

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

**March 4, 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.

Nick Derusha, the LMAS Health Officer, was available to make a presentation for the Health Department. He provided a copy of the 2009 Annual Report and went through it with the Board. He said that he hopes to be here quarterly to give updates. Commissioner Mattson wanted to reiterate that the Sheriff offered the paramedics if there is a situation that they could help out. The loan for the building was discussed. Nick said that the loan was extended to 2022. Commissioner Mattson asked if the people at LMAS had to be located in that building. Nick said they may be able to make another building work. He said that the Alger County building is their second largest. He said that there are some needs for LMAS if they were relocated being sanitary areas and space to provide immunizations. There were several questions from the Board including space availability at the LMAS building. Nick said that they would be interested to do a study with the county for the building. He said that right now they rent space to MSU Extension. Commissioner Mattson said that we currently have space problems and are looking at moving people out. Nick said that he ran some rough numbers and that they could probably arrange .71 to .75 cents per square foot in the upper level and thought they could do better for the lower level. He said that there is 11,520 square feet in the building.

Next on the agenda was Sgt. Tony Grahovac to talk about dog noise issues. He was not available at this time and will be later on the agenda.

Commissioner Mattson discussed a finance meeting that was held with Glen Marshall regarding his per diems and mileage. Glen said that he would do whatever the board's pleasure is. There was much discussion. The general consensus is to follow the same rules as everyone else. Meetings with veterans are considered part of the job. If there is to be a meeting with a veteran outside of the office he is to charge mileage. If there is a meeting with the Veterans Council Trust Fund, that is considered a meeting to charge a per diem. These procedures are to start April 1, 2010.

Sgt. Tony Grahovac was present to talk about dog noise complaints. He said that he talked with the townships and that they do not want to pass ordinances for this. He said that he talked to Karen Bahrman, the Prosecuting Attorney, about amending the dog ordinance to add some wording. She said that she would come up with some wording at the pleasure of the Board. There was discussion on the wording and not involving dog kennels. The consensus of the Board is to have Karen come up with the wording to amend the Dog Control Ordinance No. 12. The Board will then go over the Ordinance and follow proper procedures to amend the Ordinance if this is the choice. It was also the consensus of the Board to have the Board do a letter to the townships regarding the townships preparing a noise ordinance or the county may amend their ordinance.

It was the consensus of the Board to sign the Cost Allocation Plan Contract with MGT of America. The next step is then to change the CRP (Cooperative Reimbursement Program) contracts to be with the same company.

It was the consensus of the Board to pass a change to the Board Policy to include Compensation for County Road Commissioners. There were no comments from the Prosecuting Attorney, Treasurer, or the Clerk.

Commissioner Pullen discussed Bob Seid's retirement and the three-county meeting that was held on February 18, 2010. She said that Steve Pence was there as Bob's attorney. Bob wants Alger County to have a valuation done for his retirement from an Old C-1 to a B-4 for his employment with Alger County from 1988 to 1998. Commissioner Pullen said that Dan McKinney emailed her that Bonnie Toskey had the hearing in Lansing on March 15, 2010 adjourned.

Commissioner Lindstrom left at 4:45 p.m.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize Commissioner Pullen to hire Bonnie Toskey from Cohl, Stoker, Toskey & McGlinchey, P.C. in Lansing to represent Alger County splitting the cost with Schoolcraft and Luce counties. If Schoolcraft will not split the cost, then it was the consensus of the Board to hire Bonnie Toskey or someone from the firm to represent Alger County.

It was the consensus of the Board to allow the Register of Deeds to keep the Manatron refund and any monies generated from the new website deposited into the Register of Deeds fund (256). These monies will be to pay back the cost of the new system and to further enhance the Register of Deeds office.

There was no old business to discuss.

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 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 authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$32,000 from the DTR fund (Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund) (516) to the Register of Deeds fund (256).

It was the consensus of the Board to amend the revenues in the Register of Deeds fund in the amount of \$32,000.

It was the consensus of the Board to amend the expenditures in the Register of Deeds fund in professional services (256-000-801.000) in the amount of \$32,000.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Clerk to transfer the following 2009 expenditures:

Transfer \$3,435.72 from Probate Court's budget to the Circuit Court budget.

Transfer \$30.44 from Probate Court's budget to the County Clerk / ROD budget.

Transfer \$826.68 from Probate Court's budget to the Jail budget.

Transfer \$41.25 from Probate Court's budget to the Veterans Affairs budget.

Miscellaneous financial matters were next on the agenda. The Sheriff said that they received a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant for video arraignments and that it is a 90/10 match. He said the 90% amount of the grant is \$12,183 and the 10% match for the county is \$1,354. He said that this may be covered with the insurance carrier, MMRMA, and he is looking into this. The Sheriff also talked about the hovercraft. He said that the victims family is trying to organize a benefit to help pay for it. The insurance company totaled the hovercraft for \$8,900. He said that a new one costs approximately \$53,000. He said that they are going get the old one running for about \$500. It will not be 100% but that they could use it as a backup and then will work to trade it in for a new one.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve resolution #2010-04 supporting the sale of the AuTrain Dam and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license transfer.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve resolution #2010-05 supporting efforts to stop the migration of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes.

It was the consensus of the Board to give the Snowmobile Advisory Committee Resolution to the Sheriff and for him to get a recommendation from the Sheriff's Association.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen said that at a three-county meeting Dan LaFolle said that Schoolcraft County's convention facilities tax seems to be the same amount and that the swamp tax is a little lower. Commissioner VanLandschoot talked about MSU, the new districts, the new employees, and the employees that are being reassigned. He also gave a MAC update regarding unfunded mandates and bills.

Correspondence was 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