

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

August 9, 2010

Minutes are subject to corrections and approval

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 Chairwoman Pullen with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Absent ó none.

The Board of Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

On a motion by Commissioner VanLandschoot, seconded by Commissioner Lindstrom to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Doucette to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from July 8, 2010 and the Regular Board minutes from July 12, 2010. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

The Alger County lawsuit with Marquette General Hospital was discussed. The Clerk said that she filed a claim with MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority) and that they have not contacted her yet. Item numbers 7 and 8 are tabled until Karen Bahrman is able to be present.

On a motion by Commissioner Doucette and seconded by Commissioner Lindstrom to authorize the Chair to sign the Alger County Mitigation Plan. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Old business was next. Commissioner Pullen said that at a LMAS meeting Commissioner Mattson saw Dan LaFoille from Schoolcraft County. Dan told him that he felt that the Lansing meeting concerning Bob Seid had gone well.

On a motion by Commissioner Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the quarterly payment to LMAS for July ó September 2010 in the amount of \$18,166.75. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Lindstrom and seconded by Commissioner Doucette to approve payment to NorthCare in the amount of \$7,612 for substance abuse (101-631-969.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Doucette, seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee and the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the Treasurer. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

On a motion by Commissioner Doucette, seconded by Commissioner Mattson to transfer \$3,800 from the District Health budget into the Veterans Burials budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Karen Bahrman is now present and the tabled agenda item numbers 7 and 8 are to be discussed.

There was discussion of the Alger County lawsuit with Marquette General Hospital. Karen said that regarding an attorney for the lawsuit, she talked to Cheryl Hill who is Marquette County's Civil Counsel. She said that Cheryl has volunteered to handle the lawsuit, but she needed to ask for approval from her boss. Karen said that she is pretty optimistic that he will approve. She also said that Cheryl regards this as something fairly simple to handle and Karen is warning the board that Cheryl is in favor of trying to settle it. Karen said that she would file for an extension. She said that since there was not a written guarantee from Pathway to be responsible financially, it wasn't the greatest case. She said that Cheryl had said with her previous dealings with Randy Osstyn, he will settle for not too much on the dollar. Commissioner Pullen asked Karen what her opinion was. Karen did not have an opinion because it was so outside of her area. The Clerk is going to call MMRMA to find out what is going on with the case.

Karen said she is looking for a decision regarding the prison reimbursements and for the job classification study she requested. She said some time sheets, that if were converted into bills, would be several thousand dollars worth. She said that she did not want to keep pressing on it if they did not want to do the job classifications. Commissioner Pullen said that she talked to Gerry Corkin in Marquette and the Marquette County Prosecutor has routinely billed. She said that she has a hard time accepting that if it becomes part of a pattern that it is an extraordinarily hard thing to keep track of. She said that she asked Gerry if he could get a hold of any of the time sheets that the Prosecutor up there uses and kind of use that as a template that might make the job easier. Commissioner Pullen said that currently Paula does it for circuit court. She said that in our current financial state she has a real hard time with Karen kissing several thousand dollars goodbye simply because the board is not willing to make a promise. Karen said that she certainly expected someone to say that it sounds like blackmail. She said that is not what is going on here. She said to spend this money on something everybody agrees we should do; we just didn't have the money for it. Something that may not benefit her at all, ever. They don't know how it's going to turn out. Maybe it won't benefit her employees at all, so it's a totally difference situation. Karen said that they don't stand to gain anything but a crack at fairness down the road. She said that her employees may not benefit financially from this whatsoever. She said that this is not an obligation. She realizes that a lot of prosecutors do it (reimbursements) and she used to do it. She said that she can not ask her employees to take on an extra job when they are not fairly being compensated for what they are already doing. Commissioner Pullen said that was in Karen's opinion. Karen said that this job classification will resolve it. There was more discussion with no resolution.

It was moved by Commissioner Doucette and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the following resolution #2010-13:

RESOLUTION #2010-13

**SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF SENATE BILL 449
AS WRITTEN BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

WHEREAS, the police departments throughout the state of Michigan depend, in part, upon part-time law enforcement officers for protection of the citizens and community, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) adopted an administrative rule mandating that police officers must work a minimum of 520 hours to remain certified, and

WHEREAS, the opposition to this 520 hour rule has been overwhelming, widespread, and near unanimous, and

WHEREAS, the current law (with no hourly standard) has worked for more than 45 years, and the proposed 520 hour rule is being implemented with no legitimate stated and valid purpose, and

WHEREAS, an organized movement of Police Chiefs has successfully lobbied for legislation to set the minimum hour standard at 120 hours, as described in Senate Bill 449, and

WHEREAS, the 120 hour compromise is equal to the **only other hourly certification standard** in the nation, being the State of Idaho, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 449 passed on June 25, 2009 on a bi-partisan and unanimous vote of **34 to 0**, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 449 has languished in the House Judiciary Committee since June 25, 2009, without being sent to the floor for a vote, and

WHEREAS, failure of the House to pass Senate Bill 449, as written, will cause an unfunded mandate when County Sheriffs have to fill the void of local departments cutting officers, the loss of local control, as well as the loss of more police officers from our streets.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby calls upon the House of Representatives to swiftly pass Senate Bill 449, as written.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be sent by the Alger County Clerk, once adopted, to the Speaker of the House, as well as to the 82 other county boards of commissioners, requesting that they adopt said resolution and send it to the Speaker of the House.

Dated: August 9, 2010

Catherine A. Pullen, Chair
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot and Pullen.
Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There was nothing new under committee reports.

The Clerk read new correspondence and will be placed on file. Commissioner Pullen also received a plaque for the Board from the Census Bureau.

There were no Board comments.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Lindstrom and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Catherine A. Pullen, Chairwoman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk