

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

July 8, 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 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.

Joe Cilc was present and said that he received a letter from Herb Brown stating that he would be willing to serve on the Alger County Construction Board of Appeals. It was the consensus of the board to appoint Herb Brown to the Alger County Construction Board of Appeals for a two-year term.

The variance fee for the Alger County Construction Board of Appeals was discussed. Joe said that to cover the full cost of the variance would be over \$200. That would cover the board members cost and the notices in the paper. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the cost for a variance fee in the amount of \$250.

There was discussion on removing ALTRAN from under the umbrella of the county's insurance as of September 1, 2013. Darlene Dishong said that she had to turn in a wage and detail report to Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) and they questioned why the employees of ALTRAN were not included. It was discussed that there was no common control between Alger County and ALTRAN. BCBS said that they do not know how ALTRAN was originally added to our plan. Darlene said that this brought Alger County to a large group from 49 employees to 64 employees and that BCBS said that they would not change our effective date of the insurance if we were a large group. Commissioner Doucette asked if the new rulings from the President would change Alger County's numbers. Darlene said there were too many unanswered questions that need clarification to answer that. She said that Rochelle is aware of the problem. ALTRAN's insurance rates will increase for the rest of the year when they are discontinued under Alger County's plan, but they will still have the coverage. It was the consensus of the board to remove ALTRAN from the county's insurance as of September 1, 2013.

There was discussion on using the blended rates for the MERS (Michigan Employees' Retirement System) retirement charges instead of the flat rates. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to have MERS use the blended rates for the Sheriff's Union Division #02 and #20 and for the Court Staff Division #12 and #17.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize UPCAP (Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress) to submit the UPAAA (Upper Peninsula Area Agency on Aging) 2014-2016 Multi-Year Plan for services to Upper Peninsula Older Adults to the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA). See the following resolution to support the plan:

RESOLUTION

U.P. AREA AGENCY ON AGING
2014-2016 MULTI-YEAR PLAN FOR SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY

WHEREAS UPCAP, which serves as the U.P. Area Agency on Aging, is required to develop a Multi-Year (FY 2014-2016) Area Plan that provides development and funding for programs to serve older adults in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, during the Multi-Year Area Plan development process, UPCAP conducted needs surveys, two input sessions, two public hearings, and received input from service providers, older adults, county officials, human services organizations, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, each U.P. county is represented by a county official on the UPCAP Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the UPCAP Board of Directors has unanimously approved the proposed Multi-Year Area Plan; and

WHEREAS, the AAA Multi-Year Plan also requires review by individual county boards.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners has received and hereby supports the U.P. Area Agency on Aging Multi-Year (FY2014-2016) Area Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be submitted to UPCAP and placed on file.

Authorized Signatory



(Name/Title of County Official)

There was discussion on authorizing Terry McLaren to purchase a laptop in the amount of \$835.96. At the finance meeting Terry said that DHS (Department of Human Services) will no longer accept verbal authorizing of child neglect cases or delinquency cases. He said that they need the capability when they are away from the office or home to do these orders after hours. They would also receive the written petition on the field laptop. ½ of the monies are to come from the basic grant (Diversion Officer Grant) and ½ of the monies are to come from Probate Court. He is checking with the state to see if Probate's half could come from the Probate Child Care. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Probate Court to purchase a HP ProBook 15.6" LED Notebook, a carrying case, and Microsoft Office 2013 in the amount of \$835.96.

There was discussion on the Worker's Compensation Report and the claims reported. The report stated that the county should consider post-accident drug testing; safety specific training; adding a grab bar that extends upward beyond the roof hatch to serve as a secure anchor point when accessing the courthouse rooftop; 6 portable eye wash solutions; video recording of all law enforcement department training activities; and GHS (Global Harmonization System) chemical labeling safety training. The cost of the portable eye wash solutions and the grab bar were discussed and that they were going to be expensive.

There was discussion on departmental budgets. Commissioner Doucette suggested that the board bring in department heads to go over their budgets. Commissioner Mattson said that those in trouble are Circuit Court, Friend of the Court, Prosecuting Attorney, Building and Grounds, Postage, and the Sheriff's Department. He said that the Clerk's Office will be close. His rough estimate is projected to be over \$100,000 and that did not include any increases for raises. There is also a \$10,000 shortage in PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). He said that revenues are consistently short because Alger County does not always get what is promised. Commissioner Mattson said that revenues have usually been 2% short every year. He said that he cannot figure out where to come up with the money to pursue an administrator. He said to take care of last year's budget the fund balance was reduced by \$125,000 and the DTR was reduced by \$50,000. Commissioner Rondeau said that the department heads should be in charge of their budgets and that they should break down departments and put some commissioner's in charge of overseeing those budgets. It was the consensus of the board to have a special board meeting on July 31, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. to go over budgets with department heads and their projections.

The Court Staff Union contract was discussed. Commissioner Rondeau said that he has some issues with it. He said that he totally disagrees with page 8, article 5(a) regarding the representation fee. He does not think anyone should have to pay a union representation fee. Commissioner Pullen said that she doesn't think they could do that. Then the beginning paragraph under article 5 regarding the Michigan Right to Work Act (ōRTWō) PA 349 of 2012 was discussed. Commissioner Rondeau disagrees with page 9, article 7(c). There was discussion on charging cost allocation regarding this. Commissioner Mattson stated that they need to get this contract resolved. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Commissioner Doucette to contact the Union President and Business Agent and to have the Union President have the union employees sign the dues authorization form and that the clerk's office is not to do this. Commissioner Rondeau stated that he does not like page 15, article 12(d) and that he would not like the infractions off their record which occurred more than 3 years previously. Commissioner Pullen stated that they should consider their overall work record. Commissioner Rondeau said that on page 7, article 3, anything about strikes should be taken out because government has no rights to strike. Commissioner Pullen questioned article 38 regarding the life insurance. It was discussed that no life insurance will be made available in retirement for any employee hired on or after 1/1/2013. There was no consensus of the board to approve the contract but to write down any concerns so when the contract is to be renewed, those items can be addressed. It was the consensus of the board to vote on the contract at the next board meeting.

Old business was next. It was the consensus of the board to keep looking at an administrator and to discuss this with other commissioners.

There were no appropriations.

Board bills were next. There was discussion on two bills. One with the Sheriff's Department from NAPA in the amount of \$16.22 and the other was from Xerox. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that the Undersheriff is going to check on the NAPA bill and what it was for. The Xerox bill was in regards to equalization. There was an overage of copies of 39,172 with an additional \$313.38 charge. There was discussion that the audit committee talked with the Conservation District about this and they are to get back to the clerk on how many copies they made. This will be billed to them accordingly. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all 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 amend the revenues in the miscellaneous budget (101-000-677.000) in the amount of \$4,512.06. These funds will be coming from the fund balance.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the attorneys/consultants budget in the amount of \$4,512.06.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

Resolutions were next. There were none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Mattson said that they had a special meeting for LMAS (Luce County, Mackinac County, Alger County, and Schoolcraft County District Health Department). He said that Luce County has financial issues and are looking at selling their LMAS building to LMAS. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that Amy Lerlie from AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Agency) is going to be at the September 9, 2013 board meeting.

Correspondence was read from the DEQ, an anonymous letter from someone regarding 16 Mile Lake and boaters, correspondence to and from the Road Commission, PILT payment information from The Secretary of the Interior and the State of Michigan, Marquette County, 11th Judicial Circuit Court, the Munising Moose Lodge #1386, the Alger County Historical Society, LMAS District Board of Health, and a news article from NACo (National Association of Counties). The correspondence will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen thanked everyone for all their hard work on the contracts. Commissioner Rondeau wanted to reiterate the same as Commissioner Pullen. He also said that the Court Staff contract should be right. Commissioner Doucette discussed the 16 Mile Lake letter. He stated that the new Department of Agriculture and Forest Service Agent is Louis Cote. He said that there were some arrests for drugs and drinking over the last weekend with people using the AuTrain River. He said that he will be present at the AuTrain Township meeting. He talked about Pathways. He also discussed letters sent out from Dan Benishek's Office regarding a town meeting that is to be held July 19, 2013 in the conference room of the county building. There was some discussion on this.

Staff comments were next. There were none.

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 6:25 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk