

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

April 8, 2019

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. Robert Steinhoff, newly appointed Prosecuting Attorney, was present to introduce himself to the board. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The agenda was presented. Steve Webber asked to move items 7, 8 & 9 after financial matters.

Undersheriff Blank explained the need for increased storage space in the ambulance garage. Labor for the project will be performed by Bryan Hill and Lt. Matthew Waldron. There was some discussion regarding rescue fees for negligent rescues. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Sheriff to purchase lumber for a storage area in the ambulance garage. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Sheriff to purchase flooring from Flynn's Flooring, Inc. in the amount of \$906.00 for an office in the Sheriff's Department. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Sheriff to purchase a new console for 9-1-1 dispatch so they can communicate with the road commissioner in the amount of \$7,256. Monies are to come from Wireless 911 Fund #265. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Sheriff to purchase and install a fire alarm system for the ambulance garage with Superiorland Electronics for \$1,569 and with Range Telecommunications for \$2,974.51. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Prosecuting Attorney Robert Steinhoff interpreted Administrative Order 2019-1 as the responsibility of the Chief Judge to establish.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve a letter of support for the Alger Conservation District. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize renewing the postage machine lease with Pitney Bowes. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Paulette Kivel to the Jury Board another term expiring 4/30/2025. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Steve Webber explained that Dulcee Ranta was not present for discussion. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the 2019 County Equalization Report L-4024. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting.

There were no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

There was no unfinished business.

It was the consensus of the board to approve quarterly mental health appropriation for the period ending 6/30/2019 in the amount of \$8,305. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills as recommended by the Audit Committee. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board approve Financial Reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available). This item will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no miscellaneous matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to go into closed session to read, review and discuss attorney client privileged opinion from Cohl, Stoker and Toskey, P.C. dated April 8, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

*** CLOSED SESSION ***

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to come out of closed session. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

No action was taken in closed session.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to terminate the Public Defender effective immediately. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting. Prosecuting Attorney Robert Steinhoff noted that as far as the motion is concerned and blocking access to files, he does not believe there is a concern there. If harm were to be done to those files or their integrity compromised in any way it would be an extreme ethical breach and violation of Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct, which would be an offense that would almost certainly result in revocation or suspension of a law license. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to hire an interim Public Defender for 90 days at which time will be discussed again. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize labor attorney fees associated with legal opinion offered for Public Defender position. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none. This item will be affirmed at the next regular board meeting.

Commissioner Pullen explained that the Resolutions Committee does not recommend passage of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission resolution. Commissioner Rondeau met with Veterans Officers in Escanaba and explained that a grant was submitted that night for training in Frankenmuth. There was some discussion regarding the Veterans Affairs Service Officer position and forthcoming interviews starting at 9:00 a.m. on April 11, 2019.

Correspondence was briefly read from LMAS; USDA; Dykema.

Commissioner Pullen said good job. Commissioner Mattson and VanLandschoot welcomed Mr. Steinhoff. Commissioner Doucette said it is sad about the Public Defender, but this is what the board is elected to do. Commissioner Doucette explained the NACo app “Test It,” which transmits cellphone signal strength data to NACo for prioritizing federal attention. Commissioner Doucette briefly spoke about contacts and information from the Michigan Association of Counties conference that he attended.

Sheriff Brock commended the board for putting the integrity of the county first today and welcomed Robert Steinhoff. Mr. Steinhoff is happy be back in Alger County and will strive to maintain the positive impact of law enforcement and complimented the reports he has read so far from the Sheriff's Department. Steve Webber thanked everyone for their time and the work put in. Mary Ann Froberg welcomed Robert Steinhoff. Robert Steinhoff will explore his liability regarding opinions on county matters.

Public comment session was open. There was some discussion regarding billing for negligent rescues. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk