

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

**July 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 4:05 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; thus, the public comment was closed.

The agenda was presented.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the 2018 Child Care Fund Budget. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Judge Luoma was present to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement with the Community Service Officer and to give the board a revenue update. Mr. Stasewich compiled the following report for the first three months of the Community Service program:

**Community Service/ Probation Parole Officer**

This office has 43 probationers on Community Service hour's (CSH) status as of today's date  
18-have completed their CSH.

I have 2942 total CS hours for the 43 Probations to work.

Since starting 3/15/2017, this office as gained 21 new probationers with a total of 1120 of CSH.

This office has collected a total of \$2444.00 in fees, and \$1224 in outstanding revenue.

A breakdown of these moneys is as follows: \$700 Soberlink fees

\$700 Tether fees

\$ 1044.00 Community Service payments and fees.

The officer has to pay Home Confinement Company for a monthly fee for the use of the  
Soberlink and Tether of \$ 238.00

For those who are unable to go out and do Community Service other options are as follows,  
make a rocking horse, bear chair or tied blankets. This office has 2 probationers that have  
made a total of 3 bear chairs, and 20 blankets, this is to offset their Community Service hours. A  
chair is valued at 8 hours and 2 blankets are valued at 8 hours. The materials and man power  
are supplied by the probationer. These items are then donation to local nonprofit's to use for  
raffles, or other revenue gathering functions.

The hours for these items are 104 hours Community Service. Which equal 416\$ of lost CS  
moneys.

Outstanding bills: \$152 City of Munising

\$ 210 Munising Twn

\$ 184 Rock River Twn

\$ 78 Munising schools

\$ 600 Soberlink fees

This equals \$1224 in revenue still to be collected.

Commissioner VanLandschoot asked if the proposed fees for the tether program are the same as existing tether fees. Judge Luoma explained that the tether company charges a setup fee.

Commissioner Pullen was under the impression that there was a tether system in place at the Sheriff's Department. The work pass tether the Sheriff's Department utilizes is for post-sentenced inmates. The tether system that Judge Luoma is proposing is for inmates that have not yet been sentenced. This system is equipped with GPS and an alcohol monitoring system. Judge Luoma reiterated that he doesn't care who manages the tether system, but he does believe the system will generate revenue for the County and keep people out of jail. Commissioner Pullen explained she is not comfortable making a decision without the Sheriff's Department present to clarify some of these issues. Judge Luoma believes having Mr. Stasewich administer the tethers for the court is cost effective and will not increase Mr. Stasewich's hours. The initial revenue has a lag because of billing delays. The projected revenues, so far, are not keeping pace with the expenses of the program. Judge Luoma believes that by adding the tether program revenues can be increased for the program. Commissioner Doucette is still concerned about this program becoming a full time position, and he reiterated that this program will be reevaluated at the end of the year. Judge Luoma agreed that the program will have to be discontinued at the end of the year if it is deemed to be unviable. Mr. Stasewich explained that some organizations are not interested because of the four dollar per day charge. Commissioner Mattson reminded Judge Luoma that initially the program was accepted on the trial basis because it could be a potential revenue source, where at this time it seems to be a cost burden. Mr. Stasewich said there has been a lot of resistance to the fees. Judge Luoma asked the board to be patient and wait to see how the revenue issue pans out over the next three months. Commissioner Mattson also questioned the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Pullen questioned the fees and costs for the tether program. Mr. Stasewich explained that based on the first billing from the tether company, the fees will be paid upfront by the inmate regardless of whether the inmate goes back to jail or continues on the tether. Commissioner Pullen believes that Community Service is important but would like the program to be revenue neutral. There was some discussion as to how program compares to its equivalent in Schoolcraft County. Commissioner Pullen is hesitant because there have been expansions to the job, and she believes that this position was a spring board to get a probation officer, now a tether officer and potentially soon a bailiff. Judge Luoma explained there is zero courtroom security, and he is trying to fill a need. Commissioner Pullen and Judge Luoma discussed the scheduling of a bailiff. Commissioner Mattson is upset that the courtroom does not have security. Mr. Stasewich elaborated on organizations that are currently using the tether program, as well as those that will not due to the required daily fees. Judge Luoma reiterated that it is too early to come to any conclusions regarding the program and he would like to reevaluate in three months. Commissioner Rondeau explained that he believes even if the program pays for a majority of the program, it is well worth the money. Commissioner Pullen would like to see Judge Luoma attend a Law Enforcement meeting to further discuss courtroom security. Mr. Stasewich believes the tethers are a wonderful tool and said he is available to administer the program. There was some further discussion regarding the fees and conditions of bond. It was the consensus of the board to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Community Service Officer. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Commissioner Pullen said she spoke with Kristine Kolbus regarding grant monies received that the Animal Shelter would like to use to renovate the Cat Room. Commissioner Pullen was insistent that the work must use an all-volunteer workforce. Commissioner Pullen would like to see action taken and reaffirmed at the full board. Murray Donnelly explained that the Animal Shelter is a county owned building and any construction must comply with building codes and the American with Disabilities Act. Commissioner Pullen will check with Joe Cilc regarding the necessary codes. This item will be discussed further at the regular board meeting next Monday.

Murray Donnelly explained two potential mowers for Hanley Field, one is industrial and another is more residential. Amy Richmond questioned if it would be cheaper to bid out the mowing of Hanley Field. Murray noted that about four years ago the bids received to perform mowing services were expensive. Leota Paquette noted that there are many more people and companies available now. Commissioner Pullen asked if bidding out for mowing services would make sense. There was some discussion regarding the benefits of paying for mowing services as opposed to purchasing mowing equipment. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to advertise for mowing services for Hanley Field, bids to be due by July 28, 2017. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondea, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the submission of the Summary Annual Report to Michigan Department of Treasury and post a notice on the County website in compliance with Act 530 of 2016. This will be added to the consent agenda.

Discuss County Administrator contract. Commissioner Pullen was under the impression that the language used in the contract was from 2004 and that there is potentially new language available from Michigan State University. Commissioner Mattson spoke with Marquette County Commissioner Gerald Corkin regarding their Administrator's contract which runs for three years. Mary Ann Froberg will forward Marquette County's contract to the Board. Commissioner Rondeau stated he has a problem paying an employee more for the duties of County Administrator, which is a job he does not know, than for Emergency Management, which is the job he has the experience for. Commissioner Rondeau believes the position should start at \$55,000 with step increases. Commissioner Doucette took into consideration numerous aspects of Steve Webber's history, skills and knowledge when he started moving forward with the Administrator position. Commissioner Rondeau reminded the board that he has no experience as an Administrator and believes he is being overpaid. Commissioner Pullen noted Mr. Webber's experience as a sheriff's deputy, Emergency Management Administrator, and negotiations. Commissioner Doucette said that finding a County Administrator who is willing to work eight hours per week would be impossible, especially if you include the required Emergency Management duties.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the UPAAA FY2018 Annual Implementation Plan for services to Upper Peninsula Older Adults. This will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no cost savings ideas / revenue sources.

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.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot will have more information next week after his committee meetings. Commissioner Mattson spoke with Marquette County and Schoolcraft County regarding Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) as Alger County is receiving almost \$40,000 less than expected. Commissioner Doucette contacted Jonathan Sheffield at NACo who explained that \$480 million in PILT monies were allocated but only \$465 million was approved. Commissioner Mattson said this does not explain why Alger County PILT revenue was cut by 12%. Commissioner Rondeau explained the Road Commission said no-parking signs will be posted on the Highway by the Eben Ice Caves. Commissioner Pullen noted the airport mower needs repairs and contacted Dick Bowerman about mowing Hanley Field. Commissioner Pullen also explained that a plan should be discussed regarding Indigent Defense. This issue will be discussed further at the judicial meeting next month.

Correspondence were briefly read from the Department of the Interior regarding PILT; MMRMA refund from Schoolcraft County; Schedule of Proposed Action for Hiawatha; LMAS Board Minutes.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau briefly spoke about recent healthcare and Medicare reports.

Staff comments were next. Leota Paquette noted the lack of courtroom security is because the Sheriff's Department if not being notified. There was some discussion regarding the Community Corrections program and the courtroom security situation.

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

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk