

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

May 20, 2013

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 moved by Commissioner Vanlandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Special Board of Commissioners minutes of March 27, 2013, the Committee of the Whole minutes of May 13, 2013, and the Regular Board of Commissioners minutes of April 15, 2013; with two noted spelling changes to the April 15, 2013 Regular Board minutes. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Construction Board of Appeals. Commissioner Rondeau stated that as he was on that committee, he'd like to be on the Board of Appeals as well. It was also discussed that the Construction Board of Appeals would meet annually and that additional meetings called would be due to an appeal, with those meeting costs being covered by the appeal charge. It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson that the 2014 Construction Board of Appeals shall consist of an electrician, a builder, an engineer, and Commissioner Rondeau and that this Board will receive per diems of \$35. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize Joe Cilc to advertise for these open seats on the Construction Board of Appeals. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

District Court Judge Mark Luoma was present and passed out a letter regarding the pursuit of a grant through the Supreme Court Administrative Office for the enhancement of the Drug/Alcohol Court program services. He stated that the Drug/Alcohol Court program has been in existence since 2008 and at this point in time their funds are being stretched. The purpose of this fund is to help participants break the cycle between addiction and crime, which in turn saves the county money by not having to repeatedly prosecute and incarcerate repeat offenders. He went on to say that this grant does not require a county match and that the county has no obligations and will incur no costs. He presented examples of what allowable expenditures would be. He added that since its inception in 2008, the number of drug court participants has been low, but the effect has been high. He went on to say that they were anticipating an expansion to include the Probate/Family Court and the Circuit Court; which in turn would increase the number of participants in the Drug/Alcohol program. He concluded by saying that the Schoolcraft County Magistrate, who has experience with grant writing is willing to take the time needed to apply for the grant. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize 93rd District Court to apply for this Drug/Alcohol Court grant which is offered through the Supreme Court Administrative Office. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the purchase of a printer from Compudyne in the amount of \$292.85 with authorization of an additional \$100.00 for the purchase of the first printer toner cartridge if it is not included in the base price; (payment shall be from the Law Library Fund: 269-000-980.000) and that there shall be a .25 cents per page copy charge payable to the District Court Office. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. It was noted that the Treasurer's Office would supply District Court with the correct line item number of where to receipt this money into.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize Murray to go out on bids to fix two erosion problems by the ambulance garage, with the cost of advertising to come from building and grounds. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize a raise of 1.5% for the 2013 calendar year, and 1.5% raise for the 2014 calendar year for elected officials (Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff, Clerk/Register, Treasurer) and appointed employees (Terry McLaren and Lynne Maki). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve that Terry McLaren shall get fully paid health insurance premiums after retirement with the understanding that the county would pay for the supplemental insurance at age 65 and he would pay for the Medicare portion. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize a 1.5% raise for two Schoolcraft County Circuit Court employees (Jill Maddox and Lori Erickson) for Schoolcraft County's fiscal year of 2013/2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the Sheriff to purchase an oxygen lift from Michigan First Response in the amount of \$2,020. The monies are to come from the ambulance fund (210-000-727.030). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the Sheriff to charge a \$750 fee for FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests regarding GIS information on 911 maps. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize a \$1,000 charge to the Federal Park Service for a five year soil erosion permit to dredge Grand Island Landing (Powell's Point) and William's Landing (Grand Island). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the Clerk to advertise to fill the vacancy on the Alger County Library Board. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Old business was next. Commissioner Rondeau stated that he felt that the county should not levy an additional 1/10th of a mill for the purpose of the Veteran's Relief Fund. He had contacted Jacobetti and was given a lengthy list of what is already provided for veterans. Commissioner VanLandschoot, who had just attended a meeting at the American Legion, provided additional information on current benefits for veterans and that he tends to agree with Commissioner Rondeau. Commissioner Pullen stated that she did not have a problem with not levying the additional 1/10th of a mill, however it concerned her that Public Act 214 of 1899 stated that "Each County Board *shall* levy an annual tax." It was discussed that if the county chooses to not do it at this time that it will always be there, and may be instituted at a later date. It was also discussed that the county would review it periodically.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize payment to Pathways for their quarterly appropriation for April through June 2013 in the amount of \$8,305. The monies are to come from the community mental health appropriation (101-649-969.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve payment of all of the board bills. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. It was noted that Commissioner Pullen wants to make sure that all receipts are kept and attached to credit card billings.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$1,000 from the Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol fund into the general fund. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in miscellaneous revenue budget in the amount of \$4,798.12. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the attorneys/consultants budget in the amount of \$4,798.12. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the general fund Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol in the amount of \$1,000. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There were no miscellaneous items.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the following resolution #2013-07:

RESOLUTION #2013-07

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan and the 83 County Governments have a statutory partnership to provide mental health services and improve the performance of local delivery systems of care for the mentally ill and the most disabled citizens of the State; and the County Governments may fulfill this obligation through the creation of a community mental health authority under state law; and

WHEREAS, the Pathways Community Mental Health Authority was created pursuant to MCL 330.1204b of the Michigan Mental Health Code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1001 *et seq* (the "Mental Health Code") by the Alger, Delta, Luce, and Marquette Board of Commission to fulfill this obligation for the citizens of Alger, Delta, Luce, and Marquette County; and

WHEREAS, one in five Americans have some form of mental illness and one in eighty eight children born are being diagnosed with autism; and

WHEREAS, research has consistently found that people with severe mental illnesses are two and a half times more likely to be attacked or victims of crime than people in the general population; and

WHEREAS, fear of stigma, being bullied, social isolation and being labeled as weak or unfit prevents individuals from seeking effective mental health treatment; and

WHEREAS, many United States Soldiers that returned from the Vietnam War suffered in silence, and more have since died by suicide than died on the battlefield, and more United States Soldiers who fought in Afghanistan have died in the past year from suicide than died in the war; and

WHEREAS, the rate of teen suicide continues to climb; one in six high school teens have considered suicide and one in twelve teens who have suffered in silence due to stigma associated with mental illness have attempted suicide, at least once; and

WHEREAS, the current methodology used by the Michigan Department of Community Health to allocate funds to the Community Mental Health Boards uses "geographic factors" and other historical factors that results in inequitable distribution of the limited financial resources available; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Community Health is forming new Prepaid Inpatient Health regions bringing together affiliations of Community Mental Health Boards and have committed to addressing this inequity by "bringing the bottom up" or raising the funding levels of counties that are funded at lower rates than other counties;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Alger County supports the Governor's two year proposal to expand Medicaid to over 470,000 Michigan citizens without coverage or access to appropriate mental health services; and

That Alger County supports expanding equitable access to care for all citizens of our state by establishing equitable funding for all counties; and

That Alger County affirms that the Michigan county based public mental health system has the capacity to address the needs of the citizens of the state by providing high quality effective evidenced based treatments if new resources are used;

- (1) To “bring the bottom up” in counties that are poorly funded;
- (2) To appropriately fund the treatment needs of the new expansion population in all counties; and
- (3) Are governed by the citizens involved locally on public mental health Boards; and

That Alger County supports Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) in their introduction of Senate Bill 264, the Excellence in Mental Health Act that would support the nation’s community mental health and addictions system by establishing national standard and oversight for Federally Qualified Behavioral Health Centers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Tom Casperson, Representative John Kivela, MDCH Director Jim Haveman, MDCH Deputy Director Lynda Zeller, Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards, and all Michigan CMH Boards.

Dated: May 20, 2013

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette.

Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following resolution #2013-08:

RESOLUTION #2013-08

STATE OF MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, for more than 200 years, municipal bonds have allowed state and local governments in the United States to make the investments necessary to provide for their communities’ well-being, growth, and economic development. In a series of cases in the 1800’s the United States Supreme Court determined that these bond issuances were a constitutionally protected exercise of governmental authority, and that the federal government could not tax state and local bonds. As a result, when the federal income tax was enacted in 1913, it excluded from income the interest earned by investors in municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, due in substantial part to their tax-exempt status, municipal bonds are an important tool in the United States for financing investments in schools, roads, water and sewer systems, airports, bridges and other vital infrastructure. State and local governments financed more than \$1.65 trillion of infrastructure investments over the last decade (2003-2012) through the tax-exempt bond market. During that decade, \$514 billion of primary and secondary schools were built with financing from tax exempt bonds; nearly \$288 billion of financing went to general acute care hospitals; nearly \$258 billion to water and sewer facilities; nearly \$178 billion to roads, highways, and streets; nearly \$147 billion to public power projects; and \$105.6 billion to public transit. These categories represent 90 percent of the total amount of municipal bonds used to finance infrastructure between 2003 and 2012. In 2012 alone, more than 6,600 tax-exempt municipal bond issues were made, financing over \$179 billion worth of infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt financing encourages states and local governments to independently determine the infrastructure and services needed in their respective states and localities, and to raise the capital necessary to provide the infrastructure and services, free from federal tax on the interest paid on such bonds; and

WHEREAS, the exclusion of interest on state and local obligations from federal gross income provides important financing opportunities for the State of Michigan, at a time where job creation and rebuilding infrastructure are critical to residents, and to those local governments still recovering from the effects of unemployment and recession; and

WHEREAS, members of the current Administration, members of the United States Congress, and certain policy advisors have recently advocated the elimination of, or limitations upon, the use of tax-exempt bonds by state and local governments, and/or have proposed to change or eliminate the ability of investors in tax-exempt bonds to claim the tax exemption on interest earned from these instruments; and

WHEREAS, in response to and anticipation of such proposals, Representative Lee Terry (R., Nebraska) and Representative Richard E. Neal (D., Massachusetts) have co-sponsored House Resolution 112 (attached), celebrating the importance and merit of tax exempt municipal bonding, and affirming the support of the United States Congress for this critical financial tool;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes any and all efforts by the current Administration and the United States Congress to eliminate, limit, or impair the use of tax-exempt bonds by state and local governments, or to eliminate, limit or impair the ability of investors in such bonds to claim the tax exemption on interest earned from these instruments; and

BE IT FURTHER; that the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports the immediate passage of HR 112, celebrating and re-affirming the historic support of the United States Congress for tax exempt municipal bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Alger County Clerk/Register be asked and directed to send copies of this Resolution to President Barack Obama, Senator Carl Levin, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Governor Rick Snyder, Congressman Dan Benishek, Senator Tom Casperson, State Representative John Kivela, the National Association of Counties (NACO), and the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC).

Dated: May 20, 2013

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION **H. RES. 112**

Celebrating the history of municipal bonds, the 100-year precedent of the Federal tax exemption for municipal bond interest, and the important contribution municipal bonds have made to economic growth and wellbeing in each State and municipality in our great Nation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 13, 2013

Mr. TERRY (for himself and Mr. NEAL) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

RESOLUTION

Celebrating the history of municipal bonds, the 100-year precedent of the Federal tax exemption for municipal bond interest, and the important contribution municipal bonds have made to economic growth and wellbeing in each State and municipality in our great Nation.

Whereas in the 200 years since the first recorded municipal bond was issued by the City of New York to build a canal, municipal bonds have helped build a strong economy and provide for the health and welfare of our citizenry;

Whereas three-quarters of all infrastructure investments made in the United States are financed by municipal bonds;

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Whereas municipal bonds finance infrastructure projects that touch the daily lives of every American citizen and business—roads we drive on, schools and education for our children, affordable family housing, water systems that supply safe drinking water, courthouses, hospitals and clinics to treat the sick, airports and ports that help move products domestically and overseas, and utility plants that power our homes, businesses, and factories;

Whereas interest on municipal bonds is exempt from Federal taxation as part of the principle of reciprocal immunity under which the Federal Government is exempt from State and local taxation and State and local governments are exempt from Federal taxation;

Whereas the Federal Revenue Act of 1913 codified this principle as part of the Federal income tax by exempting from income tax the interest on municipal bonds;

Whereas exempting municipal bond interest from Federal taxation reduces the cost of infrastructure financing by State and local governments;

Whereas reduced infrastructure costs for State and local governments allow for greater infrastructure investments and savings passed directly to taxpayers and ratepayers in the form of reduced taxes and fees;

Whereas, because of critical infrastructure needs, it is estimated that in 2013, \$300 billion of municipal bonds will be issued;

Whereas keeping infrastructure costs low is critical for job creation and rebuilding infrastructure is crucial to our Nation's State and local economies, including power generation, distribution, and transmission;

Whereas the ability of municipal bonds and the 100-year precedent of the Federal income tax exemption for municipal bonds provides State and local governments timely access to cost-effective capital; and

Whereas the Federal tax exemption for municipal bond interest is a cost-effective financing vehicle available to State and local governments: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) celebrates the history of municipal bonds;
- 3 (2) celebrates the 100-year precedent of the
- 4 Federal tax exemption for municipal bond interest;
- 5 and
- 6 (3) celebrates the important contribution mu-
- 7 nicipal bonds have made to the economic growth and
- 8 wellbeing in each State and municipality in our
- 9 great Nation.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot reported on DHS (Department of Human Services) and said that there was a little blip in their SOPs (Standard of Promptness). It had dipped down due to the institution of new programming, but now it is back to 99% which is outstanding. Commissioner Doucette spoke briefly about attending the conference in Harris. He said that they have scheduled two MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) meetings in August. One will be in Baraga and the other will be in Manistique. These meetings are scheduled to give commissioners an opportunity to speak with the MAC Board about issues that concern us locally.

Correspondence was read and will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau took the opportunity to thank the board for allowing him to serve on the Construction Board of Appeals. He also spoke briefly about a DNR proposal regarding certain acreages that they own which do not adjoin with other DNR acreage. It appears that these parcels might be sold or given back to the county which they are in. He commented that he was glad that they had pushed the wolf hunt through. Commissioner Rondeau finished by reporting that Marion Riley has declined the opt out checks and apparently chooses to stay on the county's health insurance plan. Commissioner Pullen read a short email that was received from Marion's accountant, Colin Oleson which stated Marion's choice.

Staff comments were next. Undersheriff Brock announced that there was going to be a retirement party for Sue Nettleton on May 22, 2013 at noon in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) room and urged everyone to stop in for a few minutes. He added that Sue had been an employee of Alger County for 22 years and seven months. There were no other staff comments.

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 Mattson to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk