

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
June 20, 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. There was no public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

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

Commissioner Rondeau started with he would like to see a cost analysis and needs analysis for the County Administrator's position. He is also unaware if there are benefits being offered. There was some discussion regarding posting the position, the job description and the openness of the hiring process. Commissioner Doucette elaborated on Steve Webber's knowledge of county departments. Commissioner Rondeau recalls that Commissioner Doucette was seeking to place Steve Webber in a position, not necessarily as the administrator. Commissioner Rondeau feels the job description puts too much power in the hands of the administrator. There was further discussion regarding the wording of the job description versus other county administrator postings. Commissioner Pullen wanted to make it clear that 32 hours of wages will be paid out of Emergency Management. Commissioner Pullen also noted that eight hours per week of administration does not give much time for administrator duties. Commissioner Pullen said this is a chance to start building towards a fulltime administrator. Commissioner Rondeau was unaware that such a large portion of the administrator's wages would be paid from Emergency Management. Commissioner Doucette does not have the details for a benefit package ready for approval today. Chairman Doucette is working with the Vice Chair to determine what, if any, benefits will be offered for review by the July meeting. Commissioner Mattson noted that the need and desire for a county administrator has been a long time coming. Commissioner Rondeau reiterated he would like to know the costs associated with hiring an administrator. There was some explanation by the clerk as to the salary that was previously discussed. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he sees mostly good in this situation and agrees that Mr. Webber is capable and he believes it is time the board moves forward. Commissioner Rondeau believes at this time, Alger County is not financially out of the woods yet and adding a \$70,000 salary to the county payroll is not good business. Commissioner Mattson explained that \$70,000 is not being added, as the bulk of this salary is coming from Emergency Management. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to appoint Steve Webber as the County Administrator with the new job description and have a full benefit package available for the July 10, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – Commissioner Rondeau. Absent – none.

Public comment session was open. Leota Paquette is requesting the breakdown showing what portion Emergency Management is paying for versus Alger County. Ms. Paquette also stated that \$70,000 for a position that requires no experience or education is excessive. Lastly, Ms. Paquette questioned what happened to the no retire/rehire policy. It was discussed that the past practice as experienced in Marquette and other counties does not apply in the situation and has changed. The example of Karen Gurski's rehiring was mentioned. Commissioner Mattson stated that in that situation Judge Luoma acted without the board's blessing. Ms. Gurski was the first retiree rehired that this board had to address. There was discussion regarding the job description of the administrator. Commissioner Doucette said that any questions that the board does not have an answer for at this moment will be available as soon as possible. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment session was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to adjourn this meeting at 5:45 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