

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

August 16, 2021

Minutes are subject to change 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 Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Absent – none.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. John Madigan discussed the airport. Liz Weimer discussed the MSU Extension 4H program. Lisa Howard spoke about the airport/ambulance buildings. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda as presented. 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:

Affirm the purchase of Cleary Airport Building in the total amount of \$102,268 (\$71,865 coming from the ambulance fund & \$30,403 coming from the airport fund);

Approve purchasing a new Tahoe and Charger for the Sheriff's Dept with 55% grant from USDA;

Affirm authorizing attendance to the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) Conference September 26-28;

Affirm authorizing attendance to the MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) Conference October 7-8;

Affirm authorizing up to four to attend the PRIA (Property Records Industry Association) Conference August 30 – September 2;

Affirm authoring the clerk to hire a part-time person;

Approve Payment of Board Bills;

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

Amend revenues in reimbursements in the amount of \$18,111 (101-000-676.000);

Amend expenditures in employee fringe benefits health insurance in the amount of \$18,111 (101-862-723.000).

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 July 12, 2021. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of July 19, 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 Child Care Fund Budget for FY 21-22. 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 Pullen to approve Guidehouse as project consultants (ad hoc committee members to be Commissioners Laing & Pullen, and Clerk Froberg & Administrator Webber). 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 FY22 Liquor Tax funds request in the amount of \$3,500 for the MATCP conference in March 2022. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Laing to approve **Resolution #2021-15 Supporting American Rescue Plan State Match Programs:**

WHEREAS the state of Michigan has faced tremendous challenges as it dealt with a deadly pandemic for nearly a year and a half and is now presented with an opportunity to strategically invest in our residents, entrepreneurs, businesses and communities; and

WHEREAS Michigan will receive more than \$10 billion in fiscal recovery aid, with 83 counties slated to get \$1.9 billion directly in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds; and

WHEREAS cities and larger township will receive a total of \$1.8 billion and non-entitlement communities (smaller units) approximately \$644 million, with the state of Michigan itself receiving more than \$6.5 billion; and

WHEREAS eligible expenditures include revenue reimbursements, savings and growing interest on the funds, broadband infrastructure, economic development and individual assistance program; and

WHEREAS county leaders are already under pressure to announce spending decisions and elected officials at all levels of government will have to make decisions on where and how they will use the dollars within federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties is working on a match program to earmark close to \$4 billion in state ARP funds to leverage all levels of government to strategically invest the one-time dollars in areas of greatest need for improvement; and

WHEREAS the Michigan Association of Counties has received positive feedback on the ideas put forth for match programs within the state; and

WHEREAS Michigan has a chance to amplify investments with the influx of federal funding and a collaborative effort by all levels of government that will allow the dollars to be stretched to invest in common goals; and

WHEREAS the comprehensive approach to leverage ARP dollars will provide Michigan the ability to amplify investment for our future by focusing resources in five key areas – water infrastructure and broadband, local capacity and fiscal stability, housing and community development, comprehensive economic development and public health and safety; and

WHEREAS our future success is inextricably linked, and strategic investment of our available resources needs to support and strengthen these connections;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Alger County supports American Rescue Plan State Match Programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to all Michigan counties, our State Legislature, the Governor's office, 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 Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Laing to approve
Resolution #2021-16 Supporting a Tourism Reinvestment Excise Tax:

WHEREAS State Rep. Sara Cambensy has introduced House Bills 5172 and 5173 to help local communities deal with providing increased public safety measures specific to exponential increases in tourism like the national lakeshores of Alger, Leelanau, and Benzie counties; and

WHEREAS several regions, not just Northern Michigan, are draining their taxpayer public safety funds to take care of large increases in tourism in their areas that require increased police road patrols, search and rescue missions, patrolling of municipal campgrounds, etc.; and

WHEREAS the bills will allow each county the ability to put a local excise tax on the ballot to collect up to a 3 percent local tax on transient housing to be used only for public safety; and

WHEREAS all 83 counties will be eligible to decide how the money is spent, as Michigan does not allow a local taxing authority as is found in other states and it is necessary for the Legislature to authorize Michigan all counties to do this; and

WHEREAS hotels in the Upper Peninsula are currently being taxed 11 percent with 5 percent going to the state, 5 percent going to local convention and visitor bureaus, 1 percent going to the UP-wide Convention and Visitor Bureau Fund and nothing going to local communities to help manage tourism; and

WHEREAS research shows surrounding Great Lakes states are taxing their transient housing upwards of 7% to 17% with Michigan being far behind, it is in the best interest of Michigan communities to adequately fund already strained public safety budgets for both residents and tourists;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Alger County supports a Tourism Reinvestment Excise Tax as embodied in House Bills 5172 and 5173;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to all Michigan counties, State Representative Sara Cambensy, Senator Ed McBroom, Speaker of the House, 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 Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Laing to approve
Resolution #2021-17 Opposes Proposals to change the Public Behavioral Health System:

WHEREAS Pathways Multi-County Mental Health Authority has served for more than 23 years as the public mental health and intellectual / developmental disabilities services provider for Alger, Luce, Delta and Marquette counties serving approximately 1,800 residents among these counties each year; and

WHEREAS, Pathways Mental Health Authority was created by each respective County Board of Commissioners as duly authorized under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963; and

WHEREAS, every year thousands of individuals and their families in these communities, depend on the public behavioral health system for daily (and in some cases, life-long) supports and services.

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes any behavioral health redesign that harms the state and county partnership for community mental health and related Medicaid safety net services and/or seeks to privatize Medicaid behavioral health services. Additionally, we believe that any behavioral health redesign must maintain the efficacy, responsiveness and integrity of the community-based behavioral health system.

WHEREAS, recent proposals in the House and Senate fundamentally change the public behavioral health system and will harm those served by the system. The Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes these proposals because:

- Beneficiaries would stand to lose access to services, supports and input into the design and operation of their services and supports system. Many Michiganders would be left out of the redesign proposals completely;
- Public oversight, governance, operations, and accountability would be ended;

- Current proposals for redesign are not based on performance metrics related to positive outcomes, effectiveness, and efficiency measures associated with the current public system. Also, there is no clear statement about the problems that the Senate or House are attempting to address or solve;
- The Senate proposal specifically incentivizes and prioritizes profits to private companies at the expense of the public and the beneficiaries served by the public behavioral health system;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we request that the Michigan Legislature support improvements in the delivery of publicly governed, publicly accountable, publicly operated regional and community-based systems, invest in and expand initiatives that are proven to improve citizen access, beneficiary policy making representatives support, improve and strengthen the public behavioral health safety net system, and that engagement, individual and population health, behavioral wellbeing, resiliency, quality of life, and community betterment such as those mentioned above. These are among the daily, weekly, and yearly accomplishments of the public system that would be destroyed by pursuing these new legislative proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners directs staff to forward this resolution to the Michigan Legislature and the Michigan Association of Counties.

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

There were no committee reports.

Correspondence was read and will be placed on file.

Commissioners Laing and Pullen briefly discussed the airport. Commissioner Rondeau discussed building entry signs regarding Covid-19 vaccination exemptions.

There were no staff comments.

Public comment session was open. John Madigan noted an Airport Committee meeting has been set for 9:00 a.m. on Monday at the American Legion. Brice Burge spoke about public involvement with American Rescue Plan monies.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn this meeting at 5:00 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