

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**January 20, 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 4:00 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.

It was moved by Commissioner Lindstrom and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot 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.

The next item on the agenda was a representative from the U.S. Census Bureau. There was no one available at this time and this will be placed later in the agenda.

On a motion by Commissioner Lindstrom, seconded by Commissioner Mattson to re-appoint Sarah Williams to the ALTRAN Board of Directors for a three-year term effective January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2012. 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 Lindstrom to approve and authorize the chair to sign the following Resolution #10-01:

**RESOLUTION #10-01**

**WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of the Alger County Treasurer that in 2010 the Alger County Board of Commissioners authorized the County Treasurer to collect the Limestone Township summer tax collection.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alger County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Treasurer to collect a 1% administration fee, as authorized by MCL a211.44.

Dated: January 20, 2010

---

Catherine A. Pullen, Chair  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

There was a question regarding collecting the 1% administration fee and where it came from. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Vicki Bruff representing the U.S. Census Bureau was present to talk about the 2010 census. She is responsible for the Upper Peninsula. She said that they need a lot more people to work in Alger County. There are jobs available temporary to part-time. They are bringing field employees to work starting next week. She said there are 5 field operations. She said only 2% on the population in the U.P. will get a questionnaire mailed to their home. Everyone else is going to be hand delivered. She said the only way to be thorough and make sure to get to every residence is to have people work the areas that they reside in and know. Field jobs are from \$11.50 per hour close to \$17.00 per hour. She said if you do a good job in one operation you'dl be asked to do the next. She said that the governor is concerned about getting people to work and has excluded census counting because it is temporary and part-time from many of the state assistance programs. She said that many of the people on unemployment are not hurt by working for the census because it extends their claims. They may not get a check because they are working for the census but it doesn't close their unemployment claims. When they are not working for the census anymore they will still be able to resume getting their claim. She said that the 2010 census is 10 questions and should take only 10 minutes. She said it doesn't ask your social security number or your income. They just want to get a count of how many people are in that household. They are trying to set up three assistance questionnaire sites in Munising for six weeks. They will have jobs for people that will be staffed at 15 hours per week and have two people working there. These sites will have extra questionnaires for people who didn't get one at their house or that they were concerned about how to answer a question. She is asking for recommendations for sites and said that they must have wheel chair access and heat. Many sites were discussed. Commissioner VanLandschoot said to try the bottom of the Nights of Columbus. The Senior Center was also suggested. Vicki said that they have several places in the

county being the Trenary hall in Mathias Township, the township hall in Chatham, and they are also looking for a place in Grand Marais. AuTrain and Onota townships were suggested. Vicki said they were asking for contracts to be signed and that she is not allowed to sign any contracts. She said that the census workers take an oath about protecting information. They could be fined \$250,000 or five years in jail if they break that oath. She said that in the 2000 census, there were studies to say that they under counted the tribal population by 1 in 20 people, which was devastating for a lot of unit funding. This time around they have tribal specialists and she has tried to hire five people to work just the tribe. She said last time in the Sault the tribal police were called on the census workers and would not let them in. Also in 2000 if you didn't believe as a county commissioner that your census number was right or your township numbers were right, you had to pay for the census to be redone. Vicki said this time around she has a quality control division. If anyone sees or hears of anything that is a little irregular, they can go out and rework that area to verify they got every house accurately. She said that she wants people who live in the areas working in those areas. She would like 300 people to work in Alger County. Vicki has a total of 5,000 people to work in the whole Upper Peninsula. They are starting the first week of operations in February. She talked about snowbirds and that they have to visit a house six times before being able to contact the postman, sheriff or a neighbor to verify that those people don't come back until May. They will make every attempt to get those people counted. The people who they are going to hire need to read and write. They need to take a 30 minute basic skills test. Vicki said that she can give out practice tests. They need two forms of id to verify they are who they say they are. They also need to do background checks. She asked the sheriff about taking fingerprints and how much they would charge. She said they would need fingerprints if two people have the same name and they can't distinguish the difference. The sheriff said it would probably be \$15. They are supposed to have their census id and a picture id with them when working. Commissioner Doucette said that he had someone contact him saying that they took a test and never heard back. Vicki told him to have them call the number on the sheet or her direct line. She said she has an assistant taking all of those names and they will be checking the system to see if they are eligible. They can just walk into a facility and take the test. They can also call and take a practice test. She said they will pay .50 cents per mile. She said if anyone has any questions, feel free to contact her.

Steve Webber was present and discussed with the board the grievance from Dave Latvala regarding the wording in the Sheriff's Union contract for retiree's health insurance and what is really covered. He said that he had talked to Al Hagar and Al said that it was put in the contract that way and was meant to be a benefit to the employee instead of an increase in wages. Commissioner Pullen said that Dave's health insurance costs \$1,444.24. Commissioner Doucette said that the board needs to keep a paper trail. A book of letter of understandings was talked about. On a motion by Commissioner Doucette, seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve with the information at hand that the individual should get the insurance he requested, which is a family plan and which is in appendix b of pensions of the Alger County Sheriff's Association union agreement. It reads, "Any employee wishing to participate in the existing health care benefits upon retirement may do so. Said benefits may be purchased through the Employer at the rate of 1/2 (one half) the Employer's group rate, the remaining 1/2 will be paid by the Employer." Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Doucette to have the labor relations committee and unions put together a letter of understanding booklet and continue to work on grey areas that are of interest to both parties. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Doucette, Lindstrom, Mattson, VanLandschoot, and Pullen. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

Commissioner's comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot wanted to talk about doing a resolution with state unfunded mandates. He is also to look for something regarding the Asian carp fish. Commissioner Pullen said she would like some feedback about a letter from the county's auditors, Anderson, Tackman, and Co. Commissioner VanLandschoot also wanted to let everyone know about an article in the Munising News regarding the Tahkinen's and their AuTrain property. Commissioner Pullen discussed a meeting that she had with Joe Cilc and the Clerk. It was discussed that Joe was the building inspector and Will Rogers in AuTrain Township is the zoning administrator. It was discussed that if Joe gets a zoning permit from the zoning administrator, then he has to issue the building permit. Commissioner Doucette said that he was approached by the county road commission about raising their current meeting rates. Currently their per diems are \$25.00 per meeting. A question was asked if the county board has the authority to approve the road commission their salaries and per diems. This question is to be checked on.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson, seconded by Commissioner Doucette 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