

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

July 12, 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 4:10 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 Mattson 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 Doucette and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes from June 10, 2010, the Regular Board minutes from June 14, 2010, and the Special Board minutes from June 21, 2010. 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 Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner Doucette to approve the U.P. Area Agency on Aging's FY 2011 Annual Implementation Plan and the following Resolution #2010-12:

RESOLUTION #2010-12

**U.P. AREA AGENCY ON AGING
FY 2011 AREA PLAN / ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, UPCAP, which serves as the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, has developed and is operating under a Multi-Year (FY 2010-2012) Area Plan that provides funding for programs for services to older adults in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the Multi-Year Area Plan has been approved by all 15 counties of the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, the U.P. Area Agency on Aging is required to submit an Annual Implementation Plan which updates the Multi-Year Plan; and

WHEREAS, the UPCAP Board of Directors unanimously approved the proposed, updated Annual Implementation Plan; and

WHEREAS, each U.P. county is represented by a county official on the UPCAP Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Implementation Plan also requires review by individual county boards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners has received and hereby supports the U.P. Area Agency on Aging FY 2011 Annual Implementation Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted to UPCAP and placed on file.

Dated: July 12, 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.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize two people to attend the Michigan Association of Counties Summer Conference in Grand Rapids August 15-17, 2010. Monies are to come from the Commissioner's budget. 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 wanted to discuss with the Board that Alger Parks and Recreation was making a request for the county to become their fiscal agent. She said that one of the things that she wanted to find out was whether or not the City of Munising would be willing to bill Munising Township for benefits and liability insurance. Munising Township indicated that they were willing to act as their fiscal agent. She feels that this would be better because Munising Township is a monetary financial partner in Alger Parks and Recreation. She said that they are employees of Parks and Recreation and employees of the City of Munising as far as the benefit package goes. Commissioner Pullen thinks that the Board is asking for a whole lot of complication if they hire two more people for the county under an organization with their own separate board. She said she also thinks that they ran into this when they talked with Julie from the City. Commissioner Mattson said that he thought that was one of their major concerns was that they weren't going to create any additional expenses for the county. Originally Alger Parks and Recreation said that they would come to the county and that the county was going to charge administration fees. But then the thought came up that the county would be with two more employees and that the Board didn't want to put the county in that type of situation. She also said that Alger County had nothing to do with Alger Parks and Recreation including being on their Board. Commissioner Mattson said that regardless of what the City and Township do, the County has already eliminated positions and that they should replace those employees before we hire any other new employees. Commissioner Pullen is to do a letter to Alger Parks and Recreation, the City of Munising, and Munising Township. If the city refuses to bill Munising Township, Munising Township is not going to do it. At that point the Board will have to make its mind up if they are going to accept or whether as a fiscal agent they can maintain a legal separation between Alger Parks and Recreation and our own county employees. Commissioner Pullen also discussed Karen Bahrman's request for prison reimbursement. She said that during the Richardson trial, Karen kept track of the time and they billed for fees. She said she thinks that it's \$40 an hour that the state reimburses or we reimburse our county attorneys and that Karen can get up to \$28 an hour back. She said Karen can get a certain amount of money back by keeping track of the time she and her staff spends. Commissioner Pullen said that because of the current situation with Alger Max, Karen is receiving many more law suits and problems with the Alger Max prisoners. She said that because of the increase in Karen's workload she is unwilling to have her staff do the reimbursements. Commissioner Pullen also believed that at one point and time Mark Luoma did do the reimbursements. Karen said that she would like the Board to set aside the first \$10,000 of the prison reimbursements she gets to do a comparison study of wage and benefits so that her employees would be paid enough money and be put in line with the rest of the county. Commissioner Pullen said that the Treasurer pointed out to her that this money would be general fund money and they can't promise general fund monies ahead of time. There was no consensus at the Committee of the Whole meeting. Commissioner Mattson pointed out that some minutes were found and showed how things got out of whack with the employees being negotiations for certain benefits and certain pay increases. They also had differences in hours. He said that they should do some research before they are going to say they are going to bring them up to anything. He said that he wouldn't agree to anything until they actually have a meeting and go over some of those things. Commissioner Pullen said that some of the court staff is not eligible to join the union. However the Prosecuting Attorney's staff still wants to join the union. She said that Karen seems to think that this will be the answer to that request. She also would like to point out that after talking with the Clerk and Paula, Paula does reimbursements for circuit court. She said that Karen's stance was that it wasn't her job to do this. The Treasurer said that putting the money away can be done, just not the way Karen wants to do it. The money is general fund money and can not be held in a fund. She said that it can be done through budgeting. It was discussed that Karen said to use the money to get the study done and promise to implement it. This was a discussion to bring Commissioner Mattson up to date from the Committee of the Whole meeting. Commissioner Doucette brought up changing the county's fiscal year. The Treasurer said that the only ones against it was the road commission and that they did not have to change. It was discussed that this would be around a two year process because of the rules and regulations. It was decided to remain on the same fiscal year.

There were no appropriations.

On a motion by Commissioner Doucette, seconded by Commissioner Lindstrom to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee and the Committee of the Whole with the change in Terry McLaren's invoice. 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, seconded by Commissioner Mattson 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 Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner Doucette to amend the revenues in the amount of \$60,981 as follows:

#676 Reimbursements in the amount of \$7,940.98

#589 Gaming Revenue in the amount of \$19,000

#415 Donations in the amount of \$13,757.11

#415 Donations in the amount of \$5,000 (Fish and Game Alliance ó not received)

#442.210 Transfer in Ambulance in the amount of \$15,282.91

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 and seconded by Commissioner Doucette to amend the expenditures for the purchase of the new hovercraft in the motor pool account #101-304-801.000 in the amount of \$60,981. 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 authorize the Treasurer to set up a new fund ó ORV Fund (211). 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 Doucette and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve Trenary First Responders budget in the amount of \$5,160. Monies to come from the ambulance fund. 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 Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner Doucette to approve Option 1 ó25-Percent Payment Amountö for the National Forest Revenues. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Miscellaneous financial matters were next. Joe Cilc had an electrical permit wherein Mike Rozak had told Hoholik Enterprises, Inc. that there would be no charge for the permit because it was for Habitat for Humanity. It was discussed that only the County Board can waive the charge. It was moved by Commissioner Lindstrom and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to deny the waiver of the electrical permit fee in the amount of \$215. Commissioner Mattson said that at an LMAS meeting this morning non-profit organizations still have to pay for permits at a reduced rate. 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 VanLandschoot, seconded by Commissioner Lindstrom to approve the following Resolution #2010-09:

RESOLUTION #2010-09 IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 6154

WHEREAS, Public Act 312 of 1969 (P.A. 312) guarantees certain public safety employees binding arbitration, and in most cases has placed a costly burden on local units of government; and

WHEREAS, The argument for the act was to assist these employees who for public safety could not strike, but since that time it is illegal for any public employee to strike; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 6154 was introduced to guarantee county corrections officers binding arbitration in a fashion very similar to P.A. 312; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners understands counties are not in a financial position to expand binding arbitration to any employees; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's counties have made it clear that this type of costly legislation not only creates a new unfunded mandate, but adds financial burdens to counties that will likely result in increased layoffs of public safety officers; and

WHEREAS, State of Michigan Corrections officers do not have the benefit of binding arbitration largely because the state cannot financially sustain such benefits; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge Michigan's Legislators to oppose House Bill 6154; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be submitted to the Governor, Members of the Michigan Legislature and all 83 counties.

Dated: July 12, 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.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following Resolution #2010-10:

RESOLUTION #2010-10 URGING AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1072

WHEREAS, Public Act 312 of 1969 guarantees certain public safety employees binding arbitration, and in most cases has placed a costly burden on local units of government; and

WHEREAS, The argument for the act was to assist these employees who for public safety could not strike, but since that time it is illegal for any public employee to strike; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1072 was introduced as a way to help local units with this cost, the bill actually does the opposite, by opening up the 312 bargaining process to include authorities, such as non-peace officer 911 dispatchers; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners agrees that Public Act 312 of 1969 needs reform, this legislation does not address the root of the problem; and

WHEREAS, Alger County believes that the Act needs to address ability to pay, internal comparables, unforeseen events and catastrophes, and most importantly, **not adding new groups of employees until these other reforms are enacted;** and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners does hereby urge the Michigan Legislature to amend Senate Bill 1072 clarifying this provision to not expand binding arbitration to new groups and in turn, place more financial burden on communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the legislation is not amended, that Alger County urges its defeat; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be submitted to the Governor, Members of the Michigan Legislature and all 83 counties.

Dated: July 12, 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.

On a motion by Commissioner Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner Lindstrom to approve the following Resolution #2010-11:

RESOLUTION #2010-11 IN OPPOSITION OF HB 5882

WHEREAS, HB 5882 contains an increase for Juvenile Justice Residential Programs (detention facilities) of \$7.00 per child per day; and

WHEREAS, counties would be required to pay half of that increase; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of this funding increase is \$2.7 million or \$1.3 million each to the state and the counties; and

WHEREAS, eliminating this funding increase would reduce the state budget by \$1.3 million and save counties the same amount; and

WHEREAS, there has been no reason given for the increase; and

WHEREAS, juvenile justice was not included in the lawsuit settlement of the Children's Rights, so that cannot be the issue; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners hereby opposes this increase for residential facilities as it is nothing more than yet another unfunded mandate and urges the state to eliminate this funding increase; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Senator Mike Prusi, Representative Steve Lindberg, the Michigan Association of Counties, and the other 82 Michigan Counties.

Dated: July 12, 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.

Under committee reports Commissioner Doucette discussed upcoming and past Brownfield meetings. Commissioner Pullen discussed ALTRAN. Commissioner Mattson discussed LMAS and laptops that are available.

Under correspondence Commissioner Pullen talked about a letter that she received from Joe Cilc regarding Jim Seibert and the State of Michigan and Jim doing electrical work on municipal projects. Commissioner Pullen also said that she authorized payment for a DARE Officer to attend a conference in Denver, CO. The Pathways Grant will pay for this education. The Clerk read a request for donation letter for a bike path from Munising City Tourist Park to Sand Point Road.

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 Mattson 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