

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY**

April 19, 2021

Approved May 17, 2021

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 Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, 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 Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Pullen would like to amend the agenda to include “Airport Discussion” under Miscellaneous Financial Matters. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the consent agenda which includes the following items:

Approve Alger County Equalization Report;

Affirm Authorizing a Resolution Extending a Local State of Emergency;

Affirm Authorizing a new Declaration of Local State of Emergency;

Affirm Authorizing payment to Skip’s Auto Repair for the 2017 ambulance in the amount of \$3,423.50;

Affirm Authorizing payment to Riverside Auto Sales for Building Codes truck in the amount of \$1,312.05;

Affirm Authorizing payment for new inmate mattresses in the amount of \$3,696 – monies to come from the commissary fund;

Affirm Authorizing the chair to send out a letter to the township supervisors and board members regarding HB 4590;

Affirm Authorizing up to six members/staff to attend he MAC Conference;

Approve payment of all Board Bills;

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

Authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,049 (101-601-969.000);

Authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305 (101-649-969.000);

Approve Resolution #2021-03 Support of Local Businesses;

Approve Resolution #2021-05 Support for Updating Part 115, Michigan’s Solid Waste Law;

Approve Resolution #2021-08 Fee Diversion;

Approve Proclamation Deeming April 30 “National Therapy Animal Day.”

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of March 8, 2021. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of March 15, 2021. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to postpone approving a copier bid until further discussion. This will be brought to the May Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Robert Steinhoff explained the Prosecuting Attorney 2020 Year End Report.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize payment of up to \$1,500 for an experienced campground architect, familiar with Hanley Field to perform a feasibility study regarding establishment of a campground on the airport property – monies are to come from the Airport Fund #295. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize advertising for Request for Proposals for laying of a concrete slab for the building at the airport. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to amend the motion to add “and all associated costs to put up the building with a licensed contractor.” Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve **Resolution #2021-09 Resolution Urging Compromise that Would Release Relief Funds.** Commissioner Laing would like to review this resolution’s language and postpone until next month. Commissioner Pullen withdrew her motion.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve **Resolution #2021-10 Resolution to Remove Section 928:**

WHEREAS, the Alger County Commission having entered into an enabling resolution to create the Pathways Community Mental Health Authority pursuant to Section 100 et seq. and Section 205 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, as amended (MCL330.1100 et seq; MCL330.1205) with Alger, Luce, Delta & Marquette Counties; and

WHEREAS, Pathways Community Mental Health Authority is a community mental health authority of the counties of Alger, Luce, Delta & Marquette Counties, organized under the terms of Section 204(a) of the Michigan Mental Health Code (the Code), (MCL330.1204[a]); and

WHEREAS, Section 116(b) of the Code (MCL330.1116[b]) requires that the Department of Community Health shift primary responsibility for the direct delivery of public mental health services from the state to a community mental health services program whenever the community mental health services program has demonstrated a willingness and capacity to provide an adequate and appropriate system of mental health services for the citizens of that service area; and

WHEREAS, Pathways Community Mental Health has demonstrated such willingness and capacity to provide community mental health services for over the past 40 years and is properly certified as a community mental health services program under the terms of Section 232(a) of the Code (MCL330.1232[a]); and

WHEREAS, Section 202(1) of the Code (MCL330.1202[1]) requires that the state shall financially support, in accordance with chapter 3, community mental health services programs that have been established and that are administered according to the provisions of this chapter; and

WHEREAS, there are also established in the state entities known as Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), which receive Medicaid funds and distribute them to Community Mental Health Services Programs and other Medicaid providers; and

WHEREAS, Appropriations Bill Public Act 207 of 2018, Article X, Part 2 Provisions Concerning Appropriations, General Sections, Behavioral Health Services, Section 928 (1) states, “Each PIHP shall provide, from internal resources, local funds to be used as a bona fide part of the state match required under the Medicaid program in order to increase capitation rates for PIHPs. These funds shall not include either state funds received by a CMHSP for services provided to non-Medicaid recipients or the state matching portion of the Medicaid capitation payments made to a PIHP.”; and;

WHEREAS, Pathways Community Mental Health and the counties that it represents are not a state designated PIHP; and

WHEREAS, the county of Alger has a strong desire to keep local funding at the local level to meet the financial liability of the county pursuant to Section 302(1) of the Code (MCL330.1301[1]) and to respond to the behavioral health needs in this county; and so,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Commissioners strongly supports the withholding of local Alger County funding from the PIHP for the purposes of increasing the Medicaid capitation rate of the PIHP and strongly supports the use of local county funds for local community mental health services as provided for under the Michigan Constitution and Michigan Mental Health Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alger County Commissioners strongly urges its State Senate and House of Representatives members to eliminate similar language mentioned above in future State funding appropriations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator McBroom, Representative Cambensy, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration Deputy Director Allen Jansen, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve **Resolution #2021-11 Support SB 242 & SB 245 to Provide for 4-year County Commissioner Terms:**

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 Senate Bills 242 and 245; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties support the legislation as introduced:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ALGER COUNTY supports Senate Bills 242 and 245 to enact four-year terms for County Commissioners.

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

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed a new resolution for the committee to consider. Commissioner Mattson stated that monthly Brownfield Authority meetings will resume.

Administrator's Report was next. Steve Webber emphasized that a plan for American Rescue Plan (ARP) monies should be made; MAC webinar and revenue-sharing was discussed; MIDC Grant is due; the letter to Sue Cramer is going out; all three courthouse floors have been waxed; Road Patrol and Stonegarden audits went well; all departments are looking for additional staff and monies. Commissioner Doucette noted that many counties do maintain campgrounds. Also, there are many stipulations on ARP monies and MAC suggests counties contact them before using any funds as there will surely be audits.

Correspondence was read from DHHS and will be placed on file.

Commissioner comments were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed MAC alert responses not having the option for title of commissioner, and errors are generated when entering name. Commissioner Laing found the recent medical examiner presentation interesting and inquired what the next step would be. Commissioner Mattson explained that the Sheriff and Prosecutor were going to meet to discuss concerns regarding medical examiner services. Steve Webber said he reached out to the company but has not heard back. Commissioner Rondeau is concerned about increases in felony cases in Alger County and the costs associated with them. Commissioner Doucette briefly discussed solar power.

Staff comments were next. Robert Steinhoff said he has not met with the Sheriff to discuss the medical examiner proposal. Steve Webber is working on details regarding road patrol in Burt Township.

Public comment session was open. There was no public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to adjourn this meeting at 6:05 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk