

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

May 11, 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 4:03 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 – none.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Rob Weiner from Michigan State University Extension introduced himself to the Board. He said that he replaced Joan Vinette. He said that his specialty is natural resources and that he is always looking for ideas and ways to be involved in the community. 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 next regular board meeting.

Judge Luoma was next on the agenda but was not present to discuss applying for the drug court grant.

There was discussion about cleaning the courthouse carpets. The cost will be approximately \$2,300. It has been at least five years since the carpets in the building have been cleaned. Commissioner Pullen stated that after the last cleaning, fans were necessary because carpets were damp on the third floor in the court room. It was discussed that the women's center will have to be notified, as well as the Friend of the Court and Prosecutor's Offices for privacy reasons. There is no firm date set. It was the consensus of the board to schedule carpet cleaning as soon as possible. The monies are to come from the building & grounds maintenance line item (101-265-931.000).

Commissioner Doucette discussed speaking to Teri Grout regarding the U.P. Resource Conservation and Development Council (UPRC&D). He said that Alger County has not received much assistance for invasive species removal. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the payment of dues in the amount \$350 to support the operation of UPRC&D in 2015.

The U.P. Association of County Commissioners (UPACC) spring conference was discussed. It is going to be June 11th and 12th at the Island Resort and Casino. Commissioner Pullen expressed interest in attending Friday's session of the conference. Commissioner Mattson said that he has found that the Friday morning session of the conference tends to have more representatives at it and is worth the trip in itself. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Commissioner Doucette and Commissioner Mattson to attend the conference and Commissioner Pullen to attend the Friday session.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Debra Beeuwsaert to the Alger County Library Board for a three year term ending December 31, 2018.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Jolene Hetherington to the Alger County Library Board for a three year term ending December 31, 2018.

Karen Gamelin's letter of resignation from the Board of Canvassers was read. There was discussion on appointing Dan Herman and that the Democratic Party had to submit names. Dan Herman said that he was interested in serving. It was the consensus of the board to accept the resignation letter from Karen Gamelin for the Board of Canvassers and to appoint Dan Herman to serve the remainder of Karen's term.

There was discussion on purchasing a new firewall from Compudyne in the amount of \$1,700. Commissioner Doucette stated keeping up with cyber protection is a necessity. Commissioner Pullen asked if the old firewall would be maintained. The board believes the new firewall will cover everything. It was the consensus of the board to purchase a new firewall from Compudyne in the amount of \$1,700.

There was discussion on the loan resolution from the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) for the jail expansion. Commissioner Pullen stated the loan resolution has the jail committee's recommendation and the treasurer's approval. Everyone is comfortable with the loan resolution. It was the consensus of the board to approve and authorize the chairman to sign the loan resolution for the USDA.

There was discussion on the Non-Architectural Barrier Self Evaluation Guide. It was discussed that the Section 504 Self Evaluation is required to be passed for the USDA loan. It was the consensus of the board to approve the Non-Architectural Barrier Self Evaluation Guide.

There was discussion on a 20-year contract with Luce County for housing their inmates. Undersheriff Brock said that a lot of work went into obtaining the contract which allows for discussion to take place on future increases. He said that he is pleased with the contract. It was also discussed that Luce County's board is happy with this contract. Sheriff Hughes stated this is a good contract. He asked if the contract can bind boards on both sides. Commissioner Pullen stated that the contract is binding. Commissioner Mattson said increases can be gradually added to account for increases in costs. The contract has to go through both counties to be terminated. It was the consensus of the board to approve the 20-year contract between Luce County and Alger County for inmate housing.

Lynne Maki appeared for Judge Luoma regarding the Drug Court Grant because he could not make the meeting. Ms. Maki is requesting authorization to apply for the Drug Court Grant. She discussed that it has the same terms as last year's grant and is 100% covered. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he attended the last graduation and stated that this program is a positive thing. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the application for the Drug Court Grant. Undersheriff Brock stated that the cost has been kept down for the jail with the drug court grant work.

Commissioner Mattson talked about a judicial committee meeting and that it was discussed that counties within the same judicial circuit district should have the same rate for inmate housing throughout. This recommendation, by Judge Carmody, is to take back to the judicial committee in August. It was the consensus of the board to approve the rate of \$40 per day for non-contractual inmate housing within the judicial circuit district.

There was discussion on the dive team needs. Sheriff Hughes emphasized that the original dive team equipment is 20 years old. He said that back in 2010, three new dive sets were purchased and now the need has arisen to replace vital equipment. He said that old equipment should be replaced to standardize the sets. He said that there were no local vendors. Sheriff Hughes said that he has two quotes. One is from Scuba North in the amount of \$4,673.06 and one is from American Dive Zone in the amount of \$4,000. He recommends the lower of the two quotes. He said that the dive team has training coming up in early June before the June board of commissioner's meeting. Sheriff Hughes noted that he is obligated to attempt to recover drowning victims. He said that the first three years of inspections are free on the new equipment. The Sheriff recommends selling the old equipment, as is. The department is limited to six divers so costs do not become too burdensome. There was discussion about training, working with other localities and other sheriff departments, as well as the Michigan State Police. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff to purchase the new diving equipment from American Dive Zone in the amount of \$4,000. The monies are to come from ambulance rescue supplies. Sealed bids are to be taken for the old diving equipment, as is.

The current meal vehicle was discussed. The sheriff said that it has 118,000 miles and is having issues. He said that he was looking to use a government program to find a new vehicle. Undersheriff Brock said they need a vehicle to run up to the corrections facility three times a day. He said that the best deal was on a 2013 cargo van from Newberry Motors for \$19,143. The monies would come from the department of corrections fund. Commissioner Doucette asked if borrowing from the DTR (Delinquent Tax Revolving) fund was a possibility. Commissioner Mattson said in a finance committee meeting, \$15,000 sounded like a good number. The treasurer was concerned about spending money before we actually have it. The monies are not guaranteed by a contract. It was discussed that additional Department of Correction's money was supposed to go to pay for an additional employee. Commissioner Mattson said the \$19,000 figure is higher than the committee was looking to go. The treasurer said that she was more comfortable taking \$12,500 from the DTR fund and paying it back. Commissioner Mattson stated we cannot overspend monies we don't have yet. Commissioner Mattson said he would like a plan to replace the vehicles and would also like to see a vehicle roster. It was discussed and suggested to build the fund before using the monies.

Commissioner Doucette stated something will have to be done about the hallway to the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and that the board has to acknowledge that there is a problem. He said that the county will be working on a plan within the next two years to fix the hallway. He said the current jail expansion plans will take a few years to finish which gives time to finalize a fix to bring the courthouse building into compliance.

Cost saving ideas and revenue sources were next. Undersheriff Brock said there was a diverted felon from Newberry bringing in an extra five dollars per day. Sgt. Webber distributed two plans for the jail expansion. Option A has been eliminated and Option B gives flexibility. It was discussed that the existing jail has plumbing problems. Option B leaves employee accessibility to the plumbing and electrical wiring without entering cells. The inmates and the public are completely separated under this plan, and security doors are implemented. Male and female inmates will be completely separated. Sgt. Webber said this looks like the plan that will be presented. Interior walls and fixes can be made, but any overall dimensions will be expensive to change. Commissioner Mattson expressed how impressed he is with Sgt. Webber's hard work in this process, and patience dealing with 10 committee members. Sgt. Weber said that he is happy with DeVere's proactivity and willingness to work with the jail committee. The new addition also adds the ability to expand up, on top of the new expansion. Commissioner VanLandschoot said the four county judicial meeting was very informative and asked that as news comes in about the expansion, the other counties are kept in the loop. Commissioner Doucette asked why the ambulance is at the repair shop. Sheriff Hughes said it is an older ambulance and he is having Christmas Auto go over it because it has been used so much.

There was no old business.

There were no appropriations.

Board bills were discussed. The one to Bruce Cranham was held for \$1,100. It was said that this had been addressed before and that board approval is required for an increase in pay. This will need an explanation.

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 create Jail Building Fund #466.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to create Certified Pistol License Fund #316.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen said that she met Joe Cilc out at the airport and they went through the building on May 5th. She said that the water leak in the building is the flashing. Murray is to go out and put flashing down and attach it on the roof. Joe Cilc suggested a month prior to the new airport building being constructed to post an advertisement for someone to come and take the old building. Commissioner Pullen stated that the airport opens May 15th and that she will go clean the facility. It was discussed that the tractor needs maintenance. Commissioner Rondeau said that he will clean the vehicle. Commissioner Doucette met with Charlie Marsh and that there is a problem with the land swap coming up about \$20,000 short. He said that possibly by the end of July, the process will move on for regional approval. Altran was discussed and that they received information from their insurance carrier. Nine buses were a total loss in the fire. They will receive funds totaling the buses' value minus \$35,000 for salvage. The van will be repaired and the state will give additional funds. Five buses will be replaced immediately; the remaining four will take approximately four to six months. Altran will begin the process of tearing the building down and will go with a design build which is quicker and less costly. Commissioner Doucette said that Michigan Works met and had a discussion that the mill situation in Manistique does not look promising for anyone taking over.

Correspondence was briefly read from United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding Sault Saint Marie Tribe (Grand Marais – Off Reservation); the Hiawatha National Forest regarding Cloverland Electric Cooperative Special Use Permit Amendment Scoping Package; UPPCO regarding a Notice of Hearing; and LMAS board minutes.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette said he will be working with Mary Ann Froberg regarding the social media policy. Commissioner Rondeau asked why the county road commission is not broken into districts like local county boards. Commissioner Doucette spoke of a bill working through Congress bringing road commissions under local control. There was discussion regarding Bob Lindbeck appearing before the board and previously discussing the road commission's future plans.

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

This meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk