

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

**May 7, 2009**

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. Terri Grout, executive director of the conservation district discussed monies from the stimulus package. She said the Michigan Department of Agriculture is receiving money who in turn is then allocating monies to each conservation district. She handed out proposal application forms for plantings or repair with crews of six people and projects that are shovel ready. John from the Munising News talked about a story he did on roof failures in the county with Joe Cilc. He said he had heard and asked the board if there was a person that lived on Crossover Road that was not happy with the story John did and was anyone on the Board read the riot act to people in the county because of the picture that was taken and put on the front page of the Munising News. Commissioner Pullen said no one had knowledge of the situation. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, public comment was closed.

The county clerk gave Joseph VanLandschoot his oath of office for County Commissioner District 2.

It was the consensus of the board to approve Commissioner Lindstrom to attend the UPACC Conference May 15 and 16 in Baraga.

Commissioner Pullen discussed the revenues and expenditures for the DTR and general fund. She also talked about getting the retirement accounts funded above 85% and how much that would cost.

Commissioner Mattson discussed the 2008 budget and that it is officially closed per the auditors. He also discussed the 2009 budget and that the law library is in the negative by \$166.00. He said we would take care of the negative accounts at the regular board meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the board bills as presented and approved by the audit committee.

It was discussed that the clerk's computer system is having problems since Harris did their upgrade. It was suggested by Commissioner Doucette to have Harris, Computer Associates of Marquette, and the departments that use Harris to meet and figure out how to fix the problems.

Commissioner Mattson said that there is a regional jail brainstorming session on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> in Marquette. Commissioner Mattson cannot attend, but Commissioner Doucette will attend.

Commissioner Mattson discussed a Building and Grounds meeting with the Sheriff and Friend of the Court and that there will be a t-wall built with a locked door for friend of the court and another wall will be built for the Sheriff's department. He said there are files and computers that need to be disposed of that are stored in the basement.

There was discussion with the board on the law library books and storage.

There was also discussion on the web page and the meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> with John Conrad of Iron Bay Computer and Design and what the county could actually afford because it is not in the budget for this year. It was also discussed to limit departments on what they could spend. It was discussed to find out what the total bill would be and then look and prioritize what needs to be done first. The cost is \$50 per year for the basic package, \$39.95 per year for the domain name registration, \$100 per page design fee, and updates are based on \$65 per hour. It was discussed that Alison Thomma would be doing the county's updates. There was also discussion on what would be on the Board of Commissioners web page. John from the Munising News said he would take pictures for the county at no cost and will be available on Monday to take anyone's picture for the web site. Commissioner Doucette said that there was a mandate that the county has a firewall.

Commissioner Doucette talked about the ORV meeting with the law enforcement people, the county road commission, Karen Bahrman, and the DNR. They talked about the road commission's needs and the different ordinances. He said Delta County is coming up with a draft for Alger County to look at and then they will re-meet on it. Karen Bahrman said it was best to repost and notify the townships. Commissioner Doucette did some research with the DNR and Ron Yesney about the problems previous to the meetings out on Old M-94 and went through all of the old tracts. He said back in the 1800's the state actually allowed the railroad companies to take over the property with a clause that if abandoned it would revert the old railroad grades back to the state and can not be sold. He said there was a problem that over the years some of the old railroad companies have sold some of the pieces of property to private owners. He said that if they can get a state designated trail (snowmobile and ORV) from east to west through Alger, then there are monies available for patrols and equipment.

Commissioner Pullen said that she received a telephone call from a Free Press reporter who wants to interview her concerning Engler's proposal to put Guantanamo prisoners in the Upper Peninsula. She asked if anyone has heard anything about his. She said she would bring it up at the Committee of the Whole and see if anybody knows anything or has any feelings about this. Commissioner Doucette said that before they comment they might want to talk to their representatives.

Commissioner Lindstrom left at 4:30 p.m.

Cell phones were discussed and the costs for the phones were \$79.99 each. There were questions from people about what type of phones people requested. There was also concern about authorizing people cell phones that were on call in the county. In the future, the board is to clarify better what type of phones employees are to get. It was discussed that if the people do not like what phones the county purchases, they could purchase their own phone.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the treasurer to transfer \$10,401.89 from the 215 fund into the general fund.

Commissioner Pullen said they are still trying to meet with Schoolcraft County about employees that are shared between the counties. She said that Luce, Schoolcraft, and Alger counties need to meet regarding the shared employees and their benefits.

There was discussion about Bob Seid's retirement and that the board needs to act on this at next Monday's meeting.

The consensus of the board is to have Bob Seid retire from Alger County.

The Interlocal Agreement and Resolution for the U.P. State fair was discussed and is to be taken care of at Monday's meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to pass resolutions 2009-06 & 2009-12.

Commissioner Mattson said that recently Karen Bahrman received an award and wondered if the county board should give her some kind of recognition. She was the first to receive the award, Victim Voice Award, in conjunction with the Richardson trial. It was decided to give Karen a card from the Commissioners. He also talked about the shortage of room in the courthouse and jail and to look to the future as to existing buildings, jail, and the ambulance garage. It was discussed to put money away into a building fund for future expansion. Commissioner Doucette said that there is talk about the Munising Public School going down to one school. It is either the high school or the Mather building and could be available in the next year or two. He said that it could be an opportunity for the county. He also said we should be looking at other options for expanding space for the county. Commissioner Mattson said that maybe at the next building and grounds meeting there could be a discussion and recommendation for expanding. Commissioner Doucette also said that the county should get a consulting company in here to find out if it is a good idea to expand the current county building.

Commissioner Pullen read correspondence.

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

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

---

Catherine A. Pullen, Chairwoman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

---

Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk