

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

June 19, 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; thus, the public comment was closed.

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

Affirm stopping the Tether Program until Judge Luoma discusses this with the board;

Affirm approving by-passing the bid process and approve the bid from Cross Construction for the Treasurer’s Office renovation in the amount of \$16,200. The monies are to come from the capital improvements department;

Affirm the payout to Steve Webber in the amount of \$26,969.36. 80% of the monies are to come from the jail and 20% of the monies are to come from the Wireless 911 fund #265;

Approve the Register and Chief Register to attend the PRIA Conference in Nashville. The monies are to come from the Register of Deeds Fund;

Affirm approve the BS&A proposal for a new tax and finance system for the county in the total amount of \$110,240. Monies are to come from the following: \$26,777.50 is to come from the equalization department, \$59,235.50 is to come from treasurer’s department, and \$24,227 is to come from the clerk’s department;

Approve the letter to Canada’s Minister of Environment and Climate Change opposing Ontario Power Generation’s proposed Deep Geologic Repository;

Authorize payment to LMAS District Health Department for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,745.00. Those monies are to come from their appropriation (101-601-969.000).

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 transfer the 2017 cost allocation monies:

AMBULANCE	\$	36,271.00
BUILDING DEPARTMENT		6,000.00
WIRELESS 911		20,354.00
911 MILLAGE		2,657.00
FORECLOSURE		171.00
D.T.R.		0.00
MSU EXTENSION		3,523.00
COUNTY AGING		2,874.00
VETERANS MILLAGE		7,544.00
VETERANS TRUST		559.00
FRIEND OF THE COURT		3,277.00
LAND BANK		0.00
BROWNFIELD		<u>257.00</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$	83,487.00

Authorize the treasurer to transfer the 2017 appropriations (with correction to Friend of the Court):

Transfer from Ambulance	\$4,500.00	To General Fund (Reimb)
Transfer from Cty Survey & Remon.	3,310.00	To General Fund (Admin)
Transfer from Limestone Summer	0	To General Fund (Collections 2016)
Transfer from Wireless 911 (264)	36,000.00	To General Fund (Wages)
Transfer from Friend of Court	0	To General Fund
Transfer from Foreclosure Fund	74,500.00	To General Fund
Transfer from DHS Debt Service	75,244.00	To General Fund
Transfer from DTR	<u>100,000.00</u>	To General Fund
Total	293,554.00	

Appropriations from 2017 budget. 293,554.00 Total

Authorize the treasurer to transfer the liability accounts in to the general fund and other accounts:

<u>Liability Account</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>General</u>
701-000-207000	3,000.00	3,000.00
701-000-222010	10,992.00	10,992.00
701-000-228030	1,430.15	1,430.15
701-000-228040	.06	.06
701-000-228050	203.00	203.00
701-000-228131	64.05	64.05
701-000-228132	1,581.80	1,581.80
701-000-228133	25.00	25.00
701-000-228210	31.50	31.50
701-000-228430	35.00	35.00
701-000-228510	2,085.00	2,085.00
701-000-228530	437.93	437.93
701-000-228600	230.00	230.00
701-000-260000	3,559.98	3,559.98
701-000-272000	104.10	104.10
701-000-274070	177.10	177.10
701-000-283000	27.01	27.01
701-000-284000	<u>6,842.55</u>	<u>6,842.55</u>
	30,826.23	30,826.23
701-000-222134	+2,120.00 State Revenue Jail charged Live Scan	
	Will charge Jail account and correct negative.	
101-351-835000	-2,120.00	
701-000-216000	934.18	934.18 To MSU Fund 208
<u>Negatives to have corrected</u>		
701-000-222000	+ 85.45	
701-000-228070	+ 13.16	
701-000-284000	+ 98.61	
701-000290000	1,413.00	1,413.00 To ROD Fund

- 44.61 to 701-000-284,000

Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the amount of \$171,090:

Reimbursements	\$ 30,000.00
Transfer In DTR	\$120,000.00
Transfer In Foreclosure	\$ <u>21,090.00</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$171,090.00

Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the amount of \$171,090:

Equalization	\$ 26,777.50
Treasurer	\$ 59,235.50
Clerk	\$ 24,227.00
New Department	\$ 20,850.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 17,000.00
Building & Grounds	<u>\$ 23,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$171,090.00

Authorize the treasurer to create new departments in the general fund: #172 - County Administrator; #416 - Public Safety (Rescue 21 Team); #661 - Child Care Division of Probate;

Approve the following Resolution #2017-06 Preserve the Public Mental Health System:

RESOLUTION #2017-06

RESOLUTION TO PRESERVE THE PUBLIC MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Michigan’s public mental health system provides one of the broadest array of cutting edge, community-based mental health services and supports throughout our Upper Peninsula region; and

WHEREAS, Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) were created by County Boards of Commissioners as duly authorized under 330.1205 of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and

WHEREAS, Five CMHSPs representing fifteen counties in the Upper Peninsula created a regional entity, NorthCare Network, to manage Medicaid specialty services as duly authorized under 330.1204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and

WHEREAS, County Boards of Commissioners across the Upper Peninsula region support the preservation of the current public mental health system delivery and management; and

WHEREAS, All five CMHSPs in the Upper Peninsula region (Copper Country CMH, Gogebic CMH, Hiawatha Behavioral Health, Northpointe Behavioral Health and Pathways CMH) support the preservation of the current public mental health system delivery and management; and

WHEREAS, Senate and House 298/234 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2018 effectively nullifies the duly authorized actions taken by Community Mental Health Service Programs to create a regional entity under section 330.204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code; and

WHEREAS, Section 298/234 of the Executive Budget recommendations for 2018 have no accountability to the Upper Peninsula’s fifteen County Boards of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, County Boards of Commissioners across the Upper Peninsula oppose Section 298/234 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2018 to implement health plan led pilots; and

WHEREAS, County Boards of Commissioners across the Upper Peninsula oppose any involvement in a pilot program in the Upper Peninsula region; and

WHEREAS, Section 298/234 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2018 will result in the elimination of public specialty mental health services that are accountable to the communities of persons residing in the fifteen counties of the Upper Peninsula;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes Section 298/234 of the Executive Budget recommendation for 2018 and encourages the Governor, State Senate, and State House of Representatives to prevent it from becoming law;

Approve the following Resolution #2017-07 Protect the MI Choice Program:

RESOLUTION #2017-07

RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE MI CHOICE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Senate recently passed SB 135 which contains the following boilerplate language under Section 1852 (*Long-Term Service and Support Pilot – Senate requires DHHS to implement a pilot in Wayne, Macomb, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Van Buren Counties and the Upper Peninsula to transition home and community based services waiver recipients into a long-term services and support program administered by an integrated care organization*)

WHEREAS, the MI Choice Program is a long term care, in home services program for U.P. residents seeking long term care at home;

WHEREAS, the MI Choice Program, administered by UPCAP, uses a local network of service providers including Community Action Agencies, Commissions on Aging, County Agencies and private Services Agencies;

WHEREAS, enacting this provision would have the following negative affects on Upper Peninsula residents:

- Closing down the popular MI Choice Program which has been operating since 1988 and has a 98% satisfaction rating;
- Creating a pilot program which would mandate that all existing MI Choice participants receive their in home care from a for profit insurance company;
- Making the U.P. the only region in the State that doesn't give residents a choice of where they receive their in-home care and care management;
- Requiring U.P. residents to have their care provided by a for-profit insurance company that has little or no experience in providing in-home care to the nursing home eligible population

WHEREAS, one reason why Section 1852 is being proposed is because, under an existing demonstration pilot (MI Health Link) involving the for profit health insurance company (Upper Peninsula Health Plan) and the MI Choice Program, when provided a choice, 95% of the clients opted NOT to have their care provided by the insurance company, but instead by MI Choice. The new pilot would make it mandatory for residents to be enrolled with the for profit health care organization eliminating choice.

WHEREAS, should the pilot demonstration be allowed to move forward and not be successful, the comprehensive network of services developed over the past 29 years for the MI Choice Program will no longer be available nor unable to fully meet the future community-based long-term supports and services needs of the Upper Peninsula residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes Senate Bill 135; Section 1852 and requests that the Upper Peninsula of Michigan be removed from the pilot, allowing MI Choice to continue providing U.P. County residents a choice of options like the rest of the State.

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 Pullen to approve the minutes of May 8, 2017 and May 15, 2017. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Rod DesJardins and Jennifer Heyrman were present to discuss ALTRAN and any help that the county could give. Ms. Heyrman handed out a comparison report between ALTRAN and other similarly sized transit authorities. Rod explained that ALTRAN does not have an operating millage, and has relied on sharing a part of Commission on Aging's millage. Mr. DesJardins explained that in the last year, the financials for ALTRAN and Commission on Aging were separated and doing so exacerbated ALTRAN's deficit. There are several contracts that were generous to agencies such as the Park Service, Uncle Ducky's, and the Forest Service that are particularly disadvantageous to ALTRAN. Jennifer explained she has made cuts to address the structural deficit such as: mandating employees take a lunch hour and cut hours down to 40 per week. Until this problem is

corrected, Jennifer has frozen her own salary and has personally taken on the pager service saving \$75.00 per week. The ALTRAN advertising budget has been cut 25% and the mechanic has been asked to reduce his spending by 25% - 50%. Unfortunately without assistance, routes will have to be cut and drivers will be laid off. Ms. Heyrman explained that \$66,000 was borrowed from MARQTRAN in 2014 and needs to be paid back. Rod is quite confident that the public would approve a quarter or half mill, but it is too late to make the August election. Adding a millage to this November's election would put the millage in direct competition with a 2.1 mill Headlee override renewal for the City of Munising and 2.75 mills for the Munising Public School District. The earliest Rod can get a millage on the ballot is August 2018. Rod is looking for support matching the City of Munising's annual contribution in the amount of \$15,000. Jennifer is looking to advertisement as an increased revenue source. Rod explained that the report is missing the loss of revenue from Grand Island tours. Fares have not been increased in at least eight years. Ms. Heyrman is looking into increasing the senior citizen rate from age 60 to possibly the state mandated age of 65 and has also proposed doubling Grand Island rates. There was some discussion about the disproportionate effects of fare increases on segments of the public. Commissioner Pullen commented that Marquette General used to subsidize dialysis patients and some medical runs. There was further discussion regarding Tribal contributions and a contract with CUPPAD. Mr. DesJardins is confident that the ALTRAN Board and Ms. Heyrman are looking into every avenue to increase revenue. Commissioner Mattson questioned the reports discrepancy with local revenue sources. There is a possibility that the midnight shuttle will have to be cut, so Ms. Heyrman is going to go to the bar owners and hotel owners asking for sponsorships. Commissioner Rondeau asked why rates couldn't be increased to offset the lack of a millage. Ms. Heyrman further elaborated on the difference between ALTRAN's situation versus other transit authorities, including that 72 of 80 transit authorities have an operating millage. Commissioner Doucette asked if ALTRAN could help to diffuse the problem at the Eben Ice Caves. Rod explained that a fixed route would have to be added or else the service would be considered a charter. Commissioner Mattson explained there is a regional government meeting scheduled for August 23rd and that would be a good time to address all the supervisors at once. Commissioner Rondeau said the report is difficult to differentiate the cost per rider as millage information is not presented. Rod and Jennifer reiterated that once a millage is in place these problems will be eliminated; however, in the short run ALTRAN is in need of assistance.

A copy of the county administrator/controller job description was discussed. It was basically copied from Marquette County. Commissioner Pullen explained her research regarding the legality of rehiring a MERS retiree that was formerly performing duties that are now to be a part of the administrator position. The administrator duties include additional administrative duties and therefore the rehire rules require 60 days of separation instead of two years. Commissioner Rondeau has not had time to review the issue fully and would like to have this issue postponed until next month. Commissioner Doucette may not be present for the July board meetings. A Special Board meeting may be the best way and time to address and vote on this issue. Laurie Pine asked if this position will be posted. It was discussed that this position is at the sole discretion of the board. A Special Meeting will be held June 20, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Laurie Pine noted that years ago the board was resistant to rehiring an individual in another department. This was discussed more in detail. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to postpone hiring a County Administrator with the new job description and schedule a Special Board meeting for Tuesday June 20, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. 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 Mattson to bypass advertising for Commission on Aging board members and appoint Mary Ann Froberg and Robert Karvinen to the Alger County Commission on Aging Board. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There was no old business.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Doucette explained that William Raymond has taken over as Michigan Works' new CEO. The location where this position will be based is still under review. Commissioner VanLandschoot gave a Community Action Alger-Marquette (CAAM) update. Commissioner Rondeau said that he attended the Alger Conservation district meeting and they are also looking for a millage. Commissioner Pullen gave an update on the airport. Commissioner Pullen thanked the board for appointing the two new members to the Commission on Aging board.

Correspondence was briefly read from Superior Watershed Partnership regarding Great Lakes Conservation Corps program; Department of Health and Human Services regarding Board Meeting Notice / Agenda for Thursday June 15, 2017; Stacy Haughey, DNR Regional Coordinator regarding their quarterly summer newsletter; and Maner Costerian, CPA regarding Alger County 9-1-1 Service District annual accounting for the period ending December 31, 2016.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau asked if there was an update regarding opening the landfill on a Saturday. Commissioner Mattson has not heard back from the owner. Townships are looking to approach the landfill to make a similar request. Commissioner Doucette thanked everyone for their comments and believes it is in Alger County's best interest to implement the administrator position.

Staff comments were next. Laurie Pine noted there are people coming into the Friend of the Court offices looking for the clerk's office.

Public comment session was open. Neil Simons noted there is an Au Train Township meeting on June 22, community sale by the Lions Club this weekend at the Chatham Fairgrounds, and there are couple new businesses about to open.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to adjourn this meeting at 5:20 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