

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

August 21, 2017

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 4:05 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. There was no public comment; thus, the public comment was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to amend the agenda to remove item 6; add new item 6 to appoint Sheriff Brock as Ambulance Administrator; change item 7b amount to \$4,200. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the consent agenda which includes the following items:

Authorize the need to change the payroll ending date for the courthouse to be the same as the Sheriff's Department;

Authorize the clerk to advertise for the Maintenance Worker position;

Authorize Commissioner Pullen, Mary Ann Froberg, Steve Webber and Todd Brock to attend the MAC Conference;

Authorize Commissioner Doucette, Pam Johnson, Mary Ann Froberg and Steve Webber to attend the LFAD Summit 2017;

Authorize payment for the virtual server for BS&A in the amount of \$704 (monies to come from all departments);

Authorize payment for the Alger County Fair in the amount of \$750 (monies to come from the fair board appropriation 101-270-969.000);

Authorize payment of board bills;

Approve Financial Reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available). A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer;

Authorize the clerk to transfer \$3,000 from the treasurer's budget to the audit budget.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to appoint Sheriff Brock as Ambulance Administrator. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Supply purchases and possible purchasing policy were discussed.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve payment in the amount of \$4,200 to train and outfit two sheriff department employees for emergency rescue dive team with monies to come from the ambulance rescue. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There was no old business.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for the substance abuse appropriation of the convention facilities tax in the amount of \$8,375.50. Those monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve resolution #2017-09: OPPOSING THE PROPOSED BACK FORTY MINE

WHEREAS: The Back Forty Project, a proposed open pit metallic sulfide mine would be located along the banks of the Menominee River, which empties into Lake Michigan and is one of the largest watersheds in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Northern Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS: The Alger County Board opposes any mine site along the Menominee River as a potential for a disaster that may harm Menominee County's most valuable resource, **its water**.

WHEREAS: The Menominee River enters into Lake Michigan, the source of our drinking water, a significant food producing source through aquaculture and recreation provided to sportsmen; **our water resources cannot be risked**.

WHEREAS: The Alger County Board opposes any mine along the Menominee River as this proposed mine has the potential to cause significant environmental damage over a multi-generational span of time.

WHEREAS: We have a moral obligation to current and future generations to preserve quality of life by continually having clean water to use, and that the potential contamination of our water could have a negative health impact on the people of our county,

WHEREAS: Menominee County's strong tourism industry relies on maintaining the integrity of our rivers and their tributaries, lakes, forests and wildlife, and parks from potential pollutions (noise, air quality, and chemical).

WHEREAS: Potential economic losses including reduction in property values as well as loss of tourism revenue are not factored into the permitting review process; and

WHEREAS: The approval of this mine could result in the irreversible loss of significant cultural resources of the Menominee Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, including Native American gravesites and other areas of historical significance.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Alger County Board opposes any mine site near the Menominee River and stands by its past resolution opposing the use of cyanide in Menominee County for mining purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Alger County Board opposes any mine that will use cyanide within Menominee County that could jeopardize the State's slogan of "Pure Michigan".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The County Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to Governor Rick Snyder, Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Legislators representing Menominee County, Upper Peninsula Commissioners, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Aquila Resources.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot. Nays – Commissioners Doucette and Mattson. Absent –none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve resolution #2017-10: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MICHIGAN SENATE BILL 400 AND MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL 4651 AMENDING THE EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SERVICES ENABLING ACT

WHEREAS, Michigan House Bill 4651 and Senate Bill 400 have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature, which would amend PublicAct32 of 1986 entitled the "Emergency

Telephone Service Enabling Act"; and

WHEREAS, These bills would amend the funding system *for* 9-1-1 so that all communication devices that have access to 9-1-1, including prepaid wireless devices, contribute equally to the funding of 9-1-1 operations; and

WHEREAS, These bills provide a stable funding source for the counties to support their migration to Next Generation 9-1-1 and ongoing operational levels of service for 9-1-1 to its residents; and

WHEREAS, These bills afford the State and Counties collecting 9-1-1 fees a mechanism for court action should any service providers fail to collect and remit the fees; and

WHEREAS, These bills have a mechanism that provides the necessary checks and balances to ensure revenues generated are used for authorized expenditures *for* 9-1-1 services; and

WHEREAS, These authorized expenditures are limited to those directly related to receiving and processing 9-1-1 calls and the subsequent dispatching of responders via a public safety radio; and

WHEREAS, Such limitation of expenditures has historically met the criteria established through the courts to define 9-1-1 surcharge as a fee for service directly related to telephone services; and

WHEREAS, Any attempt to amend House Bill 4651 and Senate Bill 400 for other State of Michigan general fund purposes not directly related to 9-1-1 may not meet the criteria of a fee for service and could be viewed as a tax increase for the residents of Alger County;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alger County Board of Commissioners does hereby offer our support of House Bill 4651 and Senate Bill 400 as introduced;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes amending House Bill 4651 and Senate Bill 400 to include any additional State of Michigan taxes on telephone service customers under the guise of 9-1-1 surcharge;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Governor Rick Snyder, all Senators and Representatives serving Alger County and the other 82 Michigan counties.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve resolution #2017-11:

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes are a critical resource for our nation, supporting the economy and a way of life in Michigan and the other seven states within the Great Lakes region. The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and 90 percent of the United States' surface freshwater. This globally significant freshwater resource provides drinking water for more than 30 million people and directly supports 1.5 million jobs, generating \$62 billion in wages; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) provides essential funding to restore and protect the Great Lakes. This funding has supported long overdue efforts to clean up toxic pollution, reduce runoff from cities and farms, combat invasive species, and restore fish and wildlife habitat. Since 2010, the federal government has partnered with public and private entities and invested more than \$2 billion in over 2,900 projects throughout the region. Over its first six years, the GLRI has provided more than \$425 million for more than 500 projects in Michigan alone. The Brookings Institution has estimated that every dollar invested in the Great Lakes produces two dollars in long-term economic benefits; and

WHEREAS, GLRI projects are making a significant difference. They have restored more than

150,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat; opened up fish access to more than 3,400 miles of rivers; helped implement conservation programs on more than 1 million acres of farmland; and accelerated the cleanup of toxic hotspots. In Michigan, GLRI funding has been instrumental in removing contaminated sediments from Muskegon Lake, the River Raisin, and the St. Mary's River; in restoring habitat along the St. Clair River, Cass River, Boardman River, and the Keweenaw Peninsula; and in the delisting of White Lake in Muskegon County and Deer Lake in the Upper Peninsula as areas of concern; and

WHEREAS, While a significant investment, past GLRI funding represents only a small portion of the amount needed to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Toxic algal blooms, beach closings, fish consumption advisories, and the presence of contaminated sediments continue to limit the recreational and commercial use of the Great Lakes; and

WHEREAS, Any cuts to GLRI funding would jeopardize the momentum from over a decade of unprecedented regional cooperation. Draft federal budgets have proposed a 97 percent reduction in GLRI funding. These cuts would be a short-sighted, short-term cost-saving measure with long-term implications. Restoration efforts will only become more expensive and more difficult if they are not addressed in the coming years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Alger County Board of Commissioners opposes slashing federal funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation as well as the other 82 Michigan counties.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Committee reports were next. Steve Webber updated the Board on the status of Indigent Defense. Commissioner Doucette discussed ALTRAN.

There was no correspondence.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau commented on low cost housing. Commissioner Mattson reminded the Board about the Regional Government meeting tomorrow. Commissioner Doucette noted that Governor Snyder recently toured the Picture Rocks Lakeshore.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Brock gave an update on the Emergency 911 upgrades. Mr. Webber elaborated further on 911 system upgrades and the future equipment upgrades. Commissioner Doucette explained grant monies are being pursued for courthouse security upgrades. Laurie Pine thanked Sheriff Brock for his assistance clarifying her fire number.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn this meeting at 6:15 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk