

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

December 9, 2013

Minutes are subject to correction 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 Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent ó Commissioner Mattson.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. The new part-time writer for the Munising News Kimberly Wheeler was introduced by Amanda Ingraham. 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. The sheriff requested to amend the agenda to include the Luce County contract to rent jail beds as item number 8a. There was consensus of the board to accept the amended agenda.

Karen LaFoilie was present to discuss the hiring of a part-time person for the circuit court reporting. She said that they will share the court reporter with District Court. They are working on getting someone in the interim until the position in District Court opens in June. Their proposal is to share the employee with Schoolcraft County until Karen Gurski retires. After that she would become a part-time employee with Alger County splitting 29 hours between circuit court and district court. She said that the proposal beginning January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, the part-time employee will be hired to be trained as a court reporter by existing circuit court staff, to work eight hours per week at the rate of \$15 per hour. This employee will cover Alger County court hearings (motion days) and will receive the necessary additional training of producing paperwork and typing transcripts in the circuit court office in Manistique. This person will apply for temporary certification to enable them to work in court while studying for full certification. This same person will also be working as a part-time Schoolcraft County employee at eight hours per week at the rate of \$15 per hour paid by Schoolcraft County to cover the court reporting services in Manistique under the same set of circumstances. On July 1, 2014 is when this trained person will assume the Alger County Circuit/District court reporting position with any non-court time to be spent as part of the District Court staff with no further ties to Schoolcraft County. In the case of extraordinary circumstances for jury trials, Judge Carmody shall adjust the hours to accommodate those special court duties, with an eye to ensuring that the position does not exceed 29 hours per week. Karen said that the hours and method of payment for that position will be addressed within the coming months in preparation for the June 30, 2014 vacancy. It was discussed that the part-time hire is Amanda Ingraham and that she will need to be trained. Karen said that the hire date will start immediately. She said that the certification test is in April. She said that there will be a workshop at the end of January or the beginning of February. She said that Judge Carmody has asked for a temporary certification. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Judge Carmody to hire Amanda Ingraham to the part-time position and that Judge Carmody and Judge Luoma would discuss with the board about the hours and method of payment for the position within the coming months in preparation for the June 30, 2014 vacancy.

Lee Francisco from 911 Technologies was on the agenda but not able to attend.

The sheriff discussed a prisoner housing contract with Luce County. There was proposed wording for housing six of their inmates handed out to the board from Luce County. They will give quarterly payments in the amount of \$16,425 for a total amount of \$65,700. The sheriff said that with this contract there are risks. He said that they have more control over the Alger County inmates, wherein there is unknown circumstances and need to be prepared for with the Luce County inmates. He wanted to make sure there would not be any hidden costs. He said that one concern is the revolving door with the temporary and part-time employees. What he would like to do is to get more solidarity in his full-time staff on duty. He wants to make sure to have experienced employees. There was discussion on hiring one of the part-time employees to a full-time employee. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the prisoner housing contract with Luce County and to hire one part-time employee to a full-time employee.

Elizabeth Coyne was present to discuss two grants. She said that she is working with AuTrain Township on two coastal grants to address the highway and the erosion and another for a more coastal zone management. She said that one is a NOAA coastal storms program and that would start in June 2014. She is asking the board for a letter of support for this grant. The other is a DEQ coastal zone management program grant that is an information and education project in which the proposal is due December 31, 2013 and is for the fiscal year 2015. She is asking the board for a letter of support and possibly a match commitment from the county for this grant. Commissioner Doucette said that he would like to see a letter of support from MDOT. She said that these meetings would be for the public. She also asked about possibly using some monies from the 100% payment from the National Forest Revenues, but said that she doesn't know that much about it. It was the consensus of the board to sign the letters of support for the two programs.

Steve Webber was on the agenda but unable to attend the meeting.

There was discussion on requesting 100% payment from the National Forest Revenues in the amount of \$264,086. These monies are used for township roads, schools, and the county for emergency management. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to submit the request for 100% payment from the National Forest Revenues.

There was discussion on deferring the loan payment for 2013 for the building codes department for his repayment to the DTR (Delinquent Tax Revolving) fund. This total amount of \$9,494.58 is to be split over 2014, 2015, and 2016 with a payment of \$3,164.86 per year. This is being done because the building codes fund does not have enough funds. It was the consensus of the board to authorize repaying the loan to the DTR fund over the years 2014, 2015, and 2016 in the amount of \$3,164.86 per year.

There was discussion on the building department fund for the cost allocation monies. The treasurer refigured the amounts for the years 2011 and 2012 because there was an overpayment regarding the cost allocation in the fringe benefits area. After refiguring the amounts for 2011, 2012, and 2013 (\$6,167 per year) those figures result in an overpayment of \$6,893. It was the consensus of the board to authorize reimbursement to the building department fund in the amount of \$6,893.

There was discussion on the COLA (cost-of-living adjustment) payment to the retirees. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to make the COLA payments to the retirees with a 2.5% increase.

The 2014 general fund budgets and 2014 fund budgets were presented to the board. The board members are to look at the budgets to make a decision on them at next Monday's board meeting.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next on the agenda. There were none.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$10,254 (101-631-969.000).

Board bills were next. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills that have been reviewed 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 amend and transfer the following revenues:

REVENUE AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS

- A. Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in reimbursements in the amount of \$6,893
- B. Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$6,893 from the debt elimination budget into the Building Department Fund #249
- C. Authorize the treasurer to transfer \$8,000 for repayment of loan from the Register of Deeds Fund #256 to the DTR

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend and transfer the following expenditures:

EXPENDITURE AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFERS

- A. Authorize the clerk to transfer \$5,594.62 from the treasurer's budget into the circuit court budget
- B. Authorize the clerk to transfer \$1,220 from the treasurer's budget into the attorneys/consultants budget
- C. Authorize the clerk to transfer \$1,308.83 from the treasurer's budget into the building and grounds budget
- D. Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in debt elimination budget in the amount of \$6,893

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Resolutions were next. There were none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed the Commission on Aging meeting and the cost allocation monies. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the UP State Fair Board meeting and discussed a fight that happened at the state fair, a drunk driving on the carts, and the start of a Miss Upper Peninsula. Commissioner Doucette asked about 4-H. The 4-H youth programs were discussed. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed AMCAB and that they have had a remarkable year. He thanked Commissioner Mattson and the staff for helping with working on the budgets. He also discussed working with the judicial committee and Judge Carmody. Commissioner Doucette discussed to be aware moving forward and that it will be more difficult for Alger County. He said that they need to watch the pennies and be smarter with their decisions. He thanked all of the employees for the work that they do. He discussed MIWorks and that they had to relocate in the Alger Parks and Recreation building. He said that they have a RFP out for renting space. Steve Webber was present to discuss the CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) proposal and going with WFA (Wildland Fire Associates). He said that they wanted the GIS information from the 911. He was going to ask for the board to waive that, but since there is funding available for those costs they will pay for the GIS information. He said that this program will also be able to get into different grants.

Correspondence was read from Michigan Counties Workers Compensation Fund and UPCAP (Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress). These will be placed in the board meeting file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot would like to thank Pam for her help with the veterans funds. Commissioner Rondeau discussed that he wasn't sure that the millage was needed for the veterans. He said that he talked with a few people and that he thinks that some of those programs aren't being used. He asked the undersheriff about the spur roads in a subdivision in Onota Township. He also asked about the national forest revenues and HB1526 mandating that the federal government cuts the forest in proper ways and that it would be more money per county that has the national forest in it. Commissioner Pullen asked about the return to work after injury that was in their boxes. Commissioner Doucette discussed the video equipment that was moved in the conference room and that it will be able to be used for video conferences for people. There were no other board comments.

Staff comments were next. The sheriff said that there is a 911 committee meeting at 5:00 Wednesday. He also said that he wanted the board to know that there is advertising in the paper for community CPR classes. He said that he is also doing classes in the schools. There were no other comments.

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

This meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk