

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

January 8, 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, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent – Commissioner Rondeau.

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 authorize the treasurer to submit the grant application for a new police vehicle in the approximate amount of \$50,000. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There were no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their mental health quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305.00. Those monies are to come from their appropriation (101-649-969.000). This will be added to the consent agenda. The item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all the board bills as recommended by the audit committee. This is to be added to the consent agenda. The item will 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 clerk to transfer between 2017 general fund budgets. The item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer the 2018 appropriations between general funds to individual funds. The item will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize Resolution #2018-01 Opposing HB 5096-5098:

WHEREAS, HB 5096-5098 seek to amend various local government statutes and the County Road Law in a way that would significantly reduce the ability of local governments, county road agencies, and county drain commissions to charge adequate fees, provide safe and reasonable criteria to access public jurisdictions, and collect adequate bonding should these properties be damaged and need restoration from telecommunication providers and their contractors that wish to work, install, and maintain cable, fiber optics, extended poles/antennas, towers, and power units on public properties; and

WHEREAS, the effect of these bills would force local governments, county road agencies, public works departments, and drain commissions to subsidize telecommunications with local and Michigan Transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, as legal guardians of the public property and road right-of-way, local governments, county road agencies and drain commissions must ensure work in their jurisdictions is performed safely, does not damage our infrastructure, and meets engineering

standards (above/below ground), along with federal and state requirements; and

WHEREAS, local governments and county road agencies do not profit by issuing permits, but simply recover the costs of issuing permits, making site inspections, and performing related tasks; and when the project is completed, funds should be reconciled with the permit holder; and

WHEREAS, HB 5096-5098 limit fees to \$300 per permit or \$1,000 on multiple projects; and

WHEREAS, this fee system with HB 5096-5098 has the potential to become an unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, such a “one-size-fits-all” fee does not account for the type of work planned in a rural or urban setting, nor does it consider the risks a project may pose, and in general the Bills supplant engineering-based management with a “cookie-cutter” approach that puts public resources and workers at risk; and

WHEREAS, HB 5096-5098 limit security/bonding to \$20,000 regardless of the potential risk and damage beyond that amount, rural vs. urban setting, and requires that bonds be returned within 60 days after a project is completed, even if damage is being contested; and

WHEREAS, these Bills do not take into consideration the statewide ramifications and precedent that these bills would create; and

WHEREAS, that while the telecommunications industry may be able to point to isolated instances of local obstacles, it is certainly not a statewide problem; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes HB 5096-5098 and strongly urges State Representative Cambensy and Senator Casperson to oppose HB 5096-5098 as well; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Snyder, Representative Cambensy, Senator Casperson, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the other 82 counties.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. This item will be reaffirmed at the Regular Board meeting.

Commissioner VanLandschoot will have AMCAB reports next week. Commissioner Mattson spoke on the budget and E-Cigarettes. Commissioner Pullen said that no action has yet been taken regarding Commission on Aging trackers. Commissioner Doucette announced there is a DNR education training at 387 for 9-11 Grant writing.

Correspondence was briefly read from Houghton County, MMRMA and, Forest Service.

Commissioner Doucette announced there is an UPPCO Public Input Forum at America Legion January 18 between 3pm and 7pm

There were no staff comments.

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 4:42 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk