

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

October 12, 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 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. Hanley field and use of county vehicles were discussed. There was no further public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Laing to approve:

ALGER COUNTY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE 93rd DISTRICT JUDGE POSITION

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners resolve to support the retention of the 93rd District Judge position, and;

WHEREAS, incumbent 93rd District Judge Mark E. Luoma has decided to retire, effective December 31, 2021, after serving 2 years of a six year term, and;

WHEREAS, If the position of the 93rd District Judge is not filled by gubernatorial appointment for the remainder of Judge Luoma's term, said position is subject to attrition under current law, and;

WHEREAS, The Alger/Schoolcraft Probate/Family Court (6th) has a sufficiently large caseload that would substantially impact the administration of justice for District Court matters, as well as the Sobriety/Drug Treatment Court and the Regional Mental Health Court programs, and;

WHEREAS, the County of Alger has determined that retention of the 93rd District Judge position is critical to conduction of the Sobriety/Drug Treatment Program and the Regional Mental Health Programs, as well as the administration of justice for the citizens of Alger and Schoolcraft Counties, and;

WHEREAS, the crime rate in the 93rd District Court's jurisdiction has substantially increased, since the attrition decision was made.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners calls for retention of the 93rd District Judge position via Gubernatorial Appointment, to allow more time to support legislation to restore the position permanently.

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 Rondeau to authorize full-time VA grant submission for October through December 2021 in the amount of \$5,088.55. 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 authorize full-time for Probate Court Juvenile position. 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 getting a quote to purchase a meal car for the sheriff's department. Monies are to come from Commissary and USDA Grant.

It was the consensus of the board to approve purchase of a new Emergency Management vehicle. Monies are to come from Emergency Management and USDA Grant.

It was the consensus of the board to put the old airport building out on bids to sell.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the county clerk to research and get quotes for furniture for the board room.

It was the consensus of the board to move forward with video equipment needed for the board room.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize purchasing carpet for the board room in the amount of \$7,419.94. Monies are to come from Capital Improvements (101-728). 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 Pullen to authorize fixing the tractor at the airport. Motion was withdrawn pending proposal.

It was moved by Commissioner Laing and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the 3rd Party Administrative Agreement with CAAM (Community Action Alger Marquette). 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 the additional cost of building (increase in steel) for the airport building. 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 authorize payment to Guidehouse Inc. in the amount of \$4,172.50. Monies are to come from ARPA funds. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Laing, Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There were no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

There was no unfinished business.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize paying Convention Facility Tax to NorthCare Network in the amount of \$8,462 (101-631-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their community mental health quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305 (101-649-969.000).

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).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize amending revenues and expenses for K-9 in the amount of \$4,070.65 (see sheet).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize amending general fund #101 and ARPA fund #282 in the amount of \$212,497.70 (see sheet).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize amending general fund #101 and jail in the amount of \$212,497.70 (see sheet).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize amending expenses in Board of Commissioners, UPSET, and jail in the total amount of \$43,970.30 (see sheet).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize amending expenses in Board of Commissioners, UPSET, Capitol Improvement, and Jail in the total amount of \$212,497.70 (see sheet).

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Pullen summarized CUPPAD/UPACC conference discussions and briefly explained red flags at Hanley Field that were raised by the inspector. Commissioner Doucette noted that the old airport terminal had to come down because it was unsafe. Commissioner Pullen further discussed mental health programs. Commissioner Rondeau noted lock downs were hard on nursing homes. Commissioner Mattson had a series of labor meetings, some of which action was taken on tonight. Commissioner Laing explained the ARPA committee is working with Guidehouse consultants, and she has been working on the Employee Handbook.

Steve Webber summarized: ARPA consultant meetings; topics from recently attended MERS conference; budgets; labor negotiations; 911 towers.

Correspondence was briefly read and will be placed on file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette hopes staff understands what the board is doing concerning labor agreements. Commissioner Mattson noted that members of the public are grateful for the assistance during the storm last Thanksgiving and the generator that went out. Commissioner Rondeau asked about virtual meetings while he is away. Commissioner Pullen noted affordable housing is a big problem in Grand Marais.

Staff comments were next. Undersheriff Blank explained that Covid hit the Sheriff's Department hard, and Michigan State Police are helping with Road Patrol. Prosecuting Attorney Steinhoff said the Apportionment Committee met, approved, and submitted the new commissioner district map to the State. Also, the prosecutor is on track for more jury trials. Clerk Froberg explained the Apportionment Report will be resubmitted to avoid deadline conflicts.

Public comment session was open. Richard Bowerman read a vision statement for Hanley Field; John Madigan briefly spoke about Hanley Field; Leota Paquette discussed the Prosecuting Attorney's office and workload. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk