

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

**May 10, 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 no public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the agenda to add “and authorize” for item 12a) Discuss replanting trees and windbreak at airport; and to add item 12b) Discuss and authorize amending addendum to the logging contract.

It was the consensus of the board to accept the agenda as amended.

It was the consensus of the board to discuss an RFP for a building at the airport for the sheriff’s department storage at the next Law Enforcement Committee meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Medical Examiner Contract Revision, with changes.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Burt Township Road Patrol Contract.

It was the consensus of the board to postpone discussing a request from CN Railroad.

There were no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Laing to authorize replanting up to 50,000 one-year old or older red pine seedlings and 3-4 four-year-old seedlings for a windbreak at Hanley Airfield. 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 amending airport logging contract to forgo approximately \$7,000 revenue for last two rows of tress on Highway 13. 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 authorize payment to Northcare for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$8,536.

Approval of board bills is delayed due to rescheduling the audit committee meeting.

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

It was the consensus of the board to amend revenues in the Donations in the amount of \$1,014.35 (101-000-415.000).

It was the consensus of the board to amend expenditures in the Sheriff’s Department K-9 supplies in the amount of \$1,014.35 (101-301-727.060).

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Mattson explained that COVID-19 vaccinations are the highest priority for LMAS and that the Michigan legislature is pushing for more probation and less jail for drug-related crimes. Commissioner Laing discussed modernization of the court system. Commissioner Rondeau noted that the State Fair will move ahead this year. Commissioner Pullen briefly spoke about Pathways and Hanley Airfield. Commissioner Doucette discussed the UPCAP audit.

Administrator’s report was next. Steve Webber stressed the need for patience and planning for American Rescue Plan monies; labor issues have occupied a lot of time; the airport is a frequent topic of discussion and that a plan is needed; attorney opinions are necessary; funds that are in red will be made whole through grants; an E.O.C. grant is in the works for \$250,000; small tweaks were made to the MIDC grant; M.A.C. put together a report concerning American Rescue Plan monies.

There was no correspondence.

Commissioner comments were next. Commissioner Pullen explained it may be necessary to develop a five-year plan for the airport as it has become complicated and difficult very fast. Commissioner Rondeau noted that more information should be gathered regarding the airport and that the MDOT inspector is coming this summer so it would be best to wait and see what is said first. Commissioner Mattson agreed that waiting for the inspector is important. Commissioner Mattson noted that grants often have strings attached but without a revenue source the airport is out of luck. Commissioner Doucette explained that county staff are overwhelmed and that the board wants to work with the public but there are currently many unanticipated problems.

Staff comments were next. Undersheriff Blank explained: that the Sheriff's Office was asked to get bids for a building at the airport; four volunteers and the K9 assisted in the search for a missing person in Ontonagon, per request by Ontonagon County officials. County Treasurer, Pam Johnson said: that the State Department of Treasury released restrictions information concerning American Rescue Plan monies and we can begin planning; information regarding revenue-sharing monies owed to counties was sent out. Steve Webber congratulated Sgt. Peters for graduating from the NACo leadership class.

Public comment session was open. Appreciation for hard work was expressed to the board. There was some discussion about matching funds for façade programs, struggling businesses & non-profits, labor shortages, American Rescue Plan monies, and Hanley Field. Commissioner Doucette said: he urged everyone to look at the mural on the jail building; that the county GIS switched companies due to 9-1-1; monies from Michigan Works! Was coming soon. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:18 p.m.

---

Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

---

Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk