salute **TODD KENT**, Officer of the Year for the Alger Correctional Facility.

Dated: March 17, 2014

Alger County Board of Commissioners:

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
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.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following resolution #2014-08:

RESOLUTION #2014-08

WHEREAS, State, County and Municipal roads are deteriorating at a record pace due to under-funding for maintenance for the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the longer quality maintenance is deferred due to lack of funding, the more it will cost to bring our county and state road network back into quality condition; and

WHEREAS, our state and county are in the single worst economic downturn since the Great Depression and business development is less likely to occur if our road and highway infrastructure is failing; and

WHEREAS, investment in our road infrastructure will provide needed improvements and provide good paying jobs in our state and these wages will be spent in Alger County and Michigan to further assist our economy; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has seen its Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) road maintenance revenue decline 5.9 percent over the last ten years and is projected by the Michigan Department of Transportation to increase by no more than 1% in 2014 and remain at the level into the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has seen its costs for critical road maintenance materials and fuel rise substantially since 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has instituted agency-wide efficiencies to deal with the detrimental effect of revenue reductions and increasing costs, including reducing its work force through attrition from 34 employees in 2002, to 25 employees in 2014, a 26% reduction in work force; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission has also found it necessary to reduce services, including:

- Limited plowing of local roads on overtime (nights and weekends).
- No longer paving any length of primary road each year other than with limited federal aid funds
- Other services including patching, mowing, and tree trimming are also gradually being reduced.

WHEREAS, the state and other county road commissions in the state have either laid people off, reduced employment by attrition, shutting down operations, or restricted maintenance schedules, such as snow removal, to weekdays; and

WHEREAS, when compared to other states, Michigan's state and local transportation funding has ranked 42nd or worse, for more than four decades (statistics derived from the County Road Association of Michigan); and

WHEREAS, gas tax revenues generated in 1999 were virtually the same as those in 2011 and only 1.6% greater in 2013 (0.013% increase per year), further verifying road funding has not kept pace with material cost increase or inflation; and

WHEREAS, the current Governor Snyder administration and past Governor Granholm administration both concluded and presented to the Michigan Legislature and people of Michigan that Michigan is short approximately \$1.2 billion a year to address highway and road issues in the state, and in addition, numerous other voices across the state ó many major newspapers, road industry trade associations, municipal and county associations, labor associations, and chambers of commerce have expressed that Michigan must invest more dollars into road maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in January, 2014 it was announced that Michigan will experience a surplus of funds in 2014 due to the reduction of the income tax rate that could generate up to \$1.0 billion; and

WHEREAS, this administration and the previous administration have concluded the funding needed to address Michigan's roadways is in excess of \$1.2 billion, to which minimal action has been taken by any administration to direct or obligate any funding to address this issue, especially at the local level, which is contrary to the State's Asset Management based approach whose slogan is "Keep the Good Roads Good"; and

WHEREAS, this administration has a unique opportunity to address Michigan's deteriorating road and bridge infrastructure by a means that does not require raising existing taxes or instituting new taxes, by allowing current enacted legislation to continue un-amended, resulting in a funding excess estimated at \$1.0 billion, which can be directly appropriated to repairing road and bridge infrastructure; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners goes on record to request that the Governor and the Michigan Legislature retain the current income Tax rate and direct the generated funding surplus to improve Michigan roads, bridges and highways, especially at the local Road Commission and Township level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be forwarded to Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, each member of the Alger County delegation of the State Legislature, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2014

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
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 thanked the Board for the petition that was put around for support of services for the veterans. He added that he would get the petition(s) to AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board) housing hoping that they can get some governmental support for veteran's services as well. Commissioner Doucette asked if the veteran's committee was putting together a budget. Commissioner VanLandschoot stated that the Veteran's Officer Glenn Marshall, along with his people, are putting together an agenda that would be presented sometime this Fall.

Correspondence was read and put in the file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau asked the Sheriff about the September 1, 2013 911 call that came in and if he had ever traced that back as to why Officer Cote had responded to it, and why a significant amount of time had elapsed between the initial 911 call and his response. The Sheriff said that when they receive a 911 call they have to follow up on it until they are satisfied that everything is ok. This call was made by a young child who hung up when the phone was answered by 911 dispatch. The deputy called back right away and was assured by an adult at the residence that everything was ok. As Officer Cote was the nearest officer to that location, he was dispatched by the deputy to do a follow up visit so as to receive that level of satisfaction. The Sheriff went on to say that as Officer Cote was fairly new in the area at that time, he wasn't familiar with this particular location and got turned around a bit when trying to get to the address of the 911 call. Commissioner Rondeau also said that he had received a call from the lady who runs the hot dog stand out by the ice caves. She said that Officer Cote had been there over the weekend saying that she was too close to Federal Forest property and was trying to shut her down. Commissioner Rondeau finished by giving a few accounts of how some tickets that Officer Cote had issued in the past were dispensed of, and said that the Village of Chatham was wanting to show their support in this investigation. Commissioner Doucette said that John Madigan had contacted him earlier to tell him that Charlie Marsh had called. The project at the airport was almost completed. John said that we should be receiving a letter from Charlie Marsh shortly, and after we receive this letter it would be advisable for us to hold a special meeting to approve this. Commissioner Rondeau commented on the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) wanting to shut down the people with outside wood burners. There was a short discussion on this subject as it is not just outside wood burners, but pellet stoves and home fireplaces as well. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he and Commissioner Mattson had attended an industrial park meeting at city hall earlier in the day and that a business that makes glass blocks will be moving into the park.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Hughes thanked everybody for their support with the 911 millage. He said that he had given a fact statement regarding this 911 millage to all employees of the Sheriff's Department, and he is asking if any of the board members would be willing to give a statement of support to Kimberly from the Munising News as a way to start the promotion of getting the millage passed. Sheriff Hughes also asked if any of the board members had planned on attending the Officer of the Year ceremony. The Sheriff concluded by saying that Deputy Woodaz has been involved in the canine program for the last 12 years, and that our dog had died. This dog had been certified through our insurance carrier and was used for drug finds, and search and rescue. As this program was at no cost to the county and survived primarily on donations, he would like to see it continue. There were brief discussions on the drug enforcement meeting, the county's administrative leave policy, the additional PILT money, Lammi's store, and the possible construction of a new ice arena.

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 Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk