

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

**December 9, 2019**

**Approved January 21, 2020**

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 the consensus of the board to accept the agenda as presented.

It was the consensus of the board to approve a 36-month contract with Thompson Reuters in the amount of \$49.87 per month. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve 2020 Cost of Living payments to retirees in the amount of \$484.22. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to appoint Jerry Doucette, Mary Ann Froberg, and Pam Johnson to the Alger County Brownfield Authority for a three-year term ending 12/31/2022. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to appoint Jerry Doucette and Mary Ann Froberg to the Alger County Land Bank Authority for a three-year term ending 12/31/2022. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Ambulance millage language to be put on the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary election was discussed.

2020 General Fund, and funds budgets were briefly discussed.

Sheriff Brock explained potential savings for medical costs by enrolling into Blue Cross Blue Shield group for Alger County Inmates.

There was no unfinished business.

There were no appropriations.

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

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to transfer \$2,000 from the general fund treasure's budget into the general fund law library. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer from the general fund law library into fund #269 law library. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was the consensus of the board to approve resolution **#2019-24 Emergency Management and Safe Schools:**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of School Safety created under Michigan Public Act (PA) 435 of 2018, alongside Michigan Public Act 670 of 2018, identifies the department of Michigan State Police as being the exclusive agency responsible for all Michigan schools with respect to, but not limited to education, training, reporting, and building assessments pertaining to safety and security using an all-hazards approach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Upper Peninsula (Region 8) Public Act 390 programs, have been undertaking safe school training and safe school professional development since 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, current Michigan law requires Emergency Management to oversee school drills; and

**WHEREAS**, the appointment of school safety to the department of Michigan State Police circumvents the underlying core function of emergency management, which is placing school safety programs under the umbrella of all-hazards emergency management planning; and

**WHEREAS**, local responders and local Public Act 390 emergency management programs are far more aware of school dynamics, as they have on-going working relationships with school staff, regularly communicate, plan, and exercise emergency action plans with said schools; and

**WHEREAS**, funds for a new division could be better used by redistributing to existing local emergency management Public Act 390 programs that are already providing safe school protocols in their respective jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of School Safety should be established within the Michigan State Police department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (MSP EMHSD), which under Michigan Public Act 390 of 1978 statutorily appoints the MSP EMHSD as the administrator of emergency management within Michigan and the fiduciary for the distribution of grant monies across all of Michigan's 83 counties in collaboration with local emergency managers.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Alger County requests the Michigan Legislature amend the Office of School Safety placing it within the MSP EMHSD to coordinate the distribution of school security funds with local community response personnel and local Public Act 390 emergency managers.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all Upper Peninsula counties, the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP), the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Association of Counties, Upper Peninsula Legislators, and Governor Whitmer.

This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Commissioner Pullen discussed the law library. Commissioner Rondeau noted that the Delta County Chamber may be contacted to make suggestions for the V.A. Museum. Commissioner Doucette attended a Motorola conference and explained that some equipment will need to be updated soon.

Correspondence was briefly read.

Commissioner Mattson is glad the budget was resolved and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Rondeau noted that Governor Whitmer was in Israel while the budget was not settled. Commissioner Pullen wished everyone a Merry Christmas and noted that snow is already a problem. Commissioner Doucette commented that Alger County is looking good to close out FY2019.

Steve Webber elaborated on problems that arose during the recent storm. Robert Steinhoff noted that first trial regarding driving under the influence of marijuana has been resolved; Mr. Steinhoff has also been assigned by the State Attorney General to an arson/attempted murder case in St. Ignace. Sheriff Brock congratulated Robert Steinhoff on the marijuana conviction and would also like to see Alger County financially support UPSET. Commissioner Mattson would like see documentation concerning Alger County's support for other agencies. Undersheriff Blank noted that Alger, the department's K-9, is coming along well. Pam Johnson noted that something must be done concerning the drug problem.

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 6:05 p.m.

---

Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

---

Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk