

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

May 30, 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 Pullen 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.

The sheriff's union contract was discussed and that there was confusion in the contract that Commissioner Pullen spotted. Sheila Peters had copies of emails to Commissioner Doucette of what was negotiated. She said that she doesn't know how the board got what was presented to them in January. She said that it was older language when they first started negotiating, not what was agreed upon. Steve Webber clarified what was reiterated in regards to the insurance. It was discussed that there were two different negotiated language sheets and that the board received the old one. The sheriff confirmed that they did not renegotiate and the language that should have been passed. There was discussion of a typo in the contract of the word "not" being in the insurance buy-out and there is a Memorandum of Understanding to correct it. Commissioner Pullen stated that on page 31 it says, "All retired employees, active employees and employees' spouses that are the age of 65 and over than have Medicare A & B". She said it should say, "All retired employees, active employees and employees' spouses that are the age of 65 and over must have Medicare A & B". Sheila agreed that the language should say that and said that she will take care of it. There was discussion on page 2 regarding part-time employees to work up to 32 hours per week. Commissioner Pullen then brought up the Health Care Reform Act. It was discussed that it would have to be dealt with at a later date and that negotiations were done before that was an issue. Commissioner Pullen said that on page 38 there was no heading for Part-Time Employees for Deputy Sheriff. She then asked about the part-time paramedics. It was discussed that they cannot cross over with the sheriff's department. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to accept the sheriff's union contract as presented being a 3 year contract January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015. 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 accept and authorize the chair to sign the following Memorandum of Understanding:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN ALGER COUNTY/ALGER COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT and the
ALGER COUNTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION (POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF
MICHIGAN).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS STIPULATED AND AGREED as follows:

1. To correct a typographical error, it is agreed between the parties that the last sentence of the second to last paragraph of §33.5 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement in effect from 1/1/2013 to 12/31/2015 is revised to read as follows:

"This payment shall increase \$0.00 1/1/2013, \$300.00 on 1/1/2014
and \$300.00 on 1/1/2015, however, such annual increases may
not raise the maximum to be paid to an employee above the 50%
maximum."

ALGER COUNTY

ALGER COUNTY SHERIFF'S
ASSOCIATION

By: _____

By: _____

Its: _____

Its: _____

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

ALGER COUNTY SHERIFFS
DEPARTMENT

MICHIGAN POLICE OFFICERS
ASSOCIATION

By: _____

By: _____

Its: _____

Its: _____

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. Steve Webber discussed the board as a whole regarding the wording of the contract and Commissioner Rondeau having some issues. He said that in reference to the contract and the wording, if there is something they want looked at to highlight it and give it to them and that they will look at it.

The courthouse union contract was discussed. Darlene Dishong said that they had gone through the tentative agreements that were made and incorporated into the contract. She said that they have a clear understanding of what was negotiated and agreed upon but that they were trying to find correct wording that would explain what was agreed upon. It was discussed that there was one sticking point in the contract, but did not want to explain it at this time. She said hopefully within the next week it will be agreed upon.

The court staff contract was then discussed. Commissioner Doucette said that they had a telephone conference since early this morning and that there were two or three issues. Laurie Pine did not want to discuss the issues. Commissioner Doucette said they called Terry Burkhardt and he said it would be fine with the way the union wanted it. Laurie Pine discussed the contract and said that the contract she had and handed out was the correct one with the issues taken care of. Terry Burkhardt is supposed to email Laurie the court staff union revised contract. Commissioner Doucette said that he thinks they have a tentative agreement. Laurie said then when they receive the contract, they will look at it and make sure the changes were made. Commissioner Doucette discussed negotiations with the different unions and the concessions that were made with the unions. He asked the courthouse union and the court staff union to try and get these contracts done. He discussed the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) and that the employees are stepping up to the plate and helping them out. Commissioner Pullen asked about the AFSCME contract and the right to work language. Laurie explained it is in the contract. FMLA leave was also discussed. Commissioner Rondeau asked what it is in the court staff union contract that is to be changed. It was discussed that the three different changes could be emailed to all of the commissioners. It was also discussed that those changes are in the contract that was handed out. Commissioner Doucette said that the courthouse contract will be emailed and then hard copies will be given to the board when it is received.

Two resolutions were discussed. One was on revenue sharing and one was on the CFR (Commercial Forest Reserves). Commissioner Pullen had questions on the CFR resolution and said that they need to look at it closer. That resolution was discussed more at length. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the following resolution #2013-09:

RESOLUTION #2013-09

WHEREAS, In the Governor's recommendation for the FY 2014 budget, counties are scheduled to receive a 22.9% cut from what they were projected to receive based on the agreement reached in 2004/2005; and

WHEREAS, The Governor is recommending an appropriation of \$140.6 million, \$41.7 million less than statutorily required and counties will be required to earn twenty-percent of their funding by fulfilling the County Incentive Program (CIP) requirements; and

WHEREAS, With the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014, counties would receive a cut of about \$42 million and, at first glance, it appears the Governor has recommended an additional \$10 million for county revenue sharing and CIP payment, but in reality, these additional funds result in less money to each county this year; and

WHEREAS, Counties have worked diligently for the past decade by leading the effort to reform, consolidate, and right size government in an effort to increase efficiency and adjust to declining revenues; and

WHEREAS, Each local unit of government is in a different financial place, some growing, some declining, some healthy, and some are struggling with their long term liabilities and to say that all counties need to comply with a prescriptive formula on employee compensation would be a step backward for some and unattainable for others; and

WHEREAS, Compliance with the third category for this fiscal year is attainable because counties are following the 80/20 or hard caps healthcare law enacted last session and the category should remain the same with the State stopping all attempts to move the bar; and

WHEREAS, In 2004/2005, counties agreed to forgo revenue sharing for a period of time in order to assist the State in balancing the budget and were promised a return of that funding once a county's revenue sharing fund reserves were depleted; and

WHEREAS, Revenue sharing is more than just a pot of money to be allocated in whole or in part to counties but is a statutory promise made to counties in exchange for giving up local taxing authority and for a more recent change in local taxing administration; and

WHEREAS, The concept of earning what has already been earned through the CIP is unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, According to the Glenn Steil State Revenue Sharing Act, 21.3% of 4% of State sales tax is supposed to go to statutory revenue sharing which amounts to over \$1 billion, however, the Governor's proposal only allocates 35% of this collection to revenue sharing while the balance is being used to bolster the State's own General Fund budget at the expense of county budgets; and

WHEREAS, Revenue sharing is used by counties to pay for the multitude of state mandated services including the courts, the jails, the constitutional officers, elections and the public health system and, coupled with the recent reductions in property values and increased mandated state service delivery, counties are stretched to the financial limit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alger County Board of Commissioners calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to live up to their promise by fully funding revenue sharing payments to counties in fiscal year 2014;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, our State Legislators, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

Adopted this 30th day of May, 2013.

Jerry Doucette, Chair
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.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot gave the board a handout regarding AMCAB housing projects. He also gave the board an option to have AMCAB come down and give the board a presentation on the work that is being done. The board said they would like that. He also discussed sequestration and how it is affecting AMCAB. Commissioner Rondeau wanted to discuss a couple of suggestions. He said that the board is the budget part of the county. Why are they negotiating contracts with the unions? Commissioner Doucette said that they are co-employers. It was discussed why each department can't negotiate with their own employees. Commissioner Mattson said that he has checked with other counties and that they have someone else do the negotiating (lawyers, administrator). It was discussed to talk about an administrator at the next board meeting. Commissioner Doucette discussed rent for the Women's Center. He said that they have \$5,000. He discussed the Medical Examiner not responding and that the sheriff was working on that. He said that there are legal issues with a retro pay and that is why they are using signing bonus language instead. He said he went to a Pathways meeting about their services and that they have received some direction. He said that it is not the intention to close Munising. He said that Pathways will do a set-up of guidelines and policies. The sheriff said they will take a wait and see approach. Commissioner Pullen discussed a call to John Basse regarding them renting part of LMAS and that he has not called her back and that she will do a follow-up call. Commissioner Doucette said they went out on bids for soil erosion problem. He said that the animal shelter needs a new back door, the shack out in the back parking lot needs a new floor, and that they are looking at a new phone system. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that Deanna Boyak contacted him and that she knows that they do some work in Browns Addition and the triangle area and was wondering about flowers. She said that she would like to do something at the island at the end of the street where the county building is. He said that she has some money in the Fuzzy Boyak Fund for beautification. He told her that he would contact the sheriff and tell him about it. She said if there were some other areas around the building to beautify it. He asked the sheriff to contact her.

Staff comments were next. The sheriff and Steve Webber said that they did a good job on the contracts and resolving the issues.

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 at 5:30 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