

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

May 17, 2021

Approved June 21, 2021

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. There was brief discussion regarding Hanley Field. 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 with the addition of item 10.) Discussion of masks and county building due to new CDC guidelines; 11.) Discussion of board room; 13.c) Resolution #2021-13 County Revenue Sharing Fund. 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 the consent agenda which includes the following items:

Approve the Medical Examiner Contract Revision;

Approve the Burt Township Road Patrol Contract;

Postpone a request from CN Railroad ;

Affirm Authorizing in the approximate amount \$55,000 for the reforestation of Red Pine and windbreak at the airport;

Affirm amending Addendum to the Logging Contract;

Reaffirm payment to NorthCare for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$8,536;

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

Amend revenues in Donations in the amount of \$1,014.35 (101-000-415.200)

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 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 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 Laing and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of April 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 Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve payment of all board bills. 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 Alger County L-4029 report. 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 follow the Administrator's recommendation to open the county building to the public without making changes to the County's emergency declaration. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There was some discussion regarding renovations to the conference room.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve **Resolution #2021-09 Urging Compromise That Would Release Relief Funds:**

WHEREAS, it has been three months since the Federal Government allocated nearly \$5 billion dollars in COVID relief funds to Michigan; and

WHEREAS, these funds were intended to provide crucial relief to small businesses, public health, and education in our state; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature passed legislation appropriating \$3.5 billion towards these priorities, including nearly \$555 million in small business relief funds; and

WHEREAS, despite bipartisan support for the small business relief proposals, the Governor line-item vetoed all \$555 million, citing "key points of difference" between her administration and the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, these proposals were promptly repackaged into subsequent legislation and sent back to the Governor's desk; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, March 26, 2021, these proposals were vetoed by Governor Whitmer for a second time; and

WHEREAS, the state is due to receive another \$10 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, Lansing still has not found a path forward on fully appropriating the \$5 billion it already received; and

WHEREAS, if there is one thing state leaders should agree on, it is getting help to the struggling small businesses in our state; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative these funds be disbursed to job providers who are still fighting for solvency and survival; and

WHEREAS, passing state budgets are a shared responsibility between both branches and both political parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners urges the Governor and Michigan Legislature leaders to resolve their differences and enact legislation to put much needed funding into the treasuries of local governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 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 Laing and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve **Resolution #2021-12 Continue 911 Surcharge of .42:**

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners held the authority under 2007 PA 164, which amended Michigan's Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act, being MCL 484.1101 *et seq.*, as amended ("9-1-1 Act") to set a default county 9-1-1 surcharge cap ("default surcharge cap") on all communications devices of residents within the county under Section 401 e(1) and (2) of the 9-1-1 Act, being MCL §484.1401e(1) and (2) provided the Board acted before February 15, 2008 and the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC") approved the rate set; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners authorizes the continuation of its local commission enacted 911 surcharge of .42 with no change in the amount from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

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 **Resolution #2021-13 County Revenue Sharing Fund:**

WHEREAS, as the State of Michigan faced the great recession, they looked to find creative ways to save money in the State's general fund; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, a deal between county governments and the State of Michigan, created a property tax collection shift which would provide for revenue sharing funds to the Counties while not relying on the State's general fund for that; and

WHEREAS, during this time, the proceeds from the property tax collection shift was put in a County Revenue Sharing Reserve Fund whereby a county could obtain funds from there; and

WHEREAS, once a county exhausted their reserve fund, they re-entered the state revenue system where they should be receiving their full funding amount; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Association of Counties has done extensive research into county revenue sharing and the impact the County Revenue Sharing Fund has had on county allocations and indicates that the State of Michigan has cumulatively shorted 60 counties of more than \$110 million between 2009 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, Alger County is one of those counties, experiencing a shortfall of \$70,919 in 2020; and a cumulative shortfall of \$323,915 due to CPI increases being discounted after Alger County's return to CRS; and

WHEREAS, it is time for those funds to be restored in full this year; and

WHEREAS, despite receiving federal funds through the state as part of the American Rescue Plan, the use of the federal funds is tied to COVID/pandemic related expenses; and

WHEREAS, while Alger County has exhausted thousands of dollars related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have budgeted services to provide to our citizens which are not related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, services provided by the Alger County Courts, Prosecutor, Sheriff/Jail, County Clerk/Register of Deeds, Treasurer, and Administration are all funded in part by County Revenue Sharing and would be impacted by a restriction of funds for COVID only; and

WHEREAS, a portion of the revenue sharing also goes to support operations of other functions that requires an investment of local county matching funds to accept federal or state funded programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners calls upon state leaders to restore the County Revenue Sharing Fund and to provide a one-time payment of the cumulative shortfall.

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

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Pullen noted that the planting of seedlings at the airport is nice investment for the future.

Correspondence was read from Marquette County regarding their 2040 Master Plan update and DHHS meeting materials; both will be placed on file.

Commissioner comments were next. Commissioner Pullen said she is impressed with Commissioner Laing's gathering of information about the airport. Commissioner Rondeau said it is nice to see what other counties are thinking; and noted that the trees at Hanley Airfield were overdue for logging.

Staff comments were next. Prosecuting Attorney, Robert Steinhoff thanked Clerk Froberg and staff for assisting with the first circuit court jury trial. Mr. Steinhoff agrees that renovating the board room is a good idea. Clerk Froberg will help however possible with the board room and noted that the courts must still abide by SCAO's Covid-19 procedures. Undersheriff Blank thanked the board for its decision to reopen the courthouse.

Public comment session was open. There was further discussion about scheduling an Airport Committee meeting and harvesting of trees at Hanley Airfield. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Laing 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