

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

September 15, 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 Vice-Chairman Mattson with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. 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 approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the regular board meeting minutes of August 18, 2014 and the committee of the whole meeting minutes of September 8, 2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

Anne Milne from CUPPAD was next on the agenda but was not available until later in the meeting.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the county child care budget for the FY 2014/2015 with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child and Family Services in the total amount of \$274,250. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize to levy .08 of a mill for the Veterans Relief Fund. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

There was discussion on the 911 millage. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to levy .44 of a mill for the 911 millage. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

Anne Milne with CUPPAD (Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development) Regional Commission was present to introduce herself. She said that they have been working with partners across the region for certain priorities and making the region a better place. She discussed affordable energy, workforce development issues, and said that they have done more things to develop the region. Commissioner Rondeau asked if they did anything with the federal forests with timber sales and doing more logging. Anne said that they are indirectly working on developing agriculture. She said that CUPPAD covers six counties in the central U.P. She said they have been working on Alger County's hazard mitigation over the last year and they are currently working with the City of Munising for a recreational plan. She explained some of the projects that they have worked on for recreational plans.

There was discussion on authorizing commissioners to attend the UPACC (U.P. Association of County Commissioners) Fall Conference October 16th and 17th in Harris at the Island Resort & Casino. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, and Doucette to attend the conference. The cost is \$50 each for registration and \$70.85 per person for the room rate. The monies are to come from the commissioner's budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

Old business was next. There was none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau 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 Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

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

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

There were no miscellaneous items.

There was discussion on resolution #2014-18. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #2014-18

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final direct rule on July 2, 2014, that would allow the agency to conduct administrative wage garnishment. Unless the EPA takes action to actively withdraw the rule, the EPA will be able to garnish the nonfederal wages of private citizens to collect unpaid fines without a court order effective September 2, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has a long history of regulatory overreach and issuing substantial fines against ordinary citizens conducting activities, ultimately determined to be legal, on their own property. The EPA can administratively fine individuals hundreds of thousands of dollars per day, easily large enough to ruin a family. At the same time, disputes over EPA jurisdiction and enforcement are common and have been successfully challenged in case after case; and

WHEREAS, administrative wage garnishment will compound the problems already faced by property owners attempting to fight questionable EPA actions. This process will allow EPA to dictate the procedures for challenging fines and wage garnishment, and remove it from a neutral court setting. The EPA will be able to decide if an individual can present an oral defense, choose the hearing officer, and determine the site of the hearing. The burden of proof will be on the individual, not the agency. In short, administrative wage garnishment will allow an agency with institution-wide issues unbridled discretion to judge its own actions and further power to suppress challenges to its authority; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thomas Casperson has offered this same resolution as SR 168; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Commissioners vehemently opposes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to garnish wages without a court order and wholly supports SR 168; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Rick Snyder, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Dan Benishek, Senator Tom Casperson, Representative John Kivela, all Michigan counties, the Michigan Association of Counties, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Association of Counties.

Adopted this 15th day of September, 2014.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed rates from insurance companies and will schedule an insurance committee meeting as soon as possible. She said that on September 25th Consumers Mutual is holding a seminar in Marquette at the Hampton Inn. Commissioner Rondeau said that he discussed the airport with Superior Central School and that they are willing to do the work for the airport building. He said that they can build it in the shop, take it apart, build it again at the site, and it would take two days. He said that an architect has to do the blueprints. He said that he has a brother-in-law that is an architect and he will contact him. The sheriff also said that the instructor at Munising High School said that they would help.

Correspondence was read. It was an article from ABC 10 news regarding 32 communities in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula of their eligibility for assistance in repairing critical infrastructure damaged during last winter's deep freeze. The City of Munising is eligible for \$170,935. This will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed AMCAB (Alger-Marquette Community Action Board) housing. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the regulations regarding the forest service and that there is a shortage of firewood.

Staff comments were next. The sheriff said that there will be a meth and opiate class in Marquette at NMU tomorrow.

Public comment session was open. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus the public comment session was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn the meeting at 4:42 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Doucette.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk