

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

February 21, 2017

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.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the consent agenda which includes the following items:

Authorize the chair to sign the Audit Engagement Letter to Gabridge & Co. for the audit of the year ending December 31, 2016;

Authorize Commissioner Pullen, Pamela Johnson and Mary Ann Froberg to attend the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) Conference March 27 – 29, 2017 in Lansing;

Authorize the clerk to pay Tina Waldron and Sheila Peters \$150 each out of the HRA for 2015 expenses that had not been previously paid. The monies are to come from the HRA Fund #711;

Authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation through March 31, 2017 in the amount of \$20,745. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-601-969.000);

Authorize payment to Mathias Township First Responders their appropriation in the amount of \$5,600. The monies are to come from their appropriation (210-000-969.000);

Authorize payment to Rock River Township First Responders their appropriation in the amount of \$5,600. The monies are to come from their appropriation (210-000-969.000);

Authorize payment of board bills;

Approve financial reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available). A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer;

Authorize the treasurer to move the following general fund revenues received in 2017 back into 2016 (year expended):

#403	Current Tax Collection	\$12,401.19
#403.010	Current Tax Interest	\$ 459.38
#502	Friend of the Court Coop	\$14,351.13
#503	Prosecuting Attorney – ADC	\$ 2,083.03
#577	County Juvenile Officer	\$ 6,829.26
#628	Remon Administrative Fee	\$ 34.62
#664	Interest on Investments	\$ 374.24
#668	Rents	\$ 900.00
#676	Reimbursements	<u>\$21,833.81</u>
	Total	\$59,266.66

Authorize the treasurer to move the following fund revenues received in 2017 back into 2016 (year expended):

258	Emergency Management (vehicle)	\$27,800.00
265	911 (Quarterly)	\$31,498.00
276	Drug Court Grant (Quarterly)	\$ 5,311.82
292	Probate Child Care (Diversion – Quarterly)	\$ 3,028.48
466	Jail Bond Construction (Payment)	\$81,700.00

Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$1,549.90 from the 2016 General Fund Debt Elimination into the Probate Child Care Fund #292;

Authorize the treasurer to amend the 2017 general fund revenues in the total amount of \$62,500 as follows:

Transfer in Foreclosure Fund (446)	\$15,000
Community Corrections (545)	\$16,500
Reimbursements (676)	<u>\$31,000</u>
Total	\$62,500

Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$70,000 from the general fund capital improvement budget (728) into the capital improvement fund #404;

Authorize the clerk to amend the 2017 general fund expenditures as follows:

District Court budget (Community Corrections)	\$16,500
Capital Improvements	\$46,000

Authorize the clerk to transfer between the following 2016 general fund budgets:

- *\$1,773.20 from the Audit budget into the Board of Commissioners budget
- *\$919.44 from the Probate Court's budget into the Circuit Court budget
- *\$1,177.47 from the Probate Court's budget into the Prosecuting Attorney budget
- *\$57.97 from the Audit budget into the Treasurer's budget
- *\$2,450.88 from the Probate Diversion Officer's budget into the Building & Grounds budget
- *\$857.22 from Probate Court's budget into the Postage budget
- *\$2,177.88 from the Motor Pool budget into the Sheriff's Department budget
- *\$5,633.31 from the Clerk's budget into the Jail budget
- *\$1,080.12 from Equalization's budget into the Medical Examiner's budget
- *\$5,045.81 from the Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol budget into the Bond Payment budget
- *\$2,029.00 from Equalization's budget into the Employee Fringe Benefit's budget

Authorize the clerk to transfer between the following 2017 general fund budgets:

- *\$4,500.00 from the Sheriff's budget into the Board of Commissioner's budget
- *\$1,000.00 from the Sheriff's budget into the Capital Improvement's budget
- *\$23,000.00 from the Building & Grounds budget into the Capital Improvement's budget

Approve the following Resolution #2017-03 Revision to Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003:

RESOLUTION #2017-03

WHEREAS, Health care costs continue to rise for all Americans and, for some Americans, this increase can be devastating; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the focus of many lawmakers who portray it as an "entitlement" program that costs the Treasury too much money. Technically, the term "entitlement" is correct but it has an unfortunate connotation; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is an essential medical plan that millions of seniors and disabled individuals depend upon to stay alive. Medicare is not a gift, as the term "entitlement" suggests. Many of the beneficiaries have worked their entire adult life and paid into the system in order to receive this crucial medical plan; and

WHEREAS, Due to spiraling costs largely associated with the price of prescription medications, our elected officials find themselves passing on increased costs to those who can least afford that increase, namely senior citizens and disabled individuals who are on Medicare's Part D drug program; and

WHEREAS, When congress enacted Medicare Prescription Drug Bill they enacted a law that does not allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for drug price the way Medicaid and the Veterans Administration does; and

WHEREAS, One economist, Dean Baker, estimates that Medicare could have saved approximately \$332 billion dollars between 2006 and 2013 (approximately \$50 billion a year) had the Department of Health and Human Services been permitted to negotiate prices of drugs with the drug companies, as federal agencies do in other programs; and

WHEREAS, Rising prescription drug costs have been the primary reason for the increase in health benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of prescription drugs and outrageous profits made by pharmaceutical companies is a systemic problem that significantly affects our state and our nation. It deserves non-partisan effort; and

WHEREAS, we must prevent our elected officials from balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it, the elderly and disabled. Increases in premiums and drug costs are unacceptable ways to deal with a flawed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill; and

WHEREAS, We must preserve the Medicare program as it currently exists and to do so requires immediate action to cut unnecessary costs, particularly in the area of prescription drug coverage; and

WHEREAS, We must revise the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper, drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, We cannot allow the previously approved bill to stand as adopted at the risk of having the Medicare program be the cause of a staggeringly increasing deficit which will require tax increases or cuts to the rest of the government, nor can we allow the continuance of price increases to our citizens cause many to contemplate discontinuing medically necessary drugs in order to pay their bills, heat their houses and have food on the table;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners goes on record urging our Legislators to immediately commence the process of revising the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper drugs from Canada and elsewhere;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our area Federal and State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties and the other Michigan counties.;

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

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 and January 17, 2017. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Judge Luoma was present to explain his request for a community corrections position. Commissioner Pullen had a problem with how this request is being presented and that the training required for the position is quite extensive. Commissioner Pullen said that they have a magistrate and questioned if the magistrate should take on these duties. She said that she spoke with the county treasurer regarding issues with some of the grants and District Court. Judge Luoma said that those concerns have been corrected. He discussed having a retired officer being in the position. Commissioner Doucette said that there is no intent of this becoming a union position. Commissioner Pullen said this position sounds more like a deputy sheriff position. Judge Luoma explained the position is a court staff position. The position would be up to twenty hours per week at a rate of \$14.00 per hour. The court staff union president, Laurie Pine, read a statement by the union. There was some discussion regarding scheduling to negotiate this issue. Commissioner Doucette explained this is an at-will position that would not be covered by the union contract. Sheriff Brock commented that this position has to be taken off of the Undersheriff's plate, and is looking for a decision tonight to commit to hiring an employee, union or not. Commissioner Pullen has a problem hiring a person that has to do more than a community corrections officer. Commissioner Rondeau has a concern with the person carrying a weapon and asked what liabilities surround having an armed employee conducting county business. Judge Luoma explained that the employee would have all the same rights as any other individual with a concealed pistol license. Commissioner Pullen was confused as to why the magistrate, that as a supervisor of probation, is requiring another employee to handle the particular duties of community corrections. Judge Luoma praised the work in Schoolcraft County performed by their community corrections officer. Commissioner Pullen said that she is still hesitant about the job description, to which Judge Luoma explained this employee would be a "Court Enforcement Officer." Judge Luoma said the person has the same rights to defend themselves as a citizen does with a CPL and that they need to be protected in an unknown situation with home visits. Sheriff Brock voiced his opinion on having someone carrying a gun and does have concerns about the liability and training of the individual and the danger this could pose to law enforcement. He explained that uncertified officers that have CPLs are not allowed to carry a firearm while acting in the capacity of Alger County. Judge Luoma said that he is willing to do what it takes to get this issue resolved and can have the employee accompanied by a law enforcement officer. Commissioner Doucette is willing to move forward with this as a nonunion position to be reviewed at the end of the year. Judge Luoma will give monthly reports to the board and the clerk's office. He said that the Community Corrections Supervisor is the primary position being offered and comes first. Commissioner Pullen wants to change the position's wording to replace that the applicant "must have a CPL" to "may have a CPL" or "must be unarmed." Commissioner Rondeau would like to strike the paragraph about the weapons. Laurie Pine expressed concerns that members of the court staff union could have complaints. Judge Luoma said the rate of pay can be worked out. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize hiring a temporary Community Service Supervisor Officer being at at-will, nonunion part-time employee with secondary probation bond enforcement officer duties, to be advertised at the hourly position rate posted of \$14 per hour. The job description would be redrafted in accordance with the board's discussion to exclude the requirement for a CPL and

to include that this person must be accompanied by an officer. Judge Luoma said that the person will be reporting to him and Lynne and are to document their duties. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There was no old business.

Sheriff Brock said that he spoke with Burt Township Supervisor Sherri Schafer regarding their millage and Ms. Schafer requesting the monies for their ambulance services not be reduced this year. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment to Burt Township Ambulance Corp for ambulance replacement in the amount of \$7,000. The monies are to come from their appropriation (210-000-743.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment to Burt Township Ambulance Corp for ambulance operations in the amount of \$42,000. The monies are to come from their appropriation (210-000-742.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve Resolution #2017-04 Officer of the Year.

RESOLUTION #2017-04

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE OFFICER OF THE YEAR FOR THE ALGER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

LARRY ORR

WHEREAS, in the spirit of excellence in the Department of Corrections for the State of Michigan and the County of Alger; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will serve to focus attention on the exemplary commitment and discipline that distinguish exceptional officers and to recognize them for their efforts;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners commend and salute **LARRY ORR**, Officer of the Year for the Alger Correctional Facility.

Dated: February 21, 2017

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

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Pullen said Selina Balko will likely be appointed to the Commission on Aging Board tomorrow. She said that there is movement to bring in the group R.S.V.P. (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) for volunteer work. She also gave an update on the airport land-swap. Commissioner Rondeau spoke about the Conservation District regarding grants as well as the Alger County Road Commission regarding the condition of county roads. He addressed the congestion along the highway near the Eben Ice Caves. Commissioner VanLandschoot gave a Grandview Apartments update. Commissioner Doucette said that he is still in contact with State Representatives to organize the 15-County Energy Review Committee. He said that his main concern is for low income energy consumers.

There was no correspondence.

Commissioner Pullen commented on the nepotism and social media policy updates to the board policy. Commissioner Doucette said there is now an internal bulletin board by the commissioner rooms.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Brock gave a search and rescue update. He is recommending a \$500 minimum rescue fee. He said that Lt. Waldron is organizing a volunteer search and rescue team as well as seeking grant funding. Sheriff Brock also met with Marquette County and Dickinson County Sheriffs regarding a pilot program for mental health funding. He updated the board on department operations and discussed two ice climbing incidents. He discussed local jail issues and 911 surcharges. He said that he is looking to run two-person crews to get the ambulance budget back in line. Sheriff Brock said that over the weekend there was a coordinated road patrol and snowmobile training. He said that the current program to house Luce County inmates in the Alger County jail is working out well. Commissioner Rondeau asked if the ice climbers that were recently rescued were climbing as a part of an organized group. Sheriff Brock indicated that they were an organized group. There was some discussion

as to why Alger County is taking on this financial burden for rescue in federal and state land. The Sheriff said that Doctor Amadeo Sturla will be offering EMS training. Currently, EMS personnel train through Marquette General.

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 6:00 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk