

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

February 9, 2009

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 Cathy Pullen with the following commissioners present: Commissioner Doucette, Mattson, and Pullen. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

The Board of Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was opened. Joe Cile was present and brought up the parking situation with the State cars in the parking lot. Esley said he will bring this up at the next DHS meeting.

Pat Sobilski was present and brought to the board's attention that 33 parcels of land in Burt Township were incorrectly exempted from the tax roll. He is waiting to hear from the State Tax Commission. There was no other Public Comment from the floor, thus, Public Comment Session was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting as corrected. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the natural gas contract with Tenurgy. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the notice of vacancy for the Library Board. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to hold off advertising for the vacancy on the DHS board to April 12th. Discussion being at the May 7th Committee of the Whole Meeting with appointment at the May 11th Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve the merger of two divisions in MERS. Division 14 and 16 into Division 16 and Divisions 12 and 15 into Division 12. Motion carried by the following vote: Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Resolution merging Divisions 12 and 15 into Division 12. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioner Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Clerk to send Supplemental Valuations to MERS for 2 new Divisions (to pay 3.75%) Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Clerk to send Supplemental Valuations to MERS to the Sheriff's Union's request. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve payment to MERS for Supplemental Valuations in the amount of \$1,620.00. Monies to come from the Employee Benefits Retirement Account. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to rescind the original Resolution 2009-01 passed at the January 12th meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the amended Resolution 2009-01 for the medical examiner. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve Commissioner Pullen, Clerk Mary Ann Froberg and Treasurer Pam Johnson to attend a seminar in Marquette. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following memo for televisions in county offices to be part of board policy. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

TO: Alger County Department Heads & Employees
FROM: Alger County Board of Commissioners
RE: Use, Installation and Maintenance of Televisions
DATE: February 9, 2009

At the February 9th, 2009 Alger County Committee of the Whole Meeting, considerable discussion took place regarding the employee use of televisions in the staff lounge and individual offices. The Board concluded that this matter be handled by the Department Heads.

The County Board's responsibility is to manage and disburse the public funds and it must be clearly understood that the purchase, installation and maintenance of such equipment being paid for through public funding is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by this County Board.

Therefore, televisions in the Alger County Courthouse are limited to reception areas only and are the personal responsibility of the Department Head, both as use, purchase, cost and any other expense involved.

Any questions or comments can be directed to the Alger County Board of Commissioners through the Department Heads.



It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the board bills as recommended, paying the Orkin bill yearly. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the Financial Reports for all Funds. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the new Fund 703 District Court Bond. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to approve the new Liability Account 701-000-202.136 District Court Miscellaneous Deposits. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$3,500.00 from Building Dept. Fund 249 to 101-000-676.000. Reimbursements for 2008 rent. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$951.07 from Family Counselor 701-000-277.000 to 101-000-676.000. Reimbursements for 2008. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$4,322.85 from 701-000-260.000 Termination Allowance to 101-000-676.000. Reimbursements for 2008. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

On a motion of Commissioner Doucette, supported by Commissioner Mattson to amend the 2008 Revenues in Account #101-000-676.000. Reimbursements in the amount of \$4,322.85. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent Commissioner Lindstrom.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to amend the 2008 Expenditures (see sheet) Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

February 9, 2009

Please amend the following expenditures: *for 2008* :

- *Animal Shelter in the amount of \$922.85
- *Medical Examiner in the amount of \$2,500.00
- *Veterans Burials in the amount of \$900.00

On a motion of Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to authorize the Clerk to transfer 2008 expenditures (see sheet) Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.

February 9, 2009

Please transfer the following expenditures for the 2008 budget:

- *\$6,822.73 from the Equalization Dept budget into the Building & Grounds Dept budget
- *\$4,781.13 from the Equalization Dept budget into the Circuit Court budget
- *\$1,690.00 from the Equalization Dept budget into the Attorney/Consultants Dept budget
- *\$1,096.13 from the Equalization Dept budget into the District Court budget
- *\$1,288.58 from the Equalization Dept budget into the Probate Court budget
- *\$1,437.61 from the Equalization Dept budget into the County Clerk / ROD budget
- *\$410.42 from the Equalization Dept budget into the Board of Commissioners budget
- *\$8,455.02 from the Sheriff Dept budget into the Federal Park Patrol budget
- *\$180.00 from the Sheriff Dept budget into the Elections budget
- *\$112.00 from the Jury Commission budget into the Advertising budget
- *\$55.00 from the Jury Commission budget into the Veterans Affairs Dept budget
- *\$1,515.41 from the Prosecuting Attorneys budget into the County Treasurer budget
- *\$1,122.88 from the Prosecuting Attorneys budget into the Duplicating Account budget
- *\$200.00 from the Prosecuting Attorneys budget into the Audit budget
- *\$282.50 from the Prosecuting Attorneys budget into the County Law Library
- *\$5,405.22 from the Community Mental Health budget into the Jail budget
- *\$2,539.00 from the Community Mental Health budget into the Computers budget
- *\$2,500.00 from the Substance Abuse budget into the District Health budget
- *\$1,143.44 from the Substance Abuse budget into the Postage Account budget
- *\$398.04 from the Substance Abuse budget into the Airport budget
- *\$406.00 from the District Health-Cigarette Tax budget into the Employee Fringe Benefits budget
- *\$420.18 from the District Health-Cigarette Tax budget into the Friend of the Court budget

Commissioner Doucette gave the following brief synopsis of the meetings he has attended.

TO: ALGER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: Jerry Doucette, District 4
Alger County Commissioner

RE: Committee Meetings – January, 2009

DATE: February 9, 2009

The following is a brief synopsis of the committee meetings I attended during the month of January, 2009:

ALGER COUNTY FAIR BOARD: The Fair Board has approximately 20 full-time members. The fair this year is scheduled for July 31, August 1 & 2. Burt Township is the only Township without a member seated on the Board. Prison Liaison obtains aid from prisoners for clean-up, repair, and storage at the fair grounds. A 2% Funding Request is being obtained through the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians gaming revenue for a barn to be used during fair week for the animals and as winter storage income. Approximately \$3,000 is added to the fair account each year through winter storage fees. UPPCO will be contacted to repair underground fault to building service panels and install overhead lighting needs.

ALGER COUNTY COURTHOUSE WEBSITE: Current members are Pam Johnson, Mary Ann Froberg, Stacy Masters, and myself. Discussion included the following:

Each Department will have their own link and page which will be set up and maintained by departmental staff. Possibilities include: Credit card for paying taxes, Equilization Dept may have public access to property information, expandable system as County needs grow, Bios of elected officials, Board minutes and meeting notices posted, linking ability to all Townships, as well as local information.

Needs: Strong firewall, good web server, easily accessible to all ages, easy to up-date, training for departments to access and update their sites, grant funding possibly through MAC.

SIX COUNTY EMPLOYMENT ALLIANCE: A letter was sent to State Representatives in the Governor's office regarding the recent unemployment system crash. Michigan is looking at raising the unemployment taxes from the present 1.2% to 1.4% for operating businesses. This will be an added burden for small businesses. Stimulus monies are to be spent at the local levels. \$4 billion will be available for job training (triple the amount of last year). Winterization programs will be handled through the Community Action Agency. However, the bulk of these funds will be spent in southeastern lower Michigan. The Stipend Funds (the Stimulus money) need to be spent by the end of September, 09. Michigan Works has been recently called in to assist with the Gladstone City Manager search and developing a procurement process for vendors for the courthouse and jail. (They had concerns about being fair with local vendors.)

ALGER COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION: Doug Miron was re-elected as County Road Commission Chair. Ron LeJune addressed the Commission regarding safety on Old 94 caused by snowmobile speeds. Mr. LeJune is requesting signage on each end of the road. The Road Commission will be placing speed limit signs for snowmobilers in the spring. The speed limit will be set at 30 mph. The Stimulus funding project requests are being filled by Mr. Limback. One such project would be for the extension of the Rapid River Truck Trail. These funds are ear marked for additional projects and are not to be considered

part of the yearly budgets. I have contacted both the AuTrain and Mathias Township Supervisors for input on their project needs.

BROWNFIELD: January's meeting cancelled. Next meeting scheduled for 2/10/09.

Central U.P. RC&D: Hemp Waring from the Alger County Conservation District was elected Vice-Chair. It was voted and approved that each Conservation District will pay dues at \$25 per year with the counties being assessed \$300 per year. The dues are to be used for publications. The Village of Garden Flood Control Project was approved, however, they have no documentation from landowners as of yet. Schoolcraft County received extra funding to operate through a tax millage. The Forest Service will have youth from various counties working in the Hiawatha National Forest for the summer months through a Forest Management Grant. The RC&D Coordinator presented an extensive program on invasive plants in the Midwest through U.P. Weed Management. Invasive species in our area have no natural predators so they are growing by leaps & bounds. Stream water monitoring projects & Anne River Water sampling continues.

ALGER COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Elizabeth Coyne gave presentation on Conservation District activities to County Commission on 2/5/09.

UPPCO DAM ISSUE: Elizabeth Coyne spoke of this subject in her presentation. More meetings to following in February.

ALGER COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY: No January meeting. Next meeting scheduled for February 18th @ 2 pm.

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS:

Working with Frank Castigione, Trustee for AuTrain Township, on a community outreach day to be held at the AuTrain Twp Hall on 2/16/09 from 9:30-noon. Booths will include blood pressure screening, home heating assistance, income tax assistance, Alger County Parks & Recreation, Veteran's Assistance, Birding, Garden Clubs, Metal sculpturing, and Commission on Aging. This is the first annual event of its kind. Rides will be provided for those in need.

Listened to Governor Granholm's State of the State Address on 2/3/09. Key points included:

- Buy Michigan First
- Freeze tuition for colleges and community colleges for this year
- Home Foreclosure Act
- 10% salary reduction for State Elected Officials
- No Worker Left Behind Training. 52,000 people thus far attended training program
- Gov. Granholm's quote, "The challenges we face as leaders are nothing compared to workers without jobs trying to support their families."

Chairwoman Pullen read letters from the Maple Grove Cemetery Restoration Fund, and Rock River Township regarding the ATV Ordinance. She also reported that she is waiting to hear about the airport insurance from MMRMA.

Commissioner Mattson reported on the LMAS Judicial meeting he attend.

Public Comment Session was open. There was no public comment; thus, Public Comment Session was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Doucette to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Doucette, Mattson and Pullen. Nays – None. Absent – Commissioner Lindstrom.