

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

October 18, 2021

Approved November 15, 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 Vice-Chair Mattson with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Absent – Commissioner Doucette.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Commissioner Pullen read letters concerning the airport from Bryan Hill and Barb Isom. Jim Yates updated the board regarding MSU Extension. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Laing to add item #8 2021 Apportionment Report and approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Nays – none. Absent – Doucette.

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

Affirm to authorize full-time VA grant submission for October through December 2021 in the amount of \$5,088.55;

Affirm to authorize full-time for Probate Court Juvenile position.

Authorize getting a quote to purchase a meal car for the sheriff's department. Monies are to come from Commissary and USDA Grant;

Authorize getting a quote to purchase an Emergency Management car. Monies are to come from Emergency Management and USDA Grant;

Authorize putting the old building for the airport out on bids to sell;

Authorize the clerk to get quotes for furniture for the board room;

Affirm getting quotes on video equipment needed for the board room;

Affirm authorizing purchasing carpet for the board room in the amount of \$7,419.94;

Authorize getting a quote to fix the tractor at the airport;

Affirm to authorize the 3rd Party Administrative Agreement with CAAM (Community Action Alger Marquette);

Affirm to authorize the additional cost of building (increase in steel) for the airport building in the approximate amount of \$9,000;

Affirm to authorize payment to Guidehouse Inc. in the amount of \$4,172.50 - ARPA funds;

Authorize paying Convention Facility Tax to NorthCare Network in the amount of \$8,462 (101-631-969.000);

Authorize payment to Pathways for their community mental health quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305 (101-6649-969.000);

Authorize payment of all board bills;

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

Authorize amending revenues and expenses for K-9 in the amount of \$4,070.65 (see sheet);

Authorize amending general fund #101 and ARPA fund #282 in the amount of \$212,497.70 (see sheet);

Authorize amending general fund #101 and jail in the amount of \$212,497.70 (see sheet);

Authorize amending expenses in Board of Commissioners, UPSET, and jail in the total amount of \$43,970.30 (see sheet);

Authorize amending expenses in Board of Commissioners, UPSET, Capitol Improvement, and Jail in the total amount of \$212,497.70 (see sheet);

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of September 13, 2021. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Nays – none. Absent – Doucette.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of September 20, 2021. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Nays – none. Absent – Doucette.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the 2021 Apportionment Report. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Nays – none. Absent – Doucette.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Laing to authorize board members to be paid for attending the community airport committee meetings. No vote was taken.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Laing to approve purchasing 2 batteries from Elcom for a tower in the amount of \$750. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Nays – none. Absent – Doucette.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve **Resolution #2021-18 Support Amendments to the Open Meetings Act:**

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners has a vested interest in decisions made regarding the Open Meetings Act (Act 267 of 1976, being MCL 15.261 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, prior to the most recent amendments to the Act, it was generally accepted that members of a public body could participate in a meeting electronically so long as a quorum of the public body was physically present at the meeting location; and

WHEREAS, a series of Executive Orders and statutory amendments issued in 2020 authorized remote participation in public meetings and specifically allowed public bodies to hold meetings electronically, either by telephonic or video conferencing; and

WHEREAS, after December 31, 2021, members of a public body will be allowed to participate in a meeting electronically only to accommodate the absence of any member of the public body due to military duty as described in Section 3(2) of the Act; and

WHEREAS, this substantive change eliminates a public body's previous flexibility to allow one or two members to attend remotely.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners requests that all counties with a population of 75,000 or fewer be exempt from the portion of the Open Meetings Act that allows only members absent due to military duty to participate in meetings electronically.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Representative Sara Cambensy, Senator Ed McBroom, Michigan Association of Counties and to the Clerk of each County in the State of Michigan.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve **Resolution #2021-19 Opposing Senator Shirkey's Gearing Toward Integration Proposal:**

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners, has entered into an enabling resolution to help create the four County Pathways Community Mental Health Authority SP, pursuant to Section 100 et seq. and Section 205 of the Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, as amended (MCL330.1 100 et seq; MCL330.1205); and

WHEREAS, Pathways Community Mental Health Authority SP, 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 SP has demonstrated such willingness and capacity to provide broad array of innovative, cutting edge, community mental health services for the past 50 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]); now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners strongly urges its State Senate and House of Representatives to oppose Senator Shirkey's Gearing Toward Integration Proposal and subsequent changes proposed to the Michigan Social Welfare Act which would privatize the public mental health system and essentially eliminate the public safety net; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That Senator Shirkey's Gearing Toward Integration Proposal was formerly called Section 298 and that pilot program that provided the foundation for this latest proposal was abandon as unworkable, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports Pathways Community Mental Health Services Program system that provides necessary community safety net services and supports; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED those copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Senator Ed McBroom, 38th District, Sara Cambensy, State Representative, 109th House District, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Elizabeth Hertel, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, Deputy Director Dr. George Mellos, the Michigan Association of Counties, and all Michigan counties

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve **Resolution to Promote General Welfare**. Motion failed by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Rondeau. Nays – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, and Pullen. Absent – Doucette.

Commissioner Pullen gave a brief airport update. Commissioner Laing gave an ARPA update.

Correspondence was read and will be placed on file.

Public comment session was open. Airport Committee per diems were discussed. There was no public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

Commissioner Laing thanked Commissioner Rondeau. Commissioner Rondeau said it has been a nice fall. Commissioner Pullen also thanked Commissioner Rondeau and agreed it has been a nice fall. Commissioner Mattson said we must work together and explained that the agenda was moved around to benefit staff and public and that public comment should not be an interrogation on comments.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Laing to adjourn this meeting at 4:43 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, and Rondeau. Nays – none. Absent – Doucette.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk