

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

December 10, 2009

(Minutes Corrected January 13, 2010)

Pursuant to recess, the Alger County Board of Commissioners convened in the conference room of the county building at 3:15 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Mattson with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, VanLandschoot, and Mattson. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

The Board of Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

It was the consensus of the Board to look at the minutes and make a motion at Monday's regular board meeting.

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

Tom Dykowski from Wilcox Professional Services was present to talk about new cells and an expansion project at Wood Island Landfill. He said that in 1992 they had Wood Island permitted for landfill. Cells 9 and 10 were originally a type III landfill. Tom said that they don't build type III landfills anymore and that the type III only has one liner on the bottom of the landfill. He said that type II has two liners. He said that this year they are redesigning cells 9 and 10 into a type II landfill using the same footprint that was approved as the type III. He said that in 2002 Alger County accepted the solid waste plan that the MDEQ developed and once Alger County took custody of the plan, Alger County is the administrator. Alger County has to make sure that any new construction permits are in compliance with the solid waste plan. The Alger County Board of Commissioners has to approve the redesign, not the technical aspects of it, but just the part that is compliant with the plan. Tom said that the landfill is going to be out of space within 10 months and in May they need to construct cells 9 and 10. That will give the landfill more space for an additional 5 to 6 years. He said that the owner has 200 acres to the east that Tom is sure they will be back for next year. He said that they must get a new construction permit for the new cells and then they will be going through the DEQ. They are asking for a letter or resolution stating that the two new cells are in compliance with the solid waste plan. He needs something to attach to the application part. He has a copy of the advisory analysis from the DEQ that says they must come to the Board for their approval. The consensus of the board is to approve a letter of support to Wilcox Professional Services to construct cells 9 and 10.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Chair and the Clerk to sign the 2007 Homeland Security Grant Program Interlocal Funding Agreement between Houghton County and Alger County.

Commissioner Pullen arrived at 3:37 p.m.

Bob Seid's retirement request for a B-4 retirement for the ten years he was employed by Alger County was discussed. Commissioner Pullen talked about a discussion with Duane Nuerta from the State of Michigan. She said that the State would probably not pay for someone who is no longer a 4d eligible employee and those are the contracts that Maximus makes out for the county for the Friend of the Court's office. She said that there are special packages for severance of employees if Alger County has an established policy or an employee/employer agreement. She said that they sometimes do a settlement payment, but it is usually calculated by dividing the number of employees in the Friend of the Court's office into the number of county employees and that the state then pays that percentage. It was discussed that Alger County has a small employee base. She said that his opinion was that if the state did agree to pay any portion that it would be done that way. She again spoke with Debra Peake from MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) about the retirement issue. Commissioner Pullen said that if Bob requests a hearing in writing to MERS, they would set it up with an administrative law judge. The hearing would probably be scheduled in Lansing and this judge would listen, ask questions, and take statements from both sides. She said the judge would then review and make a recommendation to the retirement board at MERS. Then there would be a determination hearing. It was discussed that Alger County could take a lawyer with them to Lansing when appearing before the administrative law judge. It was the consensus of the board to discuss Bob's request at Monday's regular board meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize monthly payments for the health insurance buyout instead of getting paid twice per year for whoever would like to use this option. *This option would lean some of the employees to get the

buyout and save some money for the budget. *Corrected to read: This option would convince some of the employees to get the buyout and save some money for the budget.

Old Business was next. Commissioner VanLandschoot gave a brief explanation about a meeting in Marquette regarding Michigan State University Extension and what is happening with them. He said there is a preliminary plan where they are trying to rearrange from the top down dividing the state into 12 districts. The Upper Peninsula would be split into two districts. There would be 12 district coordinators and the rest would be educators. He said that they are also looking at going green.

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.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize payment to NorthCare Substance Abuse Services for their appropriation in the amount of \$5,087.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Treasurer to transfer the following appropriations:

Transfer \$3,500 from the building department fund to the general fund for rent.

Transfer \$1,138.08 from the remonumentation grant to the general fund transfer in remonumentation administration.

Transfer \$4,500 from the foreclosure fund to the general fund in the postage account.

Transfer \$340,023.00 from the general fund to the revenue sharing reserve fund to reimburse money transferred in January 2009 for cash flow purposes.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee.

*It was the consensus of the Board to approve to the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the Treasurer. *Corrected to read: It was the consensus of the Board to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the Treasurer.

It was the consensus of the Board to add department 330 to the general fund for a marine safety grant appropriation.

It was the consensus of the Board to transfer expenditures from District Health to Veterans Burials in the amount of \$300.

It was the consensus of the Board to transfer expenditures from District Health to Veterans Affairs in the amount of \$76.38.

Under miscellaneous there was a request from the Alger County Animal Shelter for a donation for remodeling of the old kitchen because it was no longer able to meet their needs. The cost was \$3,500. *It was discussed that at this point and time because of budget constraints, no donation can be given. *Corrected to read: It was discussed that at this point and time because of budget constraints, no donation can be given and a letter will be sent notifying them of the decision.

There were no resolutions.

Committee Reports were next. Commissioner Doucette said that they met with the employees and went through their wish list and things that they had suggested. All three groups said that they were not interested in giving up their 3% raise. He said that they are willing to work on an insurance committee and see what they could do about the cost of the insurance. Commissioners Doucette and Mattson asked the Board what recommendations they could come up with to make up a difference of an approximate \$68,000 deficit. There was much discussion on employees, ways to cut expenditures, and ways to raise revenues. It was recommended and the consensus of the board to cut probate court's budget by \$15,000, friend of the court's budget by \$15,000, attorney fees by \$2,000, the courthouse union to go back to 37 ½ hours for a savings of \$13,000, add revenues in administration fees of \$7,000, add revenues in postage by the foreclosure fund for \$4,500, cut building and ground's budget by \$4,500, and add \$7,000 to revenues in interest on investments. A labor relations meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. to discuss courthouse union hours.

Correspondence was read and discussed and will be placed in the file.

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

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot, seconded by Commissioner Lindstrom to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.