

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

September 10, 2012

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, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. 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 the consensus of the board to look at the minutes and make a motion at Monday's regular board meeting.

The agenda was presented. The October through December 2012 LMAS appropriation payment is to be added under appropriations. There was a consensus of the amended agenda.

Terry McLaren presented the board with an amended annual child care budget for the chair to sign to be submitted to the state, which was the same as last year in the amount of \$15,000.

Next on the agenda was an insurance discussion. Sheila Peters was present and explained the differences between Agent of Record and Agent of Inquiry. She said that the insurance committee is asking for the board to reconsider the motion made May 21, 2012 wherein the board voted that Employee Benefits Agency, Inc. become the Agent of Record beginning January 2013. They would like the board to go out on the bidding process for the insurance costs. The insurance committee submitted the following letter to the board:

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An agent of record (AOR) is an individual or a legal entity with a duly properly executed in line with the prevailing legal norms and regulations contractual agreement with an insurance policy owner. The agent of record has a legal right to receiving commissions from the respective insurance policy.

- 1) In May of 2012, the Alger County Board of Commissioners voted Employee Benefits of Marquette, MI to be the Agent of Record for the Alger County Health Insurance starting January 1, 2013. We, the Health Insurance Committee, are asking that a new motion be made to allow the bidding process for health insurance again this year and to not have Employee Benefits solely be allowed to just take over the health insurance account.
- 2) The Health Insurance Committee is also asking that sealed bids be mandated and returned only to the Health Insurance Committee.
- 3) The Health Insurance Committee is asking that all members of the Health Insurance Committee sign an affidavit that ensures all of the incoming bids confidential.

Thank you for your time. We look forward to diligently working with all of you again this year to promote a continued cost saving for Alger County,

Alger County Health Insurance Committee

It was discussed that the insurance committee does not need to sign any affidavits, but any bids that are open would be disqualified. Commissioner Pullen said that she doesn't have any objections to the health insurance committee being a part of the process but that she also wants the board or a couple of the board members to be a part of the process. She said that in 2007 there was a law passed in Michigan that requires the local governments to seek bids for health insurance for its employees every three years. It requires insurance companies to disclose claims experience history to local governmental entities under certain conditions and allows local governments to self-insure or form health care insurance pools under certain circumstances. She said that means that it is mandated by law that every three years they go out on bids. She said that it was not the intent of the board to bypass the insurance committee, but through working with MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) and listening to other entities such as LMAS and other recommendations including Emil's, they thought they were making the right decision based on the information that they had. It was discussed that there should be notices on the board for the health insurance committee meetings. It was the consensus of the board to rescind the motion made in the May 21st board meeting and make a new motion to have the insurance go out on sealed bids. The sealed bids

are to come to the Alger County Clerk and are to be opened at a board meeting. Commissioner Rondeau agreed to be on the insurance committee along with Commissioner Pullen, when she could attend.

Steve Webber discussed converting the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) into a training/classroom. He figures that it would cost \$4,500 this year and then \$4,500 budgeted for next year. He said that all records would still be locked and no one would be able to find information regarding the Friend of the Court, Probate Court, or the jail files. He said that it would be more of a professional atmosphere and would hopefully be able to teleconference in that room. The room would also have places for storage for the EMS training equipment. The monies would be coming from the ambulance fund in the capital improvements line item. Steve also discussed how the monies could be used if the county were to choose to receive 100% of the national forest reserve funds. He said that he is still receiving information about this and will find out more about it. He said that it could be used for updating forest service roads that come into conjunction with households, search and rescue expenses, and dry hydrants among other things. It is the consensus of the board to authorize Steve to update the EOC room to be used for meetings, storing equipment, and a trainings/classroom.

The sheriff discussed the STEMI program and the need for it. He said that it will transmit EKG's right to the cardiologist through the cell phone lines. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase the STEMI transmission equipment in the total amount of \$7,852.50 with additional monthly costs of approximately \$50 per month from Verizon for cellular data usage. The monies are to come from the ambulance fund ó capital improvements line item.

There was discussion on the 911 Resolution and the Letter of Agency utilizing Peninsula Fiber Network, LLC as the carrier. The sheriff said that Peninsula Fiber Network, LLC replaces AT&T. It was the consensus of the board to authorize passing of the 911 Resolution and the Letter of Agency. The sheriff also discussed the GIS data that the county now owns from doing the mapping for 911 and the companies that may FOIA the information and what they should charge for the information.

There was discussion of the medical examiner. It was the consensus of the board to advertise for a medical examiner and have the sheriff come up with the advertisement.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the 2013 Friend of the Court CRP (Cooperative Reimbursement Program) Agreement with DHS (Department of Human Services) and the County of Alger.

The U.P. Association of County Commissioners Conference at Bay Mills Resort beginning at noon on Thursday, October 18, 2012 and ending on Friday, October 19, 2012 was discussed. It was the consensus of the board to authorize four commissioners to attend at a cost of \$65 per room.

Old business was next. Commissioner Doucette said that he called MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) as requested regarding cost allocation. He said that Tim McGuire told him to call Attorney Peter Cohl through MAC. Peter Cohl said that he has handled those cases before and that there would be charged approximately 4-5 hours of research. It was the consensus of the board to hire Peter Cohl to handle the cost allocation issue.

Pam Johnson, the Treasurer, discussed the National Forest Reserve wherein the county has to decide whether to take 100% of the monies or 25% on the monies. If the county takes 100% (\$259,976) 80% has to be split, which is 75% to the schools and 25% to the townships for roads. The other 20% of the monies are to be spent with certain conditions. The other years the county has opted to take 25% of the payment. It was the consensus of the board to take 100% of the National Forest Reserve Funds payment.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the fourth quarterly payment to LMAS for October through December 2012 in the amount of \$20,745 (101-601-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee. The Undersheriff discussed the issue with one of the ambulances that was stuck out on a run. The cost was \$500 for the towing. He is to call the towing company to find out why it was so high.

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 amend the revenues in the amount of \$13,000 (Transfer in Ambulance by \$4,000 and USDA Grant Reimbursement by \$9,000).

It was the consensus of the board to amend the expenditures in the motor pool account in the amount of \$13,000.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer the following funds for cost allocation monies:

COST ALLOCATION PLAN

Ambulance	\$ 91,614
Building Department	10,894
F.O.C.	2,568
Wireless 911	27,648
Foreclosure	1,636
D.T.R.	396
Homestead	<u>224</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$ 134,980

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$960.79 from the Ambulance Fund #210 into the Capital Improvements Fund #404 for the Honeywell invoices.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was the consensus of the board to approve Resolution #2012-13 in Support of Guaranteed Revenue Replacement Should The State Repeal Personal Property Taxes.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Rondeau discussed a meeting he had with the county road commission and that it would take them approximately 6 hours for them to cut brush by the airport. He talked about someone's property in Burt Township where a house is built on part of a right-of-way and talked about issues with the road commission on different items. He also talked about Superior Central students that are taking welding classes at Northern and finding funding to pay for their gas. Commissioner Mattson discussed a LMAS meeting that he and Commissioner VanLandschoot attended and a budget that was passed without raises for three individuals. It was discussed that Nick DeRusha will be coming to a board meeting to discuss raises that were submitted for their budget, but were denied in a deadlock vote at the LMAS board meeting. He said that the LMAS employees pay 25% of their health insurance costs and have a low rate for their retirement. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed AMCAB (Alger-Marquette Community Action Board) and ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds. Commissioner Doucette discussed information that he handed out about a meeting in Menominee regarding MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) and unfunded mandates. He said that MAC explained they are not going ahead with the lawsuit because they cannot afford it. He said that for 2014 they will be willing to look at other options. He also talked about revenue sharing and the county receiving 80% funding. To get the other 20%, the county would have to comply with the three other categories. He said that he has talked with the representative of the court union and that the representative has some more work that he has to finish.

Correspondence was read, discussed, and will be filed.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Mattson discussed the underfunding of the one unit in MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) that was not paid on last year. He thinks that the county needs to be picking away at the amount. He also discussed that the state has not made any revenue sharing payments for August. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that this board is the finest he has worked with.

There were no staff comments.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk