

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**October 27, 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 4:05 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.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none

Prosecuting Attorney Karen Bahrman is requesting board approval for a new hire. She said that a two month training period will be necessary. Commissioner Doucette questioned that after Leota Paquette retires, if the position will be posted. There was some discussion concerning supervisory rights regarding the hiring process. Commissioner VanLandschoot asked if Mrs. Bahrman was comfortable with Kathleen Lindquist taking over for Mrs. Paquette. Mrs. Bahrman explained Kathleen already knows many of Lee's job duties. There had been a previous date set for Lee to retire, and Commissioner Mattson is uncomfortable hiring another person while the current employee has not put their notice to retire in writing. A union contract was previously signed using a June 1, 2016 retire date in exchange for wage increases, which retirement was not done. This issue will be tabled until the next Committee of the Whole on November 14, 2016.

Undersheriff Brock spoke about removing the Undersheriff position from the union and adding a Captain classification within the union. Undersheriff Brock is recommending a starting wage for his Undersheriff of \$52,730.28 which is his actual 2016 wage, plus the union agreement of 4%. Commissioner Pullen questioned the 47F waiver language in the Sheriff Union contract and whether it should be removed from the Sheriff Department retirement language. Detective Blank may have to be moved to a new MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) division. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the proposed Undersheriff wages of \$52,730.28 and benefits package pending MERS approval but not to be greater or less than current sheriff's union contract. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none

Commissioner Rondeau has surveyed various other comparable counties and found Alger County to be about average in wages of elected officials. Commissioner Mattson said one of the reasons they went with a five year contract was so elected officials would know their salary in the next election, and it is the Boards intention to give equal wage increases to all the unions and elected officials. Undersheriff Brock noted the county saves at least \$100,000 by not having an Administrator, when the Clerk and Treasurer take on the added responsibilities that they do. Commissioner Doucette reiterated that he does not feel the proposed Undersheriff's wage is an unreasonable request. Sgt. Webber said it would be impossible to build the new jail, and have the grants the County has been issued, without the Clerk and Treasurer. Commissioner Mattson suggested the Prosecutor and Sheriff get the 4% wage increase but is open to suggestion regarding the Clerk and Treasurer. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to use agreed upon 2017 budget consideration for the Prosecutor of \$81,348.43; the Clerk and Treasurer of \$55,120; and the Sheriff of \$58,278. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Sheriff Hughes is requesting that payment in lieu of insurance be continued for him, post retirement. Commissioner Doucette discussed the issue with Terry Burkhart and Vince Rose at 44 North, and it was agreed that by allowing Sheriff Hughes to return to the county's group insurance after opting out or continuing the insurance buy-out post retirement will set an unacceptable precedent. It was agreed that upon retirement the current Sheriff is not eligible for the insurance buy-out. No action was taken regarding the Sheriff's buy-out.

Undersheriff Brock said he had spoken to Sheriff Cromell about naming the new jail annex after him. Sheriff Cromell was humbled but insisted it would, in some way, have to include Paul Grahovac. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to name the jail expansion: The David M. Cromell Annex and dedicate the

annex to the memory of Paul B. Grahovac. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. Commissioner VanLandschoot noted the news should be notified. Commissioner Doucette said he appreciates everyone in attendance.

Undersheriff Brock explained he lowered the on-call rate to \$7.50 per hour to fall more in line with the budget.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn this meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk