

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

August 8, 2016

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 – 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 was presented.

Nick DeRusha with LMAS was present to request the board to pass a resolution approving regulation to prevent the sale of electronic smoking devices to minors, and to prohibit the use of electronic smoking devices in smoke-free places. Nick is presenting this resolution to the Luce, Mackinac, Alger and Schoolcraft County Board of Commissioners. The regulation would go into effect 45 days after all four boards have approved the regulation. Penalties would be tiered by number of offenses ranging from \$100 for first offense, to \$270 for a second violation, and \$540 for a third violation, up to \$1,080 for fourth and subsequent violations. The Health Department is seeking to extend existing smoke-free air law to these products. .

Joe Verlin was present to discuss the 2015 Alger County audit. Gabridge & Co. rendered an unmodified opinion.

Opinions

In our opinion, based on our audit and the reports of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Alger County, Michigan, as of December 31, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Joe explained this is the first year of GASB68 changes take effect, noting that footnotes from previous years are now included in the body of the financial statements. The OPEB future requirements will be \$200,000 at some point. All fund balances were positive for 2015. Overall, Alger County is 73.25% funded for its long term obligations. Commissioner Pullen questioned using Delinquent Revolving Tax fund to make up unfunded liabilities.

There was some discussion regarding a payment of \$25,000 to Molle Chevrolet to settle the ambulance chassis dispute. The company that was supposed to pay for chassis failed to pay the bill which resulted in nonpayment and a lawsuit. Over \$21,000 of the requested \$25,000 was withheld by the county once it was discovered that Michigan First Response was not paying. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment to Molle Chevrolet of \$25,000 to settle dispute of the ambulance chassis. It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment to Molle Chevrolet to settle dispute of the chassis in the amount of \$25,000. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Steve Lenaker and Nathan Fazer with CUPPAD were present to discuss GIS systems. Nathan explained the GIS mapping technology, which allows various maps to be layered within the system. MDOT maps, Platt Maps, Geotagged photos are just a few examples of the systems use. GIS allows users to visualize tabulated data, which in

turn can be presented to the public and used by townships and county officials for many different purposes. Nathan explained that GIS is an investment, not a product; there are maintenance requirements. There are open-source alternatives, but they are not as versatile. Commissioner Rondeau expressed hesitation over privacy concerns. Having a countywide layer, allows for the combination of township and county mapping. The system also allows tracking of historic changes over time. There was some discussion about the cost to the county and townships. Commissioner Pullen questioned if REMON could be incorporated into the system. Surveyors' data can be incorporated into the system, but it can be troublesome getting the surveyor to release the data. Nathan brought up the possibility of partnering with the Forest Service & 911 to cost-share aerial imaging of a pass-over next spring. A letter of intent would be needed by December. Charging for GIS data requires a fee schedule and enhanced access policy. The townships and counties can cost share the overall county membership cost. Commissioner Mattson is hoping for a commitment from the townships to help cover the costs of the program. Sergeant Webber brought up the possibility of townships eventually not paying, or CUPPAD not handling the program in the future and the programs data passing on. Sergeant Webber also questioned access to the programs' data by the State of Michigan, or law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Doucette left at 5:43 PM

Doug Miron with the Alger County Road Commission was present to discuss snowmobile studs. Mr. Miron said the economic input from snowmobiles and ORVs is huge. The problem with ORVs and snowmobiles is getting money from the Department of Natural Resources and State of Michigan highway funds to fix county roads and shoulders. Doug attended the Michigan Association of Counties conference and gave a presentation regarding this issue, stating that the DNR has the capability of raising the cost of tags. Mr. Miron would like to see the board support the road commission in requesting additional funds to pay for the damage. It was the consensus of the board to draft a letter of support to request additional funds from the DNR.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. There were none.

There was no old business.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,745.00 and move this item to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills and move this item to the consent agenda. The six month policy memo should be forwarded on to each of the courts.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the financial reports for all funds and move this item to the consent agenda. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Commissioner VanLandschoot met with Nick DeRusha earlier and he will stay on as CEO of LMAS. Commissioner Rondeau met with the Road Commission and requested that Doug Miron attend today's meeting. Commissioner Pullen is working on needed documents for the airport. Commissioner Mattson attended the judicial meeting. Schoolcraft County expressed interest in cost sharing a public defender.

Commissioner Mattson noted Commissioner Doucette had a family emergency.

Public comment session was open. Ron Kinnunen, from Michigan Sea Grant, was in attendance to explain the MSU studies of rip currents in the Great Lakes. (DangerousCurrents.org) Also, a consortium has been set up to disseminate information regarding rip currents, and to help set up rescue stations. AuTrain Township is in the process of setting-up a rescue station on AuTrain beach at the river mouth.

This meeting is now adjourned at 5:45 p.m.