

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

**November 23, 2009**

**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 7:30 a.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, the public comment session was closed.

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

There were scheduled times to meet with each department head. The Sheriff was first. He said that Dave Latvala can not be replaced because no one has the qualifications that Dave had with the computers. Cutting Dave's position and some line items would be a savings of \$57,483.44. The new jail budget total is \$744,043.56. Next was the sheriff department's budget. With total cuts of \$11,500.00 the new total for the sheriff department's budget is \$149,687.00. The motor pool budget was next. With total cuts of \$2,000.00 the new total for the motor pool is \$22,100.00. He discussed Emergency Management and also discussed the Marine Safety Grant and what he planned on doing next year to get a new boat.

Glenn Marshall from the Veteran's office was scheduled next. He said that his per diems might increase. He doesn't think there is anything on his budget that he could decrease.

The board went over some miscellaneous budgets. \$450.00 was cut from the airport budget for a new total of \$4,950.00 and \$800.00 was cut from the animal shelter's budget for a new total of \$8,300.00

District Court was scheduled next. With line item cuts made district court's budget was decreased by \$12,783.60 for a new total of \$185,366.12.

The County Clerk's budget was discussed and decreased by \$2,806.36 for a new total of \$303,999.64.

The Prosecutor's budget was next. With line item cuts the budget was decreased by \$2,476.80 for a new total budget of \$233,689.20.

Probate Court was discussed. With line item cuts the budget was decreased by \$5,250.00 for a new total budget of \$186,292.00. There were suggestions on the phones, heating, air conditioning, rugs, and recycling.

Friend of the Court was scheduled next. Judge Carmody said that they eliminated the Friend of the Court position in 2009 and was replaced by contracting the position. It was discussed that Judge Carmody will cut 7% from the Friend of the Court budget and will get his line by line items to the board next week. Circuit Court's budget was also discussed and Judge Carmody will cut 7% of that budget and will get the line items to the board next week. Judge Carmody is also to check on the law library costs with Judge Luoma.

The treasurer's budget was discussed next. With line item cuts in the amount of \$4,995.04 this leaves a new total budget of \$215,782.96.

The board went through some more of the miscellaneous budgets.

Next discussed was the Board of Commissioner's budget. It was recommended to take a look at the committee lists and not have two commissioners at some of the meetings. The board cut line items in the amount of \$3,550.00 for a new total budget of \$44,442.00.

Building and Grounds was next. The board cut line items in the amount of \$1,254.80 for a new total budget of \$214,961.20.

Pat Suboski from the equalization department was next. He talked about hiring tax management to audit personal property taxes of businesses. He said that there are still some omitted properties that are being found. He said that there is nothing much to cut from his budget. He talked about tax management and said that the average discovery of the company is 39% which would amount to about \$32,000.00 of which ½ would be paid to the company. Pat said that the board could increase an additional \$25,000.00 to the current tax collection in revenues. \$2,000 was also added to the current tax interest. He cut \$3,375.00 in line items for a new total budget of \$143,757.00.

This brings the total deficit for the county to \$91,666.13 from \$254,289.77 for the 2010 budget after every department's meeting with the board and decreasing their budgets.

Public comment session was open. It was discussed by Commissioner Doucette that a memo should be prepared saying that the county's deficit is \$91,666.13 and that is our latest figure. We need to come up with a balanced budget by December 31, 2009. We are checking on some issues and any other employee suggestions would be welcome. There was no other public comment; thus, the public comment session was closed.

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

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Catherine A. Pullen, Chairwoman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk