

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

October 15, 2018

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. Thomas Bowler from Au Train Township was present to discuss building permits and fire department accessibility to structures. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to amend the agenda to include Letter of Support for Commission on Aging under unfinished business. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

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

Authorize signing the 2019 Drug Court Grant;

Affirm Letter of Support for ALTRAN;

Reappoint Paulette Kivel to DHHS for a three-year term ending 12/31/2021;

Approve AlgerCounty.Gov domain;

Approve Veteran's Millage Rate at .10;

Approve the 911 Millage Rate .40;

Approve the Third-Party Administrative Services for the county's health and life insurances with 44 North;

Authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly mental health appropriation in the amount of \$8,305 (101-649-969.000);

Authorize payment of board bills;

Approve Financial Reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available);

Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$840.41 from the general fund sheriff department (101-301) into D.A.R.E / NorthCare Fund #205;

Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$501.76 from the general fund road patrol (101-333) into Snowmobile Fund #206;

Authorize the treasurer to amend the general fund Veterans Affairs Transfer-In revenues (101-684) in the amount of \$6,000;

Authorize the clerk to amend the general fund Veterans Burial expenditures (101-684) in the amount of \$6,000;

Authorize the treasurer to transfer the remainder from Veterans Trust Fund #294 into Veterans Fund #293;

Approve **Resolution #2018-16** Opposing Senate Bill 396

WHEREAS, Roads are the backbone to the social, cultural and economic stability of Alger County and the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 396 (S-5) passed and reported out of the Senate Transportation Committee on September 6, 2018 allows exemptions from seasonal weight restrictions (aka "frost laws") to the forest product industry during the spring thaw when roads are the most vulnerable to damage from heavy loads; and

WHEREAS, It is a fact in Alger County and throughout the northern states that roads become soft in the spring and applying unrestricted 164,000-pound truck loading on soft roads defies common sense and a law allowing such nonsense is poor public policy; and

WHEREAS, SB-396 also grants exemptions to the forest industry that will allow the hauling of forest products and transport of equipment on the public road system without obtaining proper permits from road authorities at all times of the year; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 396 WILL result in damage to the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 396 WILL negatively impact the traveling public accessing the road system, resulting in burdening road authorities with expensive reactive maintenance repairs and significantly increased taxpayer costs to maintain the public road system; and

WHEREAS, the provisions in SB 396 and subsequent impacts to the local road system WILL negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of Alger County residents and the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Road Commission and the other road commissions throughout the Upper Peninsula work closely with the logging industry to keep the economic vitality of the County and the Upper Peninsula moving by continuously monitoring road conditions and permitting the logging industry to move equipment and material on roads when the roads can structurally support such loading without negatively impacting the road system and the traveling public;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby STRONGLY opposes SB 396; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a vote hereon be taken by aye and nay and spread at large on the minutes of the Board;

Approve **Resolution #2018-17** Seeking Equality in State Economic Development Funding for Local Economic Development Organizations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

WHEREAS, all 15 counties of the Upper Peninsula are rural and experience unemployment rates higher than the national average and higher than the counties in the lower peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Michigan, created the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to address and alleviate high unemployment throughout the State of Michigan by assisting in business attraction, retention and growth, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Business Development Program was created by the Legislature and placed under the direction of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to further facilitate the attraction, retention and growth of businesses by funding the Michigan Business Development Program through the Michigan Strategic Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation over the last four years, has through the Michigan Business Development Program, provided more than 235 grants totaling in excess of \$200 million, to businesses to relocate in Michigan, to retain existing businesses and to expand and grow existing businesses, and

WHEREAS, the 15 counties of the Upper Peninsula have only received 2 grants under the Michigan Business Development Program amounting to \$400,000.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners requests that the appropriate Legislative organizations to review and provide input on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and the Michigan Business Development Program grant procedures and guidelines to ensure programs and funding is made available and is awarded in an equitable manner to all counties of Michigan, specifically the rural counties in the Upper Peninsula;

Approve **Resolution #2018-18** Supporting Ojibway Correctional Facility

- WHEREAS**, the State of Michigan Department of Corrections (DOC) has announced that the Ojibway Correctional Facility (OCF) in Marenisco Township, which is in Gogebic County, will be closed effective December 1, 2018;
- WHEREAS**, the Gogebic County Facility is one of many historical examples of where a U.P. county stepped up to help the State by agreeing to place a prison in their area despite local resident opposition;
- WHEREAS**, the OCF has been one of the most effectively operated prison facilities among the DOC's facilities; and
- WHEREAS**, OCF employs approximately 210 employees, and the payroll of those employees has a large economic impact, over \$55 million, on the County, as well as significant future impact on overcrowding of its county jail; and
- WHEREAS**, one of the factors used to determine which facility would be closed was the distance that family has to travel to visit their loved ones at OCF; and
- WHEREAS**, the Department of Corrections has Upper Peninsula prison inmates within the system, scattered throughout the DOC facilities; and
- WHEREAS**, if one of the factors in determining the OCF closure was distance to visit inmates, then obviously Upper Peninsula Facilities should be utilized for housing of Upper Michigan inmates;
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the U.P. Association of County Commissioners strongly favors the continued operation of the Ojibway Correctional Facility in Marenisco Township, Gogebic County Michigan, as a vital facility for the DOC and housing unit for Upper Peninsula prison inmates, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that before any future Upper Peninsula prison is proposed for closure including the Ojibway Prison, an independent economic impact analysis must be conducted and funded by the State of Michigan. The State of Michigan shall also be required to provide adequate financial resources and economic aid and a facility re-use plan to mitigate the economic impact, loss of jobs, loss of local tax revenues and subsequent overcrowding of local county jails.
- BE FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to U.P. Legislators, Governor Snyder, the MDOC Director, and all Upper Peninsula-counties.

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 approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of September 10, 2018. 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 approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of September 17, 2018. 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 VanLandschoot to approve the Agreement for Extension Services with MSU Extension. 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 Excel Fire Protection Co., Inc. Contract for Automatic Sprinkler Equipment Inspection Service. 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 VanLandschoot to authorize replacing dispatch pc and LEIN pc in the amount of \$3,952.10. Motion carried by the

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

There was some discussion regarding board approval for grant monies. Occasionally, due to time constraints, there may not be enough time for the Board of Commissioners to approve a grant application before it is due. All grants and contracts should come before the board for approval; however, time-sensitive matters can be signed but should be affirmed by the full board at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize signing L4029 with rates approved above for the 911 millage and veteran’s millage. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Unfinished business was next. Commissioner Pullen explained the Letter of Support for Commission on Aging grant monies was not ready for Board approval before the application was submitted. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Letter of Support for Commission on Aging. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

There were no committee reports.

Correspondence was briefly read from Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen’s Advisory Council for the Department of Natural Resources; and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau is concerned about chronic wasting disease and will be attending a Department of Natural Resources meeting concerning the issue. Commissioner Pullen discussed the Legislative Coalition. Commissioner Doucette wished the Commissioners good luck in the upcoming election.

Staff comments were next. Steve Webber discussed the Stonegarden Grant which includes requests for purchase of a snowmobile, vehicle, vests and other equipment. Mr. Webber explained the new security cameras require a new computer due to the number of cameras. The State of Michigan will be upgrading to a T2 line for the Friend of the Court. There was some discussion regarding a first responder in Burt Township and ambulance runs to Luce County.

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