

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

December 12, 2011

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 Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. The sheriff said that he had two cars to scrap for salvage. One is a 2002 Ford Explorer that was totaled in an accident and the other is a 1999 Jeep that the frame broke out. He also said that he needs to order one more ice rescue suit. These items will be added to the agenda. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session 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 accepted with the sheriff's additions.

Bill Matson and Laura Travis from the Women's Center were present to discuss the Women's Center rent. Laura introduced Bill Matson, Pat Micklow, and Phyllis Loonsfoot all from the Women's Center. Laura gave a brief description of the services provided by the Women's Center to the county. A check was given to the treasurer for the utilities for the first three quarters of 2011 in the amount of \$609.36. From 1996 through 2002, rent for the Women's Center was free. They then started receiving grants for their rent of \$300 per month. They are no longer getting grants for the rent and can not afford to pay the rent of \$300. They had a handout for the board as follows:



December 12, 2011

Dear Members of the Alger County Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. The Women Center/Harbor House has had a long relationship with the Alger County government. We have housed an advocae in your building for over 15years and have paid rent for this space since September, 2002. Currently the Women Center owes you for three quarters, or 9 months rent. The following is a breakdown:

Alger County Rent				
	1 st quarter	2 nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	Total
Phone Services	\$70.64	\$70.64	\$71.62	\$212.90
Internet Services	\$43.38	\$43.38	-	\$157.03
Computer Assoc.	\$38.48		-	\$239.43
Total Utilities	\$152.50	\$114.02	\$342.84	\$609.36
Rent	\$900	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$2,700.00
Donations	-	-	-	(\$300.00)
Total	\$1,052.50	\$1014.02	\$1,242.84	\$3,009.36

The Women Center Inc. is a 501 3(c) non-profit organization, which means we are awarded grants and contracts to provide services. In the past we were fortunate to receive funding for space cost. This obligation was 100% covered under this funding. Currently, the grants awarded to the Women Center only receives 5% for administration cost, and very little for operating cost outside of wages and benefits for our employees.

In effect, the Women Center has had to pay for the Alger County rent from the coffers accumulated from donations and fundraising activities. As with every organization today, the Women Center has struggled in our efforts to keep up with our obligations. The Alger County rent is not our only obligation we are behind. However, we do have good people on our board and we are working on long-term solutions to our situation. Our mission is too important to fail.

In line with our efforts to curv our obligations, we are here to propose 5 scenarios to th Alger County Board:

Scenario 1

- Pay utilities due \$609.36
- Keep offices in same location
- Alger County donation of back rent \$2,400
- Forgive future rent
- Women Center pay for future utilities
- Work with Alger County to secure 2% funding from the Sault Tribe to fund future rent

Scenario 2

- Pay utilities due \$609.36
- Keep offices in same location
- Alger County donation of back rent \$2,400
- Reduce rent to \$100 a month
- Women Center pay for future utilities
- Work with Alger County to secure 2% funding from the Sault Tribe to fund future rent

Scenario 3

- Pay utilities due \$609.36
- Keep offices in same location
- Alger County defer back rent \$2,400, interest free, \$100 month for 2 years.
- Forgive future rent
- Women Center pay for future utilities
- Work with Alger County to secure 2% funding from the Sault Tribe to fund future rent

Scenario 4

- Pay utilities due \$609.36
- Move offices, smaller space in same location
- Alger County donation of back rent \$2,400
- Reduce rent to \$100 a month
- Women Center pay for future utilities
- Work with Alger County to secure 2% funding from the Sault Tribe to fund future ren

Scenario 5

- Pay utilities due \$609.36
- Move offices to new location
- Alger County defer back rent \$2,400, interest free, \$100 month for 2 years

The current placement is optimal for both organizations and it would be a great loss to have scenario 5 come to fruition. We understand that your local government is also faced with some tough tasks ahead due to funding availability. If we can be of any assistance in your efforts please let us know.

Thank You for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to call at (906) 225-1346, ext. 112 or 113.

Thank you,

Pat Micklow
Treasurer

Phyllis Loensfoot,
Director

Bill Matson
Finance Manager

They asked the board to accept one of the five scenarios. There were no questions from the board. The board told them that they will take a look at it and make a decision in the future. There was discussion on the scenarios from the board. It was the consensus of the board to go with scenario 2 ó the Womenø Center to pay the utilities, keep the offices in the same location, Alger County donates back rent of \$2,400, reduce rent to \$100 a month, Womenø Center pays for future utilities, and to work with Alger County to secure 2% funding from the Sault Tribe to fund future rent. The board agreed to reduce the rent to \$100 per month until they secure the 2% funding at which time the rent would then go back to \$300 per month.

Don Kinnunenø insurance was discussed. The Kinnunenø said that they would like to recover their deductible of \$2,250 and have the board set up a HSA for them in 2012. It was discussed that the board would pay \$1,650 of the \$2,250 deductible for 2011 because they would have had to pay a \$600 deductible on their old policy. It was the consensus of the board to postpone a decision for 2012 and to wait until further information can be found.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to salvage the 2002 Ford Explorer and the 1999 Jeep for approximately \$300 each.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase an additional new ice rescue suit in the amount of \$587. The monies are to come from the ambulance budget in rescue supplies.

There was no old business to discuss.

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.

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 the following funds:

Transfer from Ambulance	\$3,000.00	To General Fund
Transfer from F.O.C. Fund	\$2,500.00	To General Fund
Transfer from Cost Allocation	\$4,500.00	To Probate Child Care Fund
Transfer from R.O. D. Auto Fund	\$8,000.00	To DTR Fund (Repayment of Loan)
Transfer from Bldg. Dept Fund	\$4,000.00	To DTR Fund (Repayment of Loan)

It was the consensus of the board to amend the revenues in PILT (101-000-428.000) in the amount of \$4,750.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the expenditures below:

*Audit	\$500
*Motor Pool	\$4,000
*Computer	\$250

There were no miscellaneous finance matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Mattson discussed the budget committee and that they went through every department's budget starting with a deficit of \$112,000 to \$115,000 ending with a deficit of \$29,648. Commissioner Doucette said that he sent a letter to the sheriff's union asking them to open their contract regarding wages. Pam discussed talking with Pat Suboski regarding 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 new buildings. It was also discussed that Pat could also be working with Luce County and having Luce County pay us for 130 hours of service. The next budget meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Correspondence was read and will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he talked with Earl Hawn and that he will come at the beginning of next year to talk about the CDBG grant. Commissioner Rondeau talked about the airport.

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

This meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk