

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

**April 10, 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 4:04 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. Leota Paquette explained the letter she submitted, requesting a temporary replacement for her position from May 26, 2017 through June 9, 2017 while she is on vacation. Commissioner Mattson explained there has never been a temporary worker while Ms. Paquette is away. Ms. Paquette says this is necessary now as Kathleen Lindquist is currently filling in, but with her attendance required in court, she will be unable to perform both job duties. The rate of pay will be researched and compared to other units. There was some discussion if temporarily hiring a contracted employee violates union regulations. This issue will be discussed further at the May board meetings.

Commissioner Doucette said he would like to see the approval of meeting minutes as separate line on the agenda. The agenda was presented. Commissioner Pullen would like to amend the agenda to include nepotism and rescue fees under Old Business.

Judge Luoma and Judge Nebel were present to request a full-time person split between probate court and district court. Judge Nebel explained that the Probate portion is also a Deputy Probate Register position, not just a court reporter. Judge Nebel said this position will be a revolving door if a person is not retained. Judge Luoma restated that this is a combination of several positions between two courts. There was some discussion concerning an employee working under two department supervisors. The Judges insisted that any scheduling would be agreed to beforehand. Judge Nebel explained that he will need to work with district court already regarding court reporting until permanent replacements are hired. Judge Nebel and Judge Luoma noted that sometimes probate and district court already work together; using each other's employees and courtrooms. Judge Luoma reiterated that he would like to assure the board that his intent is to make these positions more attractive.

Judge Luoma introduced the Community Service Supervisor, Dan Stasewich. Judge Luoma explained Mr. Stasewich was brought down to Schoolcraft County for training and that training in Schoolcraft County will be ongoing. Commissioner Pullen asked Mr. Stasewich if he is working in Schoolcraft County as well because his business card reads "Alger County/Schoolcraft County." District Court is combined with Schoolcraft County; hence the card has both counties listed. Dan said there could be a time he would have to go down to help his Schoolcraft County counterpart, Greg Schultz. Judge Luoma explained that going to Schoolcraft County would be primarily for training purposes; however, with the district court being split between counties and the clientele overlap, it could be necessary to assist or cover for each other. Judge Luoma is requesting approval to purchase a computer for the Community Service Coordinator to access the Judicial Information System. Commissioner Pullen questioned if the use of the JIS is necessary for this position. Commissioner Pullen said originally the position was a Community Service Supervisor and not a probation officer. Judge Luoma explained the position was agreed upon and advertised with probation oversight being a secondary duty. Commissioner Rondeau asked Mr. Stasewich his background. Mr. Stasewich explained his history and elaborated on the community corrections program. Judge Luoma said the lowest price for a computer meeting the court reporter's needs is \$549.00. Judge Luoma took the court reporter's computer for Mr. Stasewich to use.

Commissioner Pullen is hesitant as the budget for the program is set, and a computer was not a part of it. Judge Luoma explained this work station is absolutely necessary, and can be used by other employees if the position is discontinued. Commissioner Rondeau said if this enhances the program, then \$549 is worth it. Commissioner Mattson agreed and stated the revenues have to pay for the program in the end. It was the consensus of the board to purchase a new computer in the amount of \$549 for district court. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Equalization Director, Patrick Suboski, and Equalization Deputy Stephanie Pierson were present to explain the L-4024 Equalization Report. Mr. Suboski said real personal property totals decreased, which is a very rare occurrence. This report is based on two years of sales data. It was the consensus of the board to approve the L-4024 Equalization Report. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Letters of Interest for the ALTRAN Board appointment were received from Robert Negilski, Victoria Petruske, John Carr, and Marianne Laskay. Commissioner Pullen spoke with Marianne Laskay regarding her experience in the transportation industry. Commissioner VanLandschoot spoke briefly about Mr. Carr and Mr. Negilski's position at Kimberley Clark. Commissioner Doucette questioned if there is a conflict of interest if he votes. The other commissioners agreed Commissioner Doucette should vote. The board will continue this discussion at the regular board meeting on April 17, 2017.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Jerry Doucette and Stephanie Pierson to the Land Bank Authority for another 3-year term expiring 12/31/2019. This item will be moved to the consent agenda.

Commissioner Pullen explained that the Commission on Aging Board appointed board members; however, the Alger County Board of Commissioners needs to appoint these individuals, effective their starting date to correct this error in procedure. It was the consensus of the board to appoint Selina Balko and Stephanie McAllister to the Commission on Aging Board. This item will be moved to the consent agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded VanLandschoot to authorize the clerk to advertise for an additional vacancy on the Commission on Aging Board. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. Commissioner Doucette explained the potential conflicts of him serving on the Commission on Aging and ALTRAN Boards, since monies are paid to ALTRAN from Commission on Aging.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. Commissioner Doucette explained that Governor Snyder denied the inmate housing bill.

Regarding old business, Commissioner Pullen noted the need to add a nepotism clause to the Board Policy as well as implementing a rescue fee. There was some discussion regarding the implementation of a rescue fee. This issue needs to be reviewed further.

Sgt. Webber explained there were other reasons, including re-entry services as to why the Department of Corrections fought the Inmate Housing Bill.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305. Those monies are to come from their 2017 appropriation (101-649-969.000). This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee. This is to be added to the consent agenda.

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. This item is to be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$50,000 from the 911 Millage Fund #264 to the Wireless 911 Fund #265. This will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Doucette said there is a grievance concerning the Community Corrects position with the court staff. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he will have reports next week. Commissioner Rondeau said that he would like shelving for the public so they can obtain Appeal Building Codes denial forms. Commissioner Rondeau also gave a fair board update. Commissioner Pullen gave a MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) Legislative Conference update. Commissioner Doucette commented on the conference as well. He also gave an update regarding the Michigan Association of Counties moving their offices.

Correspondence was briefly read from ALTRAN regarding open house May 1, 2017 starting at 2:00 p.m.; a letter of appreciation from Diane Grimm for Alger County Veterans Relief and Michigan Veterans Trust Fund assistance with paying for a new furnace; the Michigan Department of Natural Resources quarterly newsletter; Jim Ewing at the Michigan Supreme Court regarding video technology maintenance update project; Washtenaw County Solid Waste Division regarding updates to their Solid Waste Management Plan; Army Corps of Engineers invitation to “Waterways, Wetlands, and You!” events in Houghton April 18, 2017 and Traverse City June 22, 2017; LMAS Board minutes for January 2017 and February 2017; USDA package related to the Au Train River Public Access, Parking and Rehabilitation Project Proposal; and from the Department of Homeland Security regarding a proposal to replace the Grand Marais Inner Lighthouse lens.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen wanted to get Board’s opinion before asking for comments from the Grand Marais public regarding waste management. There was some discussion concerning garbage pickups being township and city business. Commissioner Rondeau is concerned about online sales taking away revenue from counties. Commissioner Rondeau commented that free speech is being suppressed on college campuses. Commissioner Doucette updated the board about layoffs at the Empire Mine in Ishpeming, that the Michigan Works’ CEO is resigning and a replacement is being sought, and that Meijer in Escanaba is now open and the Marquette store will be next. Commissioner Doucette spoke at length about the federal and state budgets and funding proposals. Commissioner Doucette also noted that Alger County received 100% funding for updated video conferencing equipment paid for by the State of Michigan.

Staff comments were next. Deputy Clerk Joel VandeVelde said that Steve Currie will be attending the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

Public comment session was open. Neil Simons from the Munising News noted that Representative Scott Dianda will be at the Munising Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. on April 11, 2017 for a meet and greet.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk