

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

**February 10, 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, and Doucette. Absent 6 Commissioner VanLandschoot.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner VanLandschoot arrived at 4:04 p.m.

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.

Amy Lerlie, AMCAB Housing Services Director, was present to discuss an Alger County mortgage with Lila Pischel. Mr. Schuster who now owns the property was not able to attend the meeting. Amy said that they are the third party administrator for the Alger County Home Rehabilitation Program. She said that the program uses federal money flowing through the state and then to the county for allocation to preserve housing stock. She said it is a mortgage type program to do rehabilitation on that home and then a mortgage is placed on that property until time that the property reaches disposition. Amy said that in 2005 the county performed home rehabilitation on a property in the amount of \$15,840. She said that the mortgage has been filed as a lien on the property. She said that at some point the homeowner quit claimed the property to a family member which would not have triggered payment of that mortgage. At some point Lila Pischel (previous owner) who quit claimed the property passed away. She said that the family person it was quit claimed to would have come into ownership with the mortgage lien attached to the property. She said that in 2012, Michael Pischel sold the property to Schuster for cash. She said that Schuster purchased the property without having a title search done and thereby acquired the lien associated with that property. She said that Schuster was upset when he found out about the lien. Amy said that she had several conversations with both Mr. Schuster and his wife and that they wanted the county to just forgive the mortgage. She said that she also spoke with Mr. Pischel's wife and told her that the mortgage was due at disposition. She also wrote Mr. Pischel letters regarding the mortgage and told him that it was due at disposition of the property. She said that it is her understanding that Mr. Schuster wanted the county to forgive the mortgage or use the county attorney to collect from Mr. Pischel. She said that in the end not having done due diligence there is some responsibility with Mr. Schuster. She said that if they do nothing, at disposition providing the property is not sold for cash, the county will get their money back. It was discussed that there should have been a title search done. It was the consensus of the board to not do anything with the mortgage and to leave it between Mr. Pischel and Mr. Schuster.

Steve Webber was present to discuss the VHF countywide paging system bids. He said that the two people who put in bids were El Com Services, Inc. and Anderson Communications, Inc. He said that both did a great job. He said that El Com's bid came in at \$45,115 and Anderson's bid came in at \$48,407. He said that the grant was for \$39,200 and said that talking with the sheriff the rest of the monies could come from capital improvements in 911. Steve said that both are comparable but with the cost difference he would recommend going with the lowest bid. Fred Anderson with Anderson Communications said that they have been with Motorola for 60 years. He said that part of the bid is for programming all of the pagers, portables and mobile units. Fred discussed how the units would be reprogrammed. He wanted the board to take this into consideration. Dan Smith from El Com discussed their bid. He said that they also included the programming in their bid and that it is a turn-key proposal. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the bid to El Com in the amount of \$45,115. Steve said that he will try to get Houghton to front the money in the amount of \$39,200 and \$5,915 would come from 911. Steve also gave an update on Emergency Management regarding the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and that the room is coming along. He said that every county in the U.P. will receive over \$9,000 of equipment for their EOC. Another project was a generator. He said that a generator runs 90 KW. Alger County's is only a 75 KW running at about 86% and that it should run at 80%. He said that we should receive \$30,000 for a 100 KW generator. He said that he also included the installation in that grant. Steve said that another thing he has been working on is a snowmobile mapping system. He is to bring in signs to put on the trail for the board to see. He also discussed the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) and would like the board to come into the next CWPP meeting for them to see what is going on in their

townships. He discussed that some of the equipment that has been purchased locally lately and that has been about \$30,960 spent at Putvin's Drug Store.

Mr. Schuster arrived and apologized for not being at the meeting earlier. He discussed with the board the transaction history of the property that he bought. He said that he was directed by Mr. Pischel and his wife and their attorney to have a seller's disclosure statement and do a quit claim deed. He said that he was directed by the parties to not need any further background or other checks on the property because Mr. Pischel's wife had worked for a title company. He said that by going by that and trusting him and going through a real estate attorney there was a truthful sale of the property being free and clear. He said to purchase the property he took out everything that he owned and borrowed money and paid \$30,000 cash. He said at the time when he was going to take out a mortgage for the money he owed, they found out about the Alger County mortgage. He said that Mike Pischel eluded this and there was no way he didn't know about the mortgage. He said that Robb Ferguson told him that he has a case against Mr. Pischel but it could cost him up to \$7,000 to \$8,000. He said the only way it would be a slam dunk case is that if the county were to go after Mr. Pischel. He offered to pay part of the legal fees. Commissioner Doucette told him that there was a consensus of the board to not do anything with the mortgage and was told that this will be voted on at next Monday's meeting.

There was discussion on raises for the Veterans Officer and the Building Codes Inspector. There was no consensus and this will be voted on at the next board meeting for a 1.5% raise for 2014 for the Veterans Officer and for the Building Codes Inspector.

There was discussion on the upgrades and new computers that are needed because Microsoft is no longer supporting Windows XP after April 8, 2014. There are 3 upgrades needed and 13 new computers. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the upgrades and new computers from Compudyne in the amount of \$13,516.46. One upgrade cost and one computer cost are to come from the ambulance fund. One computer cost is to come from 911. The other two upgrades and 11 computers are to come from the capital improvements fund #404.

There was discussion on a new server. The treasurer said that the cost could come from the forfeiture fund. It was the consensus of the board to authorize purchasing a new server for the county from Compudyne in the amount of \$14,244.51. The monies are to come from the forfeiture fund.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the chair to sign an Engagement Letter for the 2013 audit with Gabridge & Co.

Cost savings ideas / revenue sources were next on the agenda. The undersheriff discussed going back and looking for monies owed to the county by the inmates that were in the jail.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their 2013 substance abuse payment in the amount of \$10,089.50. Those monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000).

There was discussion on the board bills. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee.

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 the following 2014 revenue back to 2013 due to the fact it was for the year 2013:

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE	
101-00040000	\$162,426.58
101-000403000 Current Tax Collection	\$ 12,295.12
101-000403010 Current Tax Interest	\$ 449.96
101-000426000 Swamp Tax	\$ 92,158.26
101-000502000 Friend of the Court	\$ 10,555.00
101-000503000 P.A. ADC	\$ 6,689.12
101-000506000 Federal Park Patrol	\$ 2,199.38
101-000567000 Diverted Felons	\$ 989.70
101-000571000 Convention Facility Tax	\$ 20,179.00
101-000573000 Court Equity Fund Distrib	\$ 6,338.00
101-000576000 Diversion Officer	\$ 1,308.67
101-000577000 County Juv. Officer	\$ 6,829.26
101-000616000 Sheriff	\$ 954.35
101-000621000 Fingerprint Charge	\$ 27.50
101-000625000 Sex Offender Registration	\$ 20.00
101-000628000 Remonumentation Adm. Fee	\$ 34.26
101-000645000 County Inmate Room & Board	\$ 1,399.00

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to amend (decrease) Secondary Road Patrol Fund #260 in the amount of \$1,730 and amend (increase) the general fund Secondary Road Patrol in the amount of \$1,730 (101-333-746.000).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to transfer the expenditures between the 2013 budgets as follows:

- \*\$3,000 from the Board of Commissioners budget into the Circuit Court budget
- \*\$3,650.80 from the Jail budget into the Circuit Court budget
- \*\$460.60 from the Advertising budget into the Attorneys/Consultants budget
- \*\$1,908.39 from the Probate Court budget into the District Court budget
- \*\$244.33 from the Jury Commission budget into the Friend of the Court's budget
- \*\$2,084.08 from the County Clerk/ROD budget into the Prosecuting Attorney budget
- \*\$6,982.96 from the Jail budget into the Building and Grounds budget
- \*\$945.18 from the Elections budget into the Duplicating Account budget
- \*\$876.54 from the Jail budget into the Sheriff's Department budget
- \*\$942.74 from the Jail budget into the Motor Pool budget
- \*\$195.08 from the Jail budget into the Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol budget
- \*\$159.02 from the Computers budget into the Animal Shelter budget
- \*\$3,850.00 from the Jail budget into the Medical Examiner's budget
- \*\$6,042.31 from the Employee Fringe Benefits budget into the Debt Elimination budget

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There was discussion on resolution #2014-02 to adopt the Governor's recommendation for fully funding county revenue sharing in FY 2015. There is to be more clarification on this that Commissioner Doucette is to find out from MAC (Michigan Association of Counties).

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen said that there may be another resolution or two for next Monday's meeting. Commissioner Rondeau discussed that Bob Lindbeck received the 2013 CRAM Rural Engineer of the Year Award. He also discussed problems with U.S. Forest Service Officer Louis Cote and gave the board a handout from Dan Johnson. This was discussed that this is being looked into. Commissioner Rondeau said that he would like to talk about this at next week's meeting as an agenda item. Commissioner Rondeau left at 6:04 p.m. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed talking with the treasurer and that they have to be a liaison to the Veterans Affairs Officer but cannot help putting the budget together for the Veteran's Relief Fund. He said that the board is the one that has to approve the budget. Commissioner Doucette told the board to take some time and look at the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) newsletter.

Correspondence was read and discussed by Department of Human Services for the 2013-14 annual plan and budget for Child Care Fund expenditures; County of Houghton, Fiduciary for the Region 8 Homeland Security Planning Board for the 2010, 2011, and 2012 Michigan Homeland Security Grant Program; a Notice of Intent from CUPPAD Regional Commission; and minutes from the LMAS District Board of Health. These will be filed in the board meeting file.

Board comments were next. There were none.

Staff comments were next. The sheriff discussed the meth bust last Friday and that they were arraigned today. The undersheriff gave a brief year-end report regarding the Sheriff's Office. He said that he wanted to give thanks to Detective Steve Blank and Sgt. Waldron. Steve Webber discussed increases in some of the grants being the ORV, road patrol, park patrol, and marine grants.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk