

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

**December 8, 2014**

**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 4:04 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Mattson with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Pullen, VanLandschoot, and Mattson. Absent 6 Commissioners Rondeau and Doucette.

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.

Anne Milne from CUPPAD (Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development) Regional Commission discussed a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS). She asked the board if anyone wanted to consider being on the CEDS committee. She gave the board a handout and discussed CEDS at length. She said that it is a five-year plan. See the following:

**CEDS Committee**

**What is the CEDS?**

A comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The CEDS analyzes the regional economy and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (PWEDA), requires a CEDS in order to apply for investment assistance under EDA's Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs.

In the Central U.P., the Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development (CUPPAD) Regional Commission is the EDA-designated Economic Development District and as such, develops the CEDS in partnership with public and private entities.

The CEDS is a 5-Year Plan. A CEDS Performance Report that reviews progress on the plan and includes new economic development projects is submitted each year to the EDA. The next Performance Report is due on March 30, 2015. The next CEDS 5-Year Plan is due March 31, 2016.

**What is the CEDS Committee?**

The CEDS Committee is appointed by CUPPAD's Executive Board and is responsible for developing, revising, or replacing the CEDS. The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interests of the region, and must include Private Sector Representatives (defined in 13 C.F.R. § 300.3, with respect to any for-profit enterprise, as any senior management official or executive holding a key decision making position, or that person's designee) as a majority of its membership. The Strategy Committee also includes:

- Public officials;
- Community leaders;
- Representatives of workforce development boards;
- Representatives of institutions of higher education;
- Minority and labor groups; and
- Private individuals.

The CEDS committee meets a few times a year to review projects nominated for inclusion in the annual CEDS Performance Report. Tentative upcoming meeting dates are:

January 22, 2015 | February 27, 2015 | March 26, 2015

For more info: <http://www.cuppad.org> | [rhaller@cuppad.org](mailto:rhaller@cuppad.org) | (906) 786-9234 ext. 503

Ron Pierce from City Insurance was next to discuss Health Equity. He proposed using Kushner as the third party administrator because Health Equity does not work with Consumers Mutual Insurance. He said he found Kushner through the Small Business Administration. He said that City Insurance will not get their commission and will use it to pay for the county using Kushner. Ron said that Kushner will not be seamless for the employees like Health Equity was. He said that the employee will have to submit the claims to City Insurance and then City will submit the claims to Kushner. He said that the cost for using Kushner is \$2,000.00 for the year. He said that since we will not be using Health Equity, Standard Insurance's (Morgan White) cost will decrease by \$2,900.00 for the year. He said that City Insurance will send out the notices to the employees letting them know what is going on. It was the consensus of the board to make a motion to use Kushner as the third-party administrator in place of Health Equity.

Bob Van Putten was present to discuss plans for the new jail structure. His presented plan has 4 blocks, with 28 new higher security cell beds, 2 detox cells, a holding cell and relocates the control room to the center of the jail. James Ebli, President, along with Jon Zander, Vice President, from Gundlach Champion were present to discuss the plan as well. James said that there are three stages of construction and that anything can be changed along the way. He said that public competitive bids can go out early. He said that there are physical constraints and parameters to contend with, such as staging, utility lines, and use of the facility while construction is underway. Bob Van Putten listed cost details at \$300 per square foot, coming to \$2,600,000 up to \$3,200,000 for the project. Commissioner Mattson said there is still some discussion regarding potential revenue. Todd Brock said the facility could pick up some Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) inmates for additional revenue. Commissioner Pullen stated she would want to look at jail staffing. Commissioner Mattson stated the goal was to stay revenue neutral and still upgrade the existing jail. Sheriff Hughes discussed that jail time could increase from one year to two years through legislation. Revenues from diverted felons, Luce County inmates, and lastly housing Department of Correction trustees were discussed at length. Sheriff Hughes was wary of housing MDOC trustees, being located close to churches, schools, and homes. He stated his biggest concern is the safety and security of his staff and the community. Commissioner Pullen stated the existing facility could be problematic to renovate later. James Ebli stated all costs are open. Sergeant Steve Webber pointed out that the new plan gives flexibility for future renovations. Bob Van Putten said if the county was serious about June construction, the architect design cut-off is in January, bids in February, and then everything should work out perfectly. There is a special board meeting scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> for final discussion about the plan and budgets. Bob Van Putten reassured the board of their experience building jails. Commissioner Pullen expressed concern about future maintenance. Bob Van Putten assured her the design is maintenance friendly. This is to be discussed more at the next regular board meeting.

Judge Nebel was not present to answer questions regarding adding him to the Schoolcraft County insurance coverage and authorizing Alger County to pay Schoolcraft County for his insurance. The Board requested that he attend the regular board meeting on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>.

There was discussion on a Memorandum of Understanding between MDHS (Michigan Department of Human Services) and County of Alger regarding their appropriation. Commissioner Pullen suggested running their proposal by MMRMA first and asked if other counties had done this. Commissioner Mattson asked the Clerk to check with Marquette County and Schoolcraft County. This will be discussed at the next week's meeting.

Sheriff Hughes explained the Federal Surplus Assistance Program Resolution for acquiring surplus property. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the resolution and name Robert Hughes as the authorized coordinator responsible for accepting federal surplus property.

Darlene Dishong explained that the county's life insurance increased 477% with Lincoln Life. The insurance committee recommended a policy from Minnesota Life with a three year term at \$14,911.20 per year. It was the consensus of the board to discuss this further at next Monday's board meeting.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize a 2.5% COLA (cost of living adjustment) increase for four retirees. Those four retirees are Joan Pelletier, Vivian Hakkola, Ethel Holmquist, and Vivian Rousseau.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment of the Harris bill for January 2015 in the amount of \$13,841.43. \$6,714.03 is to be paid from the treasurer's budget and \$7,127.40 is to be paid from the clerk's budget.

Cost savings ideas / revenue sources were next on the agenda. There were none at this time.

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 \$7,759. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000).

There was discussion on the board bills. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the 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 clerk to transfer \$300 from the bond payment budget to veteran's burials budget.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to transfer \$24.63 from the bond payment budget to the county law library budget.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to make the following transfers:

Transfer \$3,164.86 from Building Code Dept. fund to Delinquent tax fund for repayment of loan.

Transfer \$3,500.00 from Building Code Dept. fund to general fund ó 2014 rent.

Transfer \$36,000.00 from 911 wireless fund to general fund transfer in 911 wireless.

Transfer \$5,000.00 from Remonumentation fund to general fund transfer in Remonumentation.

Transfer \$24.63 from the general fund Law Library to the Law Library fund.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to create fund #264 for the 911 millage.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to create fund #293 for the veteranø millage.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed the commissioners conference and setting up a \$3,000 ALTRAN appropriation. Commissioner VanLandschoot reiterated that Earl Hawn is retiring from AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board) and the Amy Lerlie will be his replacement.

Correspondence being the minutes from LMAS District Board of Health was discussed. These will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed the jail presentation and said this could be the start of something nice. Commissioner Mattson stated his appreciation for the Sheriff Departmentø hard work regarding the jail facility.

Staff comments were next. Pam Johnson reiterated that she was comfortable sticking to \$3,000,000 or less for the jail.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk