

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

June 14, 2021

Approved July 19, 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. Commissioner Doucette said that of today the United States has lost 600,000 citizens due to Covid-19. A moment of silence was observed. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the agenda to add “Request to use airport for class reunion” as item 15).

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve Mike Perron’s payout of \$18,635.96. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was the consensus of the board to approve new EndPoint Detection and Response change in an additional amount of \$208.32 per month from Compudyne.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of the MAC dues in the amount of \$4,959.45.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the request for funding from UPSET. The amount to contribution will be discussed at the next Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

Copier bids were discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Siemens bill in the amount of \$4,016. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Quotes for new jail camera system software were discussed.

The board moved to the Emergency Operation Center for a slideshow presentation by Charles Bouth for the upcoming Emergency Management Superior Shield Exercise.

Use of the airport property for class reunions was discussed.

There were no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

Unfinished business was next. There was discussion on the RFP (Request for Proposal) that was for the airport to pour a concrete pad 20 ft by 16 ft and to erect a premade building. The clerk said that she had no responses to the advertisement.

There were no appropriations.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills as recommended by the audit committee.

It was the consensus of the board to approve Financial Reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available).

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was the consensus of the board to approve **Resolution #2021-14 Opposing Michigan Secretary of State “By Appointment Only:”**

WHEREAS, Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, recently stated Michigan residents will always need an appointment to conduct business at a Secretary of State branch office and suggested making this permanent change as an improvement in service; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State called walk in service at the branches an "antiquated, inefficient, take-a-number system that nobody liked"; the reality is that most people do want the option to walk into a branch office for service at *their* convenience; and

WHEREAS, not only Alger County residents but all residents of the State of Michigan should have the ability to renew and make changes to all necessary documentation timely and locally through services provided by the Michigan Secretary of State; that this change will significantly reduce the convenience of public services; and

WHEREAS, while some industry changes were positive during the Covid-19 pandemic and made sense, this will negatively impact rural counties, such as Alger, where residents are over fifty miles from kiosk services and a large majority of the population are over sixty years of age; and

WHEREAS, these changes have been established without input from constituents, who are directly affected by this sweeping change and web-based services, which completely replaces the need for walk in service at the branch offices, many older residents and those without computers or internet will simply be turned away at the Secretary of State door; and

WHEREAS, these changes will only continue to frustrate citizens who would just like their license renewed or to be able to sell a vehicle, without having to wait weeks or months for an appointment or even drive to a different service area to accomplish these simple tasks;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby STRONGLY opposes 'By Appointment Only', but supports the value of BOTH online and walk in service and believes the best practice for flexibility and choice for the public is a hybrid model for Alger County residents and the entire State of Michigan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Senate and House leaders, and Michigan Association of Counties.

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Pullen updated the board regarding the airport. Commissioner Rondeau discussed meeting with the sheriff to combine terminal/storage building projects. Commissioner Pullen also noted that Pathways still requires the wearing of masks, and the park service comment period for fee schedule changes is open until June 30. Commissioner Rondeau said that: the Alger Veterans Committee needs two more officers; Mr. Bitner met with the Airport Committee; he is working to get parking constructed by the Eben Ice Caves; Sen. McBroom is working to correct veterans homestead exemption issues; and discussed election integrity and vaccine passports. Commissioner Mattson said that concerns remain at LMAS over Covid-19 despite lower infections and encouraging vaccination numbers. Commissioner Laing explained recent work regarding variances requested for new dispensaries. Commissioner Doucette updated the board regarding legislative issues.

Correspondence was briefly read and will be placed on file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Laing has received encouraging correspondence to return to virtual meetings. Commissioner Rondeau is concerned over the lack of notification to local governments regarding federal relocations. Commissioner Pullen supports the return to virtual meetings for the Committee of the Whole and regular Board of Commissioners meetings. Commissioner Doucette noted that Covid "taught us a lesson." Steve Webber noted that both sides have a point about in-person/virtual meetings. There was some discussion regarding expansion of the board room and returning to virtual meetings.

Staff comments were next. Prosecuting Attorney Robert Steinhoff said that virtual meetings are important, and we will fall behind the times if they are not reimplemented; the Prosecutor's Office also has an opening for a part-time Crime Victim's Advocate.

Public comment session was open. There was further discussion about the need for virtual meetings due to distances and timing for media and the public. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk