

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**March 27, 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 4:18 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.

There was discussion regarding retiree health and medical insurance benefits (not including MERS pension) for non-union employees (elected and appointed). Commissioner Pullen said that she put some thought into it. It was discussed that the appointed employees were Lynne Maki and Terry McLaren. There was discussion on the elected officials and the appointed employees. Attorney Burkhart said that this will only be dealing with active employees. Commissioner Pullen wanted to know if they have to complete their term of office (ex: 20 years). Attorney Burkhart said that if they have not retired, they are not fully vested. He said that last night they reached a tentative agreement with the union. He discussed the courthouse union having the right to purchase life insurance after retirement from the insurance company, as long as the company allows it. He said that they are in a position to ratify the agreement. Retiree medical and retiree life was discussed. It was asked of Darlene to explain what exactly the courthouse union was asking for. It was discussed that the courthouse union would like to be able to purchase and pay through the county 100% of their life insurance after retirement. There was discussion on different plans of life insurance. Attorney Burkhart said that he doesn't know if that is a problem with the insurance company. Commissioner Pullen said that she doesn't want the county to pay more for taking the responsibility. She doesn't want the guarantee to carry the retirees. It was discussed to allow it as long as the insurance company allows the county to do it. The union is to come up with the proper wording. Attorney Burkhart said it is time for the county to make a decision on elected and appointed employees. There was discussion on making a motion to cover elected and appointed non-union employees. There was also discussion on Terry McLaren and Terry receiving a single paid health insurance after retirement. It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the elected officials and appointed employees for the new hires that there is no retirement health insurance or no retirement life insurance. Existing employees, being the elected officials and appointed employees, will have health and current life insurance that will end at age 65, or Medicare age, whichever is later, and is not applicable to working county employees. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There was discussion regarding Marion Riley's health insurance. Commissioner Rondeau discussed what happened at an insurance committee meeting. He said that he talked with Marion's sister and her sister is the only one who can communicate it to Marion. Lucy would like to have it explained to her at an insurance committee meeting so she can explain it to Marion. Attorney Burkhart explained what happened with the health insurance and that they are not giving her substantially equivalent benefits. He thinks that there is a risk and should put her back on the coverage. Darlene said that she did contact Marion and her husband. She explained what the coverages would be in New Zealand being a permanent resident of New Zealand and also discussed the world wide coverages and that one doctor and one hospital was found within a 30 mile radius that would be covered with Blue Cross Blue Shield. Attorney Burkhart urged the board to reinstitute Marion's insurance until this is resolved. He said that City Insurance needs to explore this more. He said that he will draft a letter and give it to Jerry to give to the insurance committee and they are to discuss it with Lucy, Marion's sister. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and second by Commissioner VanLandschoot to put Marion back on the medical insurance, not including dental and vision, until further action by the board. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There was discussion on an update on collective bargaining. Attorney Burkhart said there is a contract with the sheriff and a tentative agreement with the courthouse and court staff unions. He said that the negotiations went very smoothly and understands the situation that the county is in. Commissioner Pullen asked if they are making some implied guarantees for co-employers to follow the court staff contract. Attorney Burkhart said that the Judges are to get one copy of the contract. He discussed what happens if the Judges sign the contracts or if they don't sign the contract. He said that he is sending an email to Emil. Committee of the whole meetings were discussed. Commissioner Pullen said that according to Roberts Rules of Order she could not find anything that says you can take binding action at a committee of the whole and has been looking for about four years. She asked Attorney Burkhart if they, as a committee of the whole, can take binding action. Attorney Burkhart said if all five of the commissioners show up they can take any action they take at a regular board meeting as long as there is an 18-hour notice to the public. He said that when you start talking special meetings or committee meetings of the whole and they are not every first Tuesday of the month, then you have to give notice to the board members and that is a separate issue. He said for a special meeting of the board, emergency meeting that is not regularly scheduled, there is supposed to be 10-days notice, but that is waived if everyone shows up. Because the committee of the whole meetings and regular board meetings are scheduled and posted, commissioners are not entitled special individual notice. Commissioner Pullen asked if they could take binding action at committee of the whole meetings. Attorney Burkhart said absolutely, unless you have an internal rule against it. Then you would have to first set aside the rule. He said you can change any procedural rule you want as long as someone makes a motion and you get a majority. He said if you have to make a decision, as long as you give an 18-hour notice and all of the commissioners were there, you are okay. He said you have no notice issue on regularly scheduled meetings. Attorney Burkhart is to email the clerk the presentation that he gave.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen said thank you for the work and wants to see the tentative agreements. Commissioner Rondeau also would like to see a copy of the contract. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed Resolution #2013-04 Act 88 of 1913 (PA 88). He said he talked to Mark on this and that all resolutions are non-binding. His recommendation is to do nothing on it. He also discussed Ron Ford's email regarding sharing services with the Veterans Affairs Officer. He talked with Glenn and they are opposed to sharing with Luce County. He said to keep him here and not burden him with another county. Commissioner Doucette discussed getting on the agenda to deal with Attorney Burkhart's legal counsel and to get it on the agenda at the next meeting.

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.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to adjourn this meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk