

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

**November 8, 2021**

**Approved December 20, 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. Prosecuting Attorney, Robert Steinhoff, introduced Crime Victim’s Advocate, Heather Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance and the courthouse mask mandate were briefly discussed. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

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

Commissioner Laing would like to compare the 2021 MSU Agreement for Extension Services to the 2022 agreement at next weeks’ meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the FTR annual support agreement in the amount of \$1,398.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Deb Beeuwsawert and Suzanne Hetherington to the Alger County Library Board for another three-year term expiring 12/31/2024.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize a part-time person in the Prosecutor’s Office to work an additional 7 hours until the end of the year.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the Prosecuting Attorney’s office to hire a temporary person for 20 days.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the LMAS Upper Peninsula Environmental Health Code.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize Katherine Laing to be an alternate on the airport committee.

There were no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

There was no unfinished business.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS District Health for their quarterly appropriation for October – December 2021 in the amount of \$20,049 (101-601-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize 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 **#2021-20 Resolution Supporting Enactment of HB 5026:**

**WHEREAS** the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Enabling Act, Michigan Public Act 21 of 1986, MCL §484.1101 et seq., as amended ("Act"), sunsets on December 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS** without an extension of the Act, the Alger County Board of Commissioners has no authority to provide 9-1-1 service or to determine the technical, operational, managerial, or fiscal aspects of 9-1-1 service within the Service District; and

**WHEREAS** the cost of the 9-1-1 Emergency Service IP Network has been historically funded by user fees on communication devices; and

**WHEREAS** user fee revenue has fallen short of expectations, which will result in a deficit in the State fund that pays for 9-1-1 network costs by 2023; and

**WHEREAS** the Michigan State budget for fiscal year 2022 includes a one-time appropriation of \$16 million dollars to eliminate the deficit in the 9-1-1 network fund; and

**WHEREAS** HB 5026 serves as a vehicle to allow the appropriation to be deposited in the appropriate portion of the fund; and

**WHEREAS** HB 5026 increase State user fees as follows: Contractual devices remain at \$.25 per device and prepaid devices from 5% of the sale to 6% of the sale.

**WHEREAS** this small increase in user fees is only the amount necessary to fund the Emergency Services IP Network going forward; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports enactment of HB 5026 to ensure continued operation and funding of 9-1-1 service.

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Laing gave a brief recycling update and noted CARES Act monies available to Burt Township for laptops. Commissioner Mattson spoke about the LMAS Health Code, CDC Covid-19 guidelines, Judge Luoma's retirement, and upcoming budget meetings. Commissioner Rondeau wants to set up an authority to make changes at the Iron Mountain Veteran's Hospital. Commissioner Pullen explained that the Insurance Committee is recommending opting-out of PA 152 with 20% cost-sharing for employees. Commissioner Pullen gave a DHHS update and explained some details concerning the airport inspection next spring and general/basic usage licensing.

Administrator Webber explained that: work has begun on FY22 budgets; negotiations are starting tomorrow; work continues with Guidehouse, Inc. regarding ARPA monies; the Chatham tower is now backed up; he is wrapping up grants; FEMA is auditing equipment.

Correspondence was briefly read and will be placed on file.

Board comments were next. Commissioners Mattson, Doucette, and Laing discussed the mask requirement in the building. Commissioner Doucette would like to discuss NACo scholarship attendance next week.

Staff comments were next. Lt. Sheila Peters attended the NACo Leadership Academy last year and briefly explained the program. Prosecuting Attorney, Robert Steinhoff thanked the board for approving additional staffing in his office.

Public comment session was open. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk