

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

**December 14, 2015**

**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.

The consent agenda was presented.

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

Doug Miron, Alger County Road Commissioner, discussed the closing of snowmobile trail #422. He said that MDOT requires a special use permit for the highway to be used as a trail. He said that there is 2000 feet of H-58 designated as the trail. He said that the Alger County Road Commission has worked out a deal with the DNR for a temporary fix of road repairs in the amount of \$5,800.

Judge Carmody was present to discuss court appointed attorney compensation. He would like to increase the rate of reimbursement for trial attorneys, on an incremental basis, of \$3 a year for the next five years commencing January of 2016, which would bring the rate to \$55 by 2020. He said that this rate has not seen an increase since 1987. He said that the statewide average is \$50 per hour and that it has to remain competitive. Commissioner Mattson said he would like to know what the cost is. Commissioner Doucette said that we have to do what is right for Alger County. Judge Carmody said if there is no consistence, there is a lack of efficiency. He will get the board a copy of the contract with Mackinac County's public defender and he will also get a cost analysis. It was the consensus of the board to postpone the request until they receive more information and numbers.

Joe Cilc was not available to be at this meeting.

Bids were open from two accounting firms to perform the county's audit for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017. One was from Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC and the other bid was from Gabridge & Co. Commissioner Mattson said that he would like some input from the treasurer and clerk. It was the consensus of the board to wait until next week when the treasurer and clerk can give their opinion.

There was discussion on an email from the EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission regarding a request for a grant match of 1:1, either with cash or in-kind time or services and a letter of support for the State of Michigan 2017 Coastal Zone Management Grant program. The grant application will be for the development and printing of a paddler-friendly pocket map atlas of the region and promotion of the water trails at local festivals. It was the consensus of the board that there is no interest at this time.

Sheriff Hughes explained the history of the ambulance services and the EMT Training Program which has been in existence since the first ambulance millage back in 1980. He said that they are in need of people in Mathias and Rock River. He said that they must have 10 students to participate in the teleconference otherwise the students would have to travel to Marquette. They also have to put up 50% of the tuition. If they are successful, the 50% will be repaid. The tuition cost is \$1,300 per student. The person must commit to serve with any Alger EMS agency for two years. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to proceed with the Marquette General Health System's School of EMT starting January 12, 2016.

Sheriff Hughes explained the Proposal for the APCO 9-1-1 Adviser Implementation. He said that one of his highest liabilities is a 911 operator. He said that he would like to keep one person trained as an onsite instructor being Ted Woodaz. The proposal was submitted to the 911 committee and was added in the budget. He said that 911 dispatchers give directions to callers using reference materials. The prescribed format requires the approval of a medical authority. A majority of 911 directors in the U.P. use APCO because they have a train-the-trainer program. The program costs \$8,625.00 with an annual maintenance agreement of \$1,125. The instructor fees are \$3,316.62, bringing the total cost of the program to \$11,941.62. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the APCO Institute's 9-1-1 Adviser Implementation.

Sheriff Hughes explained the need to improve (fix) the front-end of the newest ambulance. He said that the ambulance needs bigger springs & shocks. He also said that the grill guard is heavy on the front. The fix is to switch the grill guard, and purchase a spring and lift kit. The cost is \$3,180.51 plus \$700 for Jeremy to do the work. Commissioner Rondeau asked if there were others that have had this done. Bob is to get this information. He said they could put the old grill guard out on bids. Commissioners Pullen and Rondeau said that they would like references from previous buyers. It was the consensus of the board to postpone this item.

There was discussion on purchasing a new Troy-Bilt snow blower. The previous snow blower was the property of Community Corrections. It was the consensus of the Board to purchase a new Troy-Bilt snow blower in the approximate amount of \$800. The monies are to come from all departments.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Bob Hughes to the 9-1-1 Authority Board.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Mickey Rondeau to the U.P. State Fair Authority.

There was some discussion regarding the 2016 budgets and increasing the Clerk & Prosecuting Attorney's salaries by 15%, as those salaries were cut by 15% at the start of their terms. It was discussed that no other elected officials' salaries were cut when they had started. Commissioner Rondeau suggested adjusting them next year. Commissioner Mattson said that they should come to a consensus with the figures in the 2016 budget. It was the consensus of the board to accept the 2016 budgets and to look at a plan next year.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. Sergeant Webber discussed renovating the jail laundry room. This project was bid out in the original jail renovation bidding, with Cross General Contracting Inc. having the lowest bid. This project is approximately \$11,000 short, and would require borrowing from the DTR fund. It was the consensus of the board to begin renovation of the jail laundry room with the treasurer's approval of borrowing the monies from the DTR and to be repaid back.

Old business was next. There was none.

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

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 treasurer to transfer \$70,036.44 from the DTR fund #516 to the Jail Building Fund #466.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in Transfer in Foreclosure in the amount of \$10,391.21.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the expenses in the Treasurer's budget in the amount of \$10,391.21.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to transfer the following expenditures:

**Authorize the clerk to transfer the following expenditures in the general fund budgets:**

- \*\$6,463.15 From the Airport budget (101-536) into the Board of Commissioner's budget (101-101)
- \*\$1,086.81 From the Airport budget (101-536) into the Elections budget (101-191)
- \*\$2,000 From the Bond Payment budget (101-706) into the Postage budget (101-288)
- \*\$900 From the Bond Payment budget (101-706) into the Medical Examiner budget (101-648)

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was the consensus of the board to approve resolution #2015-09 Nationwide Retirement Participant Loan Administrative Procedures.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Rondeau said that he went to the Alger County Road Commission meeting and mentioned the snowmobile trail. He also received an email from Jason Allen regarding his visit and that Michael Bachand is the Program Coordinator for the Veterans in the U.P. He also said that the Superior Central Elementary kids collected \$1,864 for the senior citizen meals on wheels. Commissioner VanLandschoot gave reports from AMCAB. Commissioner Doucette discussed resolving the bond obligation and that he is continuing to work on it. He said that the board can still have the opportunity to take over the road commission or leave it as is. The electors would have to vote for changing the way the road commission is now. He discussed having a tentative agreement with the sheriff's union. He said that if it is ratified it would be a one year contract. He said that December 30<sup>th</sup> they are bringing in a state mediator again for the courthouse union. He also discussed a meeting with Marquette County and discussed different issues with NACo.

Correspondence was briefly read. There was an email from Randy Nichols regarding the growth in numbers of people and/or businesses in Alger County and for the county to encourage the development of permanent, year-round, full-time, decent paying, relatively small businesses; a letter from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians regarding ALTRAN receiving 2% funding; two sets of LMAS (Luce, Mackinac, Alger, and Schoolcraft) Board of Health minutes, and DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) Board meeting notice, agenda, and minutes. These will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen asked about cost allocation and bids. Commissioner Mattson said that the bottom line for the FOC (Friend of the Court) cost allocation must equal \$3,375.

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 is now adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk