

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

**June 10, 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 3:15 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, 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.

The agenda was presented and with the consensus of the Board to approve with changes to item number 9.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve and authorize the Sheriff to purchase a new hovercraft in the amount of \$60,981.00. There is \$13,732.11 from individual contributions, \$5,000 from the Alger Fish and Game Alliance, \$7,940.98 insurance payment from the damaged craft, \$19,000 from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, for a total of \$45,673.09. The remaining \$15,307.91 is to come from the ambulance budget in line item 801 for vehicle replacement. There was discussion on purchasing from the same manufacturer as the old hovercraft. Sergeant Todd Brock wanted the Board to know how instrumental Shirley Petoskey was in getting the \$19,000 from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve and authorize the Sheriff to purchase new video conference equipment in the amount of \$13,537. Monies are to come from the jail budget. The budget is to be reimbursed with grant monies. The 10% match of the county is being reimbursed by MMRMA (Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority).

It was the consensus of the Board to approve and authorize the Sheriff to request bids for a new patrol boat. \$57,000 was obtained from the Michigan DNRE along with \$25,000 from the Federal Stone Garden Grant. The Sheriff has also secured future funding to continue with maintenance and fuel expenses. It was the consensus to schedule a Special Board of Commissioner meeting June 21, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. to open and accept boat bids.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve to fix the current meal car in the amount of \$500 or less from Ron's Body Shop.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve payment of the invoice from MMRMA for training for Sgt. Tony Grahovac and Officer Nelson of the City of Munising Police Department. The City Police Department will reimburse the County \$195 for Officer Nelson.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the purchase of two veinlites for the ambulances in the amount of \$199 each. These are so the paramedics are able to find veins on those patients that it is difficult.

The jail inspection was discussed. There were two areas of non-compliance being fire safety and evacuation plans. The Sheriff is going to be responding to those issues.

Sgt. Brock wanted the Board to know that the Sheriff has deputized 21 officers from the Department of Corrections (DOC) for the Emergency Response Team. He said that they have formed a partnership with the DOC and that if anything were to happen in the County, they would just have to make a phone call.

Chris Case was next to talk about the Alger Community Recycling effort. He said that it is a joint effort with the National Forest Service, National Park Service, the City of Munising, Munising Township, as well as the Michigan State University Extension office. He said that they have been an organization since about 1990 and promoting recycling efforts in the community. He gave a brief history of who has had the recycling effort until they picked it back up in 2006. He said that they needed someplace to operate under and that their financial activities are now under the City of Munising. He said that they make a little bit of money on loads that they transport down to Manistique Paper but that they also have expenses for equipment and things like that. Chris said that they have gotten a lot of requests from outside communities. He said that they have offered themselves to the people of the county. He said that Grand Marais has asked them for some assistance and AuTrain from time to time has asked them for some assistance. He said that they are looking at going to the next step and that they have been doing paper since 2006 and they are doing it quite well. They have moved 40 loads - roughly 400 ton of paper from being in the landfill and getting recycled. He said that they want to expand and get a little bit bigger. But for them to do that and get grant requests put together and have more credibility with reaching a larger

audience, they need to move outside of the city and hopefully under the county so that they can represent countywide endeavors and the grant requests could show more of a countywide presence. Chris said that the request would not cost the county and that they are not looking for money. They are not looking for anything but to be slid under the county's wing for financial reasons. He said they are trying to get the credibility of what they are doing under a county umbrella. He said that another thing is possibly moving the operation into some kind of a county property. He said that they are presenting this as something to think about. They want to be some form of a county entity and move to a countywide function. The consensus of the Board is to look at other counties that do not own their own landfill or landfill authority. This is to be discussed with the Prosecuting Attorney.

Next on the agenda was to authorize the Clerk to purchase two new servers and any related hardware and software for Trimin to run the new Register of Deeds program. Jeff Nemacheck from Computer Associates is to attend Monday's regular board meeting and discuss this with the Board.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the following letter to the Munising News Editor:

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk

101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

June 10, 2010

The Munising News  
132 E. Superior Street  
Munising, MI 49862

Dear Editor:

On behalf of Alger County, I would like to express a heartfelt appreciation to all those who helped to raise money for the replacement of the Alger County hovercraft which was badly damaged during a rescue effort earlier this year.

Almost \$14,000 was raised from individual donations. Alger Fish and Game Alliance gave \$5,000 and the local representative for Unit 5 of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians was instrumental in convincing them to give the largest single donation of \$19,000.

The hovercraft has been an important part of the Alger County rescue efforts for many years and I wish to thank all those who made the purchase of a new replacement possible so quickly.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Pullen, Chair  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

There was discussion on having the Chair sign contracts without approval of the Board. It was the consensus that she uses her better judgment and common sense.

Old business was next and there was talk about changing the county's fiscal year. It was discussed that it would have to be discussed with the road commission and that they would have to notify mental health, probate child care, Department of Human Services, and other county departments and agencies prior to final adoption of the change. The Treasurer is to do a letter to departments and agencies to ask their opinion of a change.

There were no appropriations.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee except for the bill to Schoolcraft County. Schoolcraft County has been overcharging the administrative fee of 5% instead of 1.25%. It should be a fee of 5% split with the four counties.

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.

Miscellaneous financial matters were next on the agenda. There was discussion on the DTR (delinquent tax revolving fund). The Treasurer said that after paying off the governmental units, the remainder in the DTR is \$834,947.56. Also charging administration fees were discussed. Many counties do charge for indirect costs from the cost allocation plans. There was talk about finding out if millage monies can be charged an administrative fee. This is to be on hold until the next meeting.

There were no new resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot talked about all district changes for MSU Extension. He also said that the emerald ash borer is out in force. Commissioner Doucette discussed a meeting he attended at City Hall regarding a brownfield at the old city dump. He also discussed a meeting that he and the Clerk attended with Steve Powers at Marquette County regarding recovery zone bonds. Commissioner Pullen discussed the three-county meeting, the Library Board, Bob Seid, the Community Corrections Officer, the Health Department, video conferencing, and shipping containers for the jail. The new Probation Officer was also discussed.

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

Board comments were next. There were none.

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

This meeting is now adjourned.

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Catherine A. Pullen, Chairwoman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk