

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

July 13, 2020

Approved August 17, 2020

Pursuant to recess, the Alger County Board of Commissioners convened via GoToMeeting 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.

Steve Webber explained that the county wi-fi needs upgrading to keep up with the increase in users.

It was the consensus of the board to add Discuss Wi-Fi upgrade as item #15 and accept the agenda as amended.

Chuck Bouth presented scenarios for opening the courthouse. There was some discussion regarding increasing recommended social distancing to ten feet. Mr. Bouth commented that the type of facemask required to enter the building may need to be reviewed. The definition of “indoor public spaces” will need to be researched. Commissioner Doucette is concerned about the direction the coronavirus situation in the state is heading. Sgt. Peters elaborated on the current situation of each department checking-in their own visitors. Steve Webber explained that there have been issues with the courts. Sgt. Peters explained each of the other U.P. counties’ opening status. Sgt. Peters would like to see a return to normalcy. There was some discussion about supplying hand sanitizer and masks. Commissioner VanLandschoot would like feedback from more employees. Commissioner Mattson is not opposed to waiting another month to review the results from local testing.

Matt Watkeys, Conservation Forester explained that the Airport Committee opened sealed bids on June 10, 2020 and he contacted the highest bidder which was Bear Creek Logging. Mr. Watkeys drew up a tentative contract to be reviewed by the county’s legal counsel. Commissioner Pullen read the top three highest bidders and would like to set up a tentative date and time for Chairman Doucette to sign the Hanley Airfield Timber Sale Contract. Mr. Watkeys is pleased with his conversation with the logger regarding the payment schedule, job details, and expectations. Commissioner Rondeau explained that the loggers most recent job in Manistique received high praise. Commissioner Rondeau thanked Mr. Watkeys for doing the consulting work on this project for free.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize transference of the Hanley Airfield Timber Sale Contract to Roger Zappa to review for approval at next weeks’ board meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was the consensus of the board to purchase 7 new pagers for the ambulance service through ELCOM in the total amount of \$2,682.75 – monies to come from the ambulance fund. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve wiring for air compressor, heater, and 2 receptacles with steel covers, etc. (see sheet) in the ambulance garage with Milloy Electric in the amount of \$1,337.50 – monies to come from ambulance fund. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Bryan Hill will consult with Chad Morrison and get a total cost to paint all the necessary cell walls and ceiling to be able to wash off to prevent mold because of condensation.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize purchasing remote speaker mics and cases from ELCOM in the amount of \$1,722 – monies to come from the 911 fund. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to hire an attorney regarding a soil erosion problem – monies to come from the building department fund. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to preserve three vital record books with Kofile in the approximate amount of \$8,000 – monies to come from the clerk’s budget. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize moving forward with pricing wi-fi signal amplifiers for the courthouse building. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources

Unfinished Business

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

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,049.00 (101-601-969.000). 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.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer cost allocation from funds to general fund (see sheet). This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer amounts from funds to general fund per budgets (see sheet). This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to create fund #538 for remonumentation. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer remaining revenue from remonumentation fund #701-000-230.010 to fund #538 remonumentation fund. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$60,000 from general fund capital improvement to fund #404 capital improvement fund. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Commissioner Pullen explained that there will be several resolutions next week for the board’s consideration.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Rondeau explained that the fair has been postponed until next year.

Correspondence was briefly read.

Commissioner Rondeau thanked Matt Watkeys and Chuck Bouth for their work on Hanley Field and Emergency Management, respectively. Commissioner Mattson also thanked Chuck Bouth and the airport committee. Commissioner Doucette briefly updated the board concerning hazard pay for first responders, Executive Order 147, and the closing of the Forest Lake Dam.

Steve Webber explained that the sheriff’s department has received their side-by-side and the new boat with the remaining equipment is coming soon. Chuck Bouth briefly explained forthcoming emergency management developments as well as signage that was offered at a discount by Munising News. Sgt. Peters briefly explained the upcoming COVID-19 testing in Alger County and elsewhere across the Upper Peninsula.

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 6:30 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk