

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

November 9, 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, 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.

The consent agenda and minutes were presented. There are to be discussions added under old business on the elected official's pensions and on the prosecuting attorney's and clerk's raises.

Jim Lucas with MSU Extension was present to discuss the Annual MSUE Plan of Work for FY 2016. He said that they will be getting a new Ag person. He said that they have a great office. Jim discussed a variety of programs including Ag, 4-H, and research in Chatham for barley which they received a \$200,000 grant for. He said that they have had numerous requests for U.P. barley for brewing. He said that he will bring the annual report at a later date. It was the consensus of the board to approve the Annual MSUE Plan of Work for FY 2016.

There was discussion on the health insurance for the courthouse and jail employees. Commissioner Doucette discussed that the insurance carrier Consumers Mutual Insurance (CMI) has gone under and they need to come to a consensus on the issue. Commissioner Pullen said that the bottom line is the cost of employee's paying 12% with CMI was \$370,461.90. Now Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) it is \$424,637.72, which is a \$54,175.82 difference. With them paying 15% it would be \$414,557.85 (a difference of \$44,095.95) and with them paying 20% it would be \$397,758.06 (a difference of \$27,296.16). The total cost of the insurance with CMI was \$405,292.64. With BCBS it is \$464,957.22. Commissioner Pullen said that they are going to try and have an insurance committee meeting before the next board meeting. Commissioner Doucette said that there will be no lapse of coverage. It was the consensus of the board to go with the BCBS plan.

The sheriff was not available to discuss the Dog Control Ordinance #12, the ORV Ordinance #14, and the Snowmobile Ordinance #19. Commissioner Rondeau said that he had a few things on the ORV Ordinance. One was being the far right hand side on the road and mailboxes being there. The other issue was 12 year olds driving the ORVs without parental guidance. Per Sergeant Matt Waldron that is a question for the Prosecuting Attorney Karen Bahrman. He said that he will ask her.

There was discussion that some of the ORV permit fees and citations should be allocated to the road commission for road repairs. It was discussed that the county receives no money for the permit fees and that a portion of the citation fees are already incorporated in the Ordinance.

There was discussion on a public hearing and publishing Ordinance #12, Ordinance #14, and Ordinance #19 in the paper. It was the consensus of the board to do all.

There was discussion on authorizing a 2.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for three retirees. The three retirees are Joan Pelletier, Ethel Holmquist, and Vivian Rousseau. It was the consensus of the board to authorize a 2.5% COLA at a total cost of \$449.52.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Paulette Kivel to the DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) board for another three-year term.

There were no cost saving ideas / revenue sources.

Old business was next. Commissioner Pullen discussed that Terra Langham and Tammy Marier from MERS are going to be here on the 17th to talk about HSAs. She also discussed defined contributions and bridging the elected officials. She said that they need to start asking some questions. Commissioner Rondeau and Commissioner Pullen will be meeting with Terra and Tammy to talk about the elected officials.

Commissioner Pullen discussed the 15% raises for the prosecuting attorney and the clerk. She said that the clerk already received \$2,300 and should only receive \$4,555. She discussed a letter that Karen Bahrman had written January 16, 2003 stating that she volunteered to take the 15% cut. She said that the clerk should only receive \$4,500 being split in two years. She is going to make some phone calls regarding wages. She discussed that the prosecutor was dropped \$9,300 and that it should be done over three years.

There were no appropriations.

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 amend the following revenues:

Authorize the treasurer to amend the following revenues in the general fund in the total amount of \$16,679.10:

**\$2,990.20	FOC Title IV Inc. (101-000-505.000)
**\$1,069.00	P.A. Atty Fees – State Inmate (101-000-544.000)
**\$2,523.90	District Court Fees (101-000-609.000)
**\$1,246.42	Real Estate Transfer Tax (101-000-615.000)
**\$3,292.00	County Inmate – Room & Board (101-000-645.000)
**\$5,557.58	Reimbursements (101-000-676.000)

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the following expenditures:

Authorize the clerk to amend the following expenditures in the general fund in the total amount of \$16,679.10:

**\$8,707.96	Board of Commissioners (101-101)
**\$5.95	Advertising (101-103)
**\$3,000.00	Audit (101-105)
**\$2,410.64	Elections (101-191)
**\$2,484.55	Postage (101-288)
**\$70.00	Medical Examiner (101-648)

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he talked with the Vietnam Veterans of America regarding the millage and said that he will be talking with the American Legion tonight. He said that they are still having problems with transportation. He thanked the board for passing the \$27,700 millage. He said that the AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board) housing committee was cancelled for tomorrow. Commissioner Mattson discussed the 2016 budget and that they will be meeting on November 20th. He said that there was a balanced budget but that changed after the health insurance issue. He said that 2015 will be close. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the Veterans Community Action Teams Project. He said that out of 53 states and provinces, Michigan rates 48th. He would like Jason Allen, Senior Policy Advisor of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, to come up and present the program on December 14th. He said that they do rehabilitation for the veterans in Chassell. Commissioner Rondeau said that he went to the U.P. State Fair meeting and that they brought in \$1,185,935 and that it was close to last year. He discussed what kind of help there is if a vet gets arrested. He said that there is a lawyer for the veterans that people should know about. He also discussed going to a road commission meeting. He said that the gravel roads were terrible and that the road commission took care of it. Commissioner Pullen discussed going to the Conservation Dinner and gave Teri Grout a nice compliment. She said that Teri has done an extraordinary job. Commissioner Pullen discussed the airport and that she spent 1½ hours on the phone with Daniel Aklufi working on UPPCO easements and telephone easements. She discussed the land exchange process. Commissioner Rondeau said that Stacey Welling-Haughey was at the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) meeting and that the goose swap is a done deal. Commissioner Doucette discussed the health care issue and that CMI was the main topic. He said that CMI had about 80 contracts that were disrupted but there will be no disruption in coverages. He said that he met with State Representatives and Dave Nyberg about the DHHS and their bond obligation. He said that he will be calling Marty Fittante again. Dave Nyberg is the Governor's Representative for the U.P. out of Marquette. Commissioner Doucette said that Jerry Corkin slipped and fell in the bathtub and busted his hip and pelvic area and was bleeding internally. He said that Jerry had to have surgery and will be transferred to Eastwood Nursing Home probably this week.

Correspondence was briefly read. There was a letter from the United States Department of Interior about the county's PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payment; a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reappointing Rita Hale to the DHHS Board; a notice from Marquette County regarding their Adopted Chapters of the Marquette County Comprehensive Plan; and a package of information from the Hiawatha National Forest Service related to the Plumb Bruno Integrated Resource Management Project proposal. These will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. There were none.

Staff comments were next. There were none.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk