

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

January 6, 2014

Minutes are subject to corrections and approval

The organizational meeting of 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:

District 1 ó Commissioner Pullen

District 2 ó Commissioner VanLandschoot

District 3 ó Commissioner Mattson

District 4 ó Commissioner Doucette

District 5 ó Commissioner Rondeau

The Board of Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Doucette, Chairman opened the floor to nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner VanLandschoot nominated Esley Mattson as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations from the floor. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to close nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast for Esley Mattson as Vice-Chairman for the year 2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to retain the commissioner's salaries for 2014 as follows: Chair - \$210; Vice-Chair - \$195; all other Commissioners - \$175. For 2015 the salaries are to be as follows: Chair - \$215; Vice-Chair - \$200; all other Commissioners - \$180. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize that each board member's per diem are to remain the same at \$35 per meeting. 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 Mattson to hold the Committee of the Whole meetings on the second Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to hold the regular Board of Commissioners meeting on the third Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m. 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 VanLandschoot that the mileage rate is to be the same as the current IRS rate of .56 cents per mile. The costs of meals are to be as follows: Breakfast - \$10.00; Lunch - \$10.00; Dinner - \$15.00 for a maximum total amount of \$35.00 per day. 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 payment to LMAS for their first quarterly payment 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, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to appoint Commissioner VanLandschoot and Commissioner Mattson to the Industrial Park Commission/Solid Waste Landfill/Munising Landfill committees. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There was discussion on paying Lynne Maki and Dave Maddox from the Drug Court Fund Grant. It was all agreed that those vouchers should go through board bills like every other employee has to do.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize signing the following letter to NACo regarding PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes):

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

January 6, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, Vice Chairman Shelby, and Ranking Member Lowey:

As the House and Senate Appropriations Committees works to develop a final Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 spending measure, we respectfully request that your committee fully support the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Program. The PILT program provides critical funding to nearly 1,900 counties in 49 states and three U.S. territories. As you know, the recently adopted budget resolution included a deficit neutral reserve fund placeholder for PILT. With this bipartisan acknowledgment to fund the program, we respectfully request that the program be fully funded and appropriately offset in the upcoming appropriations bill.

PILT is currently authorized at \$425 million for fiscal year 2014 to help offset losses to local governments from the presence of non-taxable federal lands through direct payments to counties and other local governments. Counties with federal land in their jurisdictions often provide vital services on those lands, such as solid waste management, search and rescue and emergency medical services. A fully funded PILT program helps to offset the loss of these important revenues and fulfill the federal governments' obligation to local communities with large amounts of federal land.

In July 2012, President Obama signed into law PL 112-141, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Included in the legislation was mandatory funding for PILT. After implementation of the Budget Control Act (sequestration cuts), counties received roughly \$400 million in FY 2013. Unless Congress acts, Counties will have received their last fully funded PILT disbursement in June, 2013

We urge you to consider the economic hardship that counties across the nation will face if the PILT program is not given consistent funding. We understand the Appropriations Committee has some difficult funding decisions coming up and we appreciate your consideration of this import issue. Moving forward, I hope that we can work together to see a long-term funding solution to provide a consistent and stable source of funding for the nation's PILT counties.

Respectfully,

Jerry Doucette, Board Chair

Cathy Pullen, Commissioner

Mickey Rondeau
Commissioner

Esley Mattson, Vice Chair

Joseph VanLandschoot Commissioner

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

There were board comments. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed the Veteranø Relief Fund. There was much more discussion on the Veteranø Relief Fund. Commissioner Rondeau is to get the committee together for a January meeting. Commissioner Doucette wanted to say that we are coming into a new year, it is going to be close and that we need to keep track of the budget and where it is heading. He also discussed talking with other counties about funding retirements and that Alger County is doing a good job and doing the right thing with trying to fund those retirements.

On a motion by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to adjourn this meeting at 4:56 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk