

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING**

**November 18, 2019**

**Approved December 16, 2019**

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. There was no public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the agenda as presented. 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 consent agenda which includes the following items:

Affirm authorizing opting out of PA 152;

Affirm authorizing the same insurance package with 16% employee contribution and 25% HRA utilization;

Affirm authorizing that dependents eligibility on health insurance ends the last day of the month turning 26;

Affirm authorize closing MERS Division 1 and Division 14;

Affirm authorize purchasing a new computer for the Register's office in the amount of \$988 (Fund #256);

Affirm approving application process for a new track machine and new truck;

Affirm authorize advertising for snow plowing and for audit services;

Affirm authorize purchasing tax/parcel/deed/911 integration system for GIS from Coleman Engineering in the amount of \$20,000 (\$5,000 annual maintenance cost). Monies are to come from Title III;

Affirm authorize selling Alger County's GIS data;

Approve retiree health insurance reimbursement payment policy;

Authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,049;

Approve payment of all Board Bills;

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

Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$2,661 from CPL Transfer into General Fund Transfer in CPL;

Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in General Fund Transfer in CPL in the amount of \$2,661;

Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the clerk's budget in the amount of \$2,661;

Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$44,300 from 911 Fund #264 into General Fund Transfer in 911;

Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in General Fund Transfer in 911 in the amount of \$44,300;

Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the jail in the amount of \$44,300;

Authorize the clerk to transfer between budgets:

\*\$10,000 from Probate Court budget into the Jail budget

\*\$10,000 from Elections budget into the Jail budget

\*\$40,000 from the Prosecuting Attorney budget into the Jail budget

\*\$20,000 from the Building & Grounds budget into the Jail budget

\*\$9,000 from the Airport budget into the Jail Budget

\*\$513.50 from the Circuit Court budget into the advertising budget

\*\$1,987.87 from the Circuit Court budget into the Park Patrol budget

\*\$100 from the Circuit Court budget into the Computers budget

\*\$1,121.14 from the Circuit Court budget into the Bond Payment budget ;

**WHEREAS** the 1963 Michigan Constitution stipulated four-year terms for the county Board of Supervisors, the preceding body to today's Board of Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS** the Legislature voted in 1966 to abolish Boards of Supervisors and formally replace them with Boards of Commissioners after the 1968 elections; and

**WHEREAS** Public Act 261 of 1966 promulgated that the length of terms for the new county commissioners shall be concurrent with that of state representatives, as specified in Article IV, section 3 of the Michigan Constitution; and

**WHEREAS** the scope of duties of a county commissioner has greatly increased in the last century —road patrols, indigent defense, mental health treatment and substance abuse prevention programming, solid waste pick-up and disposal, food and water supply safety, park operations, economic development efforts, emergency management and response; and

**WHEREAS** Michigan is one of only five states in the United States that provides for exclusively two-year terms for county commissioners; and

**WHEREAS** all other county and township elected officials in Michigan are elected to terms of at least four years; and

**WHEREAS** the position of county commissioner is a highly complex oversight role that requires years to master; and

**WHEREAS** legislation to amend state law to enact four-year terms has been filed in the form of House bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan Association of Counties supports the legislation as introduced;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports House Bills 4937-38 and Senate Bills 504-505 to enact four-year terms for county commissioners.

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 Rondeau to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of October 15, 2019. 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 Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of October 21, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Nathan Michaels from U.S. Census Bureau was present to discuss the 2020 Census. Nathan explained that the census is a constitutional mandate, postcards will go out to the public soon, and the Census Bureau is hiring to help with counting the population.

Andrew Wilcoxon from Gabridge & Co. was present to discuss the 2018 Alger County audit. Andrew noted that the State of Michigan suggests a 17% general fund balance. There was some discussion regarding Pensions and Other Post Employment Benefits. It was Andrews opinion that the overall fund balance is in a good position.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Retiree Insurance Opt-Out Policy:

#### **Alger County Retiree Insurance Opt-Out Policy**

**Alger County employees who qualify for Employer provided retiree medical coverage may opt-out of employer-sponsored group coverage on an annual basis.**

**Evidence of alternative group coverage will be required annually during open enrollment.**

**Retirees eligible for 100% employer paid coverage, may select to receive in lieu of insurance payment in the amount of 50% of the cost of coverage, up to the then-current annual maximum.**

**Retirees eligible for 50% employer paid coverage, may select to receive in lieu of insurance payment in the amount of 25% of the cost of coverage, up to the then-current annual maximum.**

**Retirees eligible for 50% (with capped amount) employer paid coverage, may select to receive in lieu of insurance payment in the amount of 50% of the cost of coverage, up to 100% of the cap.**

**After November 18, 2019, all retirees eligible for payment in lieu of insurance will be required to open a Health Care Savings Program (HCSP) account with MERS.**

**Payments into the HCSP account will be made on a monthly basis.**

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 Dental & Vision Insurance Eligibility and Payment Policy:

**Alger County Board of Commissioners  
Employer Group Dental & Vision Insurance Eligibility Policy**

**Each annual open enrollment, Alger County Commissioners will have the opportunity to enroll in the county group dental and vision insurance plans. Coverage will be effective the first day of the next plan year.**

**The Alger County Insurance Committee will review the enrollment census and renewal rates as to determine if such enrollments will adversely impact the overall annual renewal or plan design. The Insurance Committee will make a recommendation at the following Board of Commissioners meeting regarding Commissioner eligibility for the next plan year.**

**Each year the Board of Commissioners will consider the Insurance Committee's recommendation and vote to determine the eligibility of County Commissioners for employer group dental and vision insurance.**

**When it is determined that County Commissioners are eligible, they will be responsible for 100% of the cost of the plans. Pre-payment is due bi-annually to the Alger County Treasurer the December before the effective plan year and again in June of the effective plan year.**

**If coverage is terminated prematurely, any reimbursement that is owed for the pre-payment will be issued to the payer via an accounts payable check.**

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

There was no unfinished business.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Commissioner VanLandschoot updated the board concerning road construction. Commissioner Mattson attended the regional government meeting hosted by Rock River Township and most discussion was regarding Marijuana Ordinances and short-term vacation rentals. Commissioner Pullen noted that an erosion resolution is forthcoming and gave an Animal Shelter update. Commissioner Doucette hopes everyone has a safe holiday. Commissioner Mattson noted that Alger County is in good shape financially but that the State of Michigan needs to release the monies that are owed to the counties. Commissioner Rondeau went hunting. There was some discussion regarding Swamp Tax monies. Commissioner Doucette explained that an alternative budget needs to be planned and discussion to begin to consider cuts to the 2020 budget.

Correspondence was briefly read.

Robert Steinhoff would like to see proposed 2020 budget cuts applied proportionately. The first trial regarding marijuana will begin Monday. Pamela Johnson commented on the 2020 budget and involving department heads in the process to propose cuts.

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 VanLandschoot 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.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk