

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

**September 14, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.**

**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 4:03 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with 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. Judge Carmody was is attendance and spoke about an Appellate Court pilot program. The intent is to group counties in the Upper Peninsula, plus Macomb County into one unified billing system. Currently, Alger County and a number of other counties pay \$40.00 per hour. Under this new system, that minimum would be raised to \$50.00 per hour up to a maximum of \$75.00 per hour. This program would run from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. The bottom line is to take an arbitrary system and consolidate it into one program to track costs. Judge Carmody noted that probably 90% of appeals are denied because they don't have merit. For the cases that do go to trial, the counties pay 75% of the costs. Commissioner Doucette noted that Alger County pays a median rate. Judge Carmody noted that 75% of appellate council goes assigned to judges below the bridge and that competitive rates are necessary to keep fees and pay in the region. Adjusted for inflation, Alger County's appellate court attorney fees would be \$90.00 per hour. Commissioner Doucette said that he will be talking about this issue in Lansing at a MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) conference. Judge Carmody said he understands the concerns in regards to Alger County's financial situation, but this is an effort to make the system more cost effective in the long run. Commissioner Pullen stated, in her experience, baselines are set downstate and there is no assistance to fund this program. Judge Carmody is looking for a recommendation by October 1, 2015. Commissioner Rondeau said we took a hit from DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) leaving the building and that expecting support with such short notice is inappropriate. Judge Carmody also stated that Amanda Ingraham is moving on and will address that issue soon. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The consent agenda was presented.

It was the consensus of the board to look at the minutes and make a motion at the October board meeting.

Jim Olson from MGT was present to discuss the Friend of the Court fund. He said that their accounting resulted in underfunding of \$6,815.34 in the FOC fund. Previously Anne McNamara's pay was reimbursed to the general fund, but some of it should have gone to the FOC fund. Also, the fund should be in an interest bearing account to comply with the statutory requirements. Commissioner Mattson asked if the setup fees could be charged to the allocation. Jim Olson stated that the 2016 Cost Allocation budget shows an increase of \$2,042. It was the consensus of the board to reimburse the monies owed to the FOC fund and move said fund into an interest bearing account.

Terry McLaren was present to discuss the 2016 child care budget and an increase of the crisis on-call pay. The child care budget for 2016 was signed last year and the amount requested will not change. Previously, on-call crisis intervention paid a daily rate of \$20 on weekdays and \$25 on weekends. This income was paid through accounts payable and not payroll. Now it has to be paid through payroll so to offset the losses due to FICA taxes, Terry is requesting an increase of \$2.00. They would then be paid \$22 on the weekdays and \$27 on weekends. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the child care budget for FY2016.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize an increase for the crisis on-call for child care to \$22 on the weekdays and \$27 on the weekends.

There was some discussion concerning health insurance for the 2016 renewal. It was the consensus of the board to set the insurance opt-out deadline for October 2, 2015.

Sgt. Waldron was present to discuss lighting on the rescue trailer. Currently, lighting is inadequate and needs to be upgraded. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase LED lighting for the rescue trailer in the amount of \$970. The monies are to come from the ambulance fund.

There was discussion on the 911 millage rate. There will be excess from this fiscal year and that can be used to move the control room. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the 911 millage rate to be .35 mill. Commissioner Mattson was looking for clarification regarding the 911 dispatch budget for 2016.

There was discussion on refunding the rent monies from the building department. Commissioner Pullen stated it needs to be self-sufficient. It was discussed that it should not cost the county because there are no revenues coming from that department. It was the consensus of the board to postpone this issue pending more detail from the treasurer to refund the rent monies from the building department in the amount of \$3,500.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Rita Hale to the Alger County Board of Canvassers for a four year term.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Dan Herman to the Alger County Board of Canvassers for a four year term.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS for their mental health appropriation in the amount of \$20,745. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-601-969.000).

There was discussion on board bills. 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 EMD fund in the amount of \$1,800.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the EMD fund in the amount of \$1,800.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot will have some committee reports soon. He said that Rod DesJardins and Amy Lerlie are doing well at AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board). Commissioner Mattson briefly spoke about the judicial meeting. Commissioner Rondeau said the committees he sits on all have issues that are òup in the air.ö Commissioner Pullen met with Chuck Nebel and Devin Olson regarding the Hanley Field deeds, so when the 30 day comment period in Washington D.C. is up, they can be signed within days. She said that she will meet in Marquette concerning mental health with Superior Health Foundation. It was discussed that there is a breast cancer awareness football game at Munising High School. There was discussion at length concerning the medical / recreational marijuana issue. Undersheriff Brock said the issue needs to be undertaken on a federal level. Commissioner Doucette had a letter from Schoolcraft County, looking to disband the local corrections unit and meet with Alger County officials to discuss returning equipment.

Correspondence was briefly read from Burkhart, Lewandowski & Miller P.C. regarding reopening union contracts; Department of Health and Human Services Board Meeting Notice / Agenda; Michigan Public Service Commission Notice of Opportunity to Comment; Central U.P. Regional Community Corrections Board Meeting Notice; and Department of Natural Resources Shingleton Forest Management Unit Open House and Compartment Review.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Mattson stated there were a few hang ups regarding the jail expansion but should still be looking at an October 5, 2015 construction start date. Commissioner Doucette said the budget will have to be started soon in October. He also noted that UPSET needs to be funded because of all the good work they do in the region. He said that he will coordinate with the other counties regarding the appellate system changes. Commissioner Pullen said Judge Carmody is correct that changes are necessary for the long run.

Staff comments were next. Laurie Pine suggested starting a retirement committee.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk