

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

**June 15, 2015**

**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, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

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.

There were no minutes available.

There was discussion on amending the agenda moving item #9 to item #6, new item #10 to be an issue with the ambulance and Stryker, and to combine item #s 13 through 15. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the amended consent agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

Lee Paquette was present to explain the need for Kathleen to purchase a computer. She said that she needs one just for child support work and it has to be HIPAA compliant. She said that she already ordered it. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the Prosecutor's office to purchase a new computer from Compudyne in the amount of \$885. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

There was discussion on a jail site survey for the jail project. The company thought that the county had an up-to-date survey, but there was not one. On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize a site survey to be done by GEI Consultants in the amount not to exceed \$3,450. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

Steve Webber was present to discuss wanting to purchase four or five mobile GPS units. He said that there is \$2,500 left over from the 2013 Stonegarden monies, which is to be spent on equipment. He already put out bids to Putvins, Shopko, and Madigans. He only received one back from Putvins. Commissioner Pullen arrived at 4:17 p.m. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize Sgt. Webber to purchase two waterproof mobile GPS devices and two regular mobile GPS devices and any related equipment in the amount of \$2,500 from Putvin Drug Store. The monies are to come from the Stonegarden Grant. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

The sheriff discussed the need for dock space for the boat. He said that Dave Cromell will no longer be renting space and plans to remove his docks. Sgt. Waldron found some space at the Riptide dock owned by Tim Flynn. The going rate for the dock space is \$1,195 per season for the same size boats. He said that he will try and negotiate this. He said that he also asked the Forest Service down at the Grand Island Landing. Commissioner VanLandschoot told the sheriff to ask Paul VanLandschoot about his dock and also that there is a dock that is owned by Bob Denman. The sheriff is asking the board to authorize to be able to expend up to \$1,200 for dock space rental. The monies are to come from the ambulance fund rescue supplies line item. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to by-pass the bidding process and authorize the sheriff to get dock space rental in an amount up to \$1,200. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

The sheriff discussed an issue with the new ambulance and vendor. Michigan First Response (MFR) did not pay Stryker Corporation monies owed. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize Burkhart, Lewandowski & Miller, P.C. to file a lawsuit on behalf of Alger County to collect funds wrongfully converted by MFR so that the balance to Stryker Corporation may be satisfied. The attorney costs are to be incorporated into the lawsuit. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

The sheriff discussed the three UPS battery backups for the 911 system and the cost for a licensed electrician to run the 30-amp twist locks. He also thought that the cost of the air conditioner was too much. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to postpone the decision on these items until next month. 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 Bruce Cranham's pay of \$1,000 for the Friend of the Court and \$100 for the Referee. 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 VanLandschoot to approve the Central U.P. Regional Community Corrections Grant Application for Plan Year 2016. 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 authorize Murray Donnelly to purchase panels, adhesive, and accessories for the ambulance garage walls where the ambulances are washed in the amount of \$4,668. The monies are to come from the ambulance fund. 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 resolution #2015-04:

**RESOLUTION #2015-04**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, the Alger County Board of Commissioners approves the Michigan Public Safety Communications System Integration Agreement with Alger County, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Jerry Doucette, Chairman of the Alger County Board of Commissioners, is authorized to sign the aforementioned Agreements.

Dated: June 15, 2015

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Jerry Doucette, Chair  
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 Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Amendment No. 1 to the 2008 MPSCS Co-Location License Agreement with Alger County. 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 authorizing Commissioner Doucette and Mary Ann Froberg to travel to Lansing regarding DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services). Commissioner Doucette said that the goal is for next week. He said that Sgt. Webber should also be going. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize Commissioner Doucette, Mary Ann Froberg, Steve Webber, and possibly Pam Johnson to travel to Lansing and meet with the representatives and DHHS. He explained the state budget and supplemental amount that the state has put aside. There was much discussion on the jail renovation and the space in the courthouse. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. The monies are to come from the commissioner's fund.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize Commissioner Doucette, Mary Ann Froberg, Pam Johnson, and Joe Cilc to travel to Traverse City regarding unemployment hearings for July 7, 2015. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. The monies are to come from their respective departments.

There was discussion on the new FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) Procedures and Guidelines. These have to be posted on the website by July 1<sup>st</sup>. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines. 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 the Collection Agreement between the Board of Commissioners and the Forest Service regarding Hanley Field with a cost of \$4,000. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to postpone this until the airport committee can make a report about this. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Old business was next. There was none.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize payment to NorthCare for their substance abuse payment in the amount of \$7,070. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101- 631- 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 VanLandschoot to authorize payment of the board bills. 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 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 VanLandschoot to authorize the treasurer to transfer the following 2015 appropriations:

Transfer from Ambulance	\$4,500.00	To General Fund (Reimb)
Transfer from Cty Survey & Remon.	4,460.00	To General Fund (Admin)
Transfer from Limestone Summer	1,800.00	To General Fund (Collections 2015)
Transfer from Wireless 911	36,000.00	To General Fund (Wages)
Transfer from Bldg. Dept Fund	3,500.00	To General Fund (Rent)
Transfer from Bldg. Dept Fund	3,164.86	To DTR Fund (Payment Due)

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 VanLandschoot to authorize the treasurer to transfer the 2015 cost allocation plan monies as follows:

**COST ALLOCATION PLAN**

AMBULANCE	\$	66,209.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT		5,935.00
WIRELESS 911		14,383.00
FORECLOSURE		194.00
D.T.R.		0.00
MSU EXTENSION		7,573.00
COUNTY AGING		6,974.00
LIMESTONE SUMMER		0.00
HOMESTEAD		0.00
BROWNFIELD		<u>92.00</u>
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	\$	<b>101,360.00</b>

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 authorize the treasurer to create Certified Pistol License Fund #267. 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 financial matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following resolution #2015-05:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAINTAINING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE IN ALGER COUNTY**

**WHEREAS** the State of Michigan, Family Independence Agency now known as the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been a tenant of the County of Alger since before 1978;

**WHEREAS** the County of Alger incurred considerable long-term debt to enlarge its courthouse in 1998 by approximately 20% to accommodate the needs of the DHHS through the sale of bonds in excess of one million;

**WHEREAS** imminent failure of outdated equipment created a need to refinance said bonds in 2011 ó extending the term of the mortgage to 2026;

**WHEREAS** the State of Michigan now wishes to sever the long standing partnership between DHHS and Alger County which Alger County depends on to repay the debt incurred on the Department's behalf;

**WHEREAS** the closure of the Alger County DHHS office would adversely impact the in-need population of Alger County and despite what Bob Wheaton was quoted in the May 28, 2015 Lansing State Journal as saying is NOT putting people first.

**WHEREAS** local sources indicate there are few or no community partners available, and both privacy for clients and safety for children will be lost;

**WHEREAS** the loss of the lease payment would result in a deficit within the Alger County budget of over \$100,000 and impose the need for reduction in critical services;

**WHEREAS** the Alger County general fund balance is well below the recommended 60-day operational budget. The Alger County general fund budget for 2015 is \$3.7 million, so \$100,000 is significant;

**WHEREAS** Alger County will honor its debts and keep the promises made.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Alger County respectfully requests that Governor Rick Snyder and our State of Michigan Legislature keep the promises the State has made and restore and maintain the funding for the Department of Health and Human Services in Alger County.

Dated: June 15, 2015

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
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.

Commissioner Pullen explained part of the dark stores and how it affects the property values. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following resolution #2015-06:

**RESOLUTION #2015-06**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPEAL OF TAX TRIBUNAL RULING**

**WHEREAS**, the Alger County Board of Commissioners, know of many appeals of a Final Opinion and Judgement entered in the Michigan Tax Tribunal through-out the Upper Peninsula of Michigan;

**WHEREAS**, many Upper Peninsula Counties are appealing the ruling of the state of Michigan's tax tribunal ruling, which significantly reduces the ad valorem property tax assessments of modern home improvement store properties located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula; and,

**WHEREAS**, each property was valued after the store's construction in accordance with its existing use as a home improvement store; and,

**WHEREAS**, each property owner appealed the ad valorem tax assessment levied by the townships to the Tax Tribunal asserting that the properties must be valued as if they were vacant and unoccupied retail buildings;

**WHEREAS**, the Tax Tribunal ruled in favor of the property owners and substantially reduced the property tax assessments. Such ruling will impact the ability of the local governments to provide support services at the current level and to cover the expenses to install and maintain the municipal infrastructure needed for the development of the big box stores.

**WHEREAS**, this ruling will also eliminate the ability to generate funds for continued growth, jobs, and economic development.

**WHEREAS**, taxing units will experience heavy long-term financial losses for future years under Proposal A, which effectively prevents the taxing units from raising the taxable values significantly in future years.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports the appeals of all the Upper Peninsula Counties and that the properties should be valued by considering the existing use and the present economic income of the land and structures at the time of assessment.

**FURTHERMORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alger County Board of Commissioners requests that the Legislature study and provide a permanent solution that will preserve the tax base of all our local communities.

Dated: June 15, 2015

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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.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed AMCAB (Alger-Marquette Community Action Board) Housing and their board meeting. He said that he will provide the information later. Commissioner Pullen said that Rochelle Cotey from ALTRAN is in the process with three insurance agencies and attorneys and who is suing who. She said that it will probably go back to the bus manufacturer. They are hoping to get a building manager in place and are hopeful to start rebuilding this summer. She said that Gerou has a contract to remove the building and that it should take about seven days. Commissioner Pullen is going to give Rochelle Sgt. Webber's telephone number. Commissioner Doucette discussed the trip to Lansing regarding DHHS. He also discussed the food bank and them wanting space for free of rent. It was discussed that this was not an option.

Correspondence was briefly read from the DEQ regarding Construction Permit Application for the Wood Island Landfill; DHHS board meeting notice, agenda, and minutes; and from Doug Miron, Chairman of the Alger County Road Commission regarding their service and partnerships to the community. These will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette discussed the possible problems with the 911 system and the new I-Phones. He said that there was a lot of information at the conference regarding big box stores. He also discussed that Commissioner LaFoille has resigned in Schoolcraft County and that Craig Ritter will now be the Chairman.

Staff comments were next. Undersheriff Brock said that he has been with the county for 26 years and that the board has been doing a great job and that it has been refreshing. He said that it takes progressive thinking and thanked to the board. Sgt. Webber echoed the Undersheriff's thoughts.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn this meeting at 6:02 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk