

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

February 13, 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 4:00 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 – 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.

The agenda was presented. The agenda was amended to add a Resolution being a Revision to Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003.

Judge Luoma was present to discuss the Community Corrections Officer position. He is proposing a part-time position at 20 hours per week at \$14 per hour. That person will be responsible for collecting revenue. It will be up to the board to set a fee to charge. That person will also assist in probation oversight. He said that this should offset the cost of the position. This will be a trial period and should cost approximately \$16,500. Judge Luoma said that he needs someone to assist Lynne in the field with probation and that person can also be assigned other duties besides community corrections. He said that this can be considered a temporary position. The Judge is to get a job description put together for this position.

Bob Lindbeck was next to give the board the annual road commission presentation. There are 294 miles of local roads, 199 miles of primary roads, and 112 miles of state highway that is maintained. He said that the total township millage and/or allocations are \$369,400. See the following for their 2017 Budgeted Road Improvement Projects:

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**2017 Budgeted Road Improvement Projects
Alger County Road Commission**

Project	Description of Work	Funding
H-58 (East of Grand Marais) Extending 0.9 miles West from County line, gap 2.0 miles, then continue 0.33 miles West.	1.23 miles HMA base crushing & shaping, trenching, guardrail upgrading, asphalt paving and pavement marking.	Fed. "STP" Funds = \$250,000
		State "D" Funds = \$58,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$27,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$335,000
H-58 Extending 1.8 miles East from Newberg Road	1.80 miles guardrail upgrading, asphalt paving and pavement marking.	Fed. Repurpose Funds = \$175,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$44,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$219,000
H-15 Extending 5 miles North from M-28	5.00 miles single chip seal and pavement markings	Fed. "STP" Funds = \$80,000
		State "D" Funds = \$20,000
		Total Cost = \$100,000
Matekel Road @ Dexter Creek	Precast concrete box culvert, 4' rise x 12' span with wingwalls and guardrail installation	Fed. Safety Funds = \$80,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$20,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$100,000
Matekel Road Cayer Road to Dexter Creek	0.50 miles of earthwork and gravelling	Mathias Township = \$30,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$30,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$60,000
16 Mile Lake Road Extending 1.5 miles North from Crossover Road	1.50 miles of earthwork, aggregate base, and slope restoration	AuTrain Township = \$148,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$148,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$296,000
16 Mile Lake Road Extending 1.5 miles South from M-94	1.50 miles of aggregate base conditioning, and asphalt paving	<u>Road Commission = \$230,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$230,000

**2017 Budgeted Road Improvement Projects
Alger County Road Commission**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Description of Work</u>	<u>Funding</u>
Newberg Road Extending 0.5 miles East from M-77	0.50 miles of earthwork and gravelling,	Burt Township = \$59,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$59,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$118,000
North Eben Road	0.30 miles of gravelling	Rock R. Township = \$4,500
		<u>Road Commission = \$4,500</u>
		Total Cost = \$9,000
Cemetery Road Drainage	Construct drain @ Cemetery drive	Munising City = \$
		<u>Road Commission = \$16,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$16,000
Miller Road Culvert	Replace existing non-functional culvert and asphalt paving	<u>Road Commission = \$13,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$13,000
Pavement Marking H-58 (City Limits – 8.5 miles East)	Replace centerline and edgelines	<u>Road Commission = \$11,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$11,000
Buckhorn Road @ Little Indian River	Precast concrete box culvert, 5' rise x 15' span asphalt paving and guardrail installation	Fed. Safety Funds = \$192,000
		<u>Road Commission = \$48,000</u>
		Total Cost = \$240,000

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the chair to sign the audit engagement letter with Gabridge & Co. for the audit of the year ending December 31, 2016. This is to be added to the consent agenda.

There was some discussion on who would be attending the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) Conference. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Commissioner Pullen, Pam Johnson, and Mary Ann Froberg to attend. This is to be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to pay Tina Waldron and Sheila Peters \$150 each for 2015 HRA expenses that were not paid. The monies are to come from HRA Fund #711. This is to be added to the consent agenda.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. Sheriff Brock said that the idea of housing state prisoners is still a valid idea.

There was no old business.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation through March 31, 2017 in the amount of \$20,745. Those monies are to come from their 2017 appropriation (101-601-969.000). This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Mathias First Responders for their appropriation in the amount of \$5,600. The monies are to come from their appropriation (210-000-969.000). This is to be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Rock River First Responders for their appropriation in the amount of \$5,600. The monies are to come from their appropriation (210-000-969.000). This is to be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee. This is to be added to the consent agenda.

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. This item is to be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to move the following general fund revenues received in 2017 back into 2016 (year expended):

#403	Current Tax Collection	\$12,401.19
#403.010	Current Tax Interest	\$ 459.38
#502	Friend of the Court Coop	\$14,351.13
#503	Prosecuting Attorney – ADC	\$ 2,083.03
#577	County Juvenile Officer	\$ 6,829.26
#628	Remon Administrative Fee	\$ 34.62
#664	Interest on Investments	\$ 374.24
#668	Rents	\$ 900.00
#676	Reimbursements	<u>\$21,833.81</u>
	Total	\$59,266.66

This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to move the following fund revenues received in 2017 back into 2016 (year expended):

258	Emergency Management (vehicle)	\$27,800.00
265	911 (Quarterly)	\$31,498.00
276	Drug Court Grant (Quarterly)	\$ 5,311.82
292	Probate Child Care (Diversion – Quarterly)	\$ 3,028.48
466	Jail Bond Construction (Payment)	\$81,700.00

This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$1,549.90 from the 2016 general fund debt elimination into the probate child care fund #292. This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to amend the 2017 general fund revenues in the total amount of \$62,500 as follows:

Transfer in Foreclosure Fund (446)	\$15,000
Community Corrections (545)	\$16,500
Reimbursements (676)	<u>\$31,000</u>
Total	\$62,500

This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$70,000 from the general fund capital improvement budget (728) into the capital improvement fund #404. This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to amend the 2017 general fund expenditures as follows:

District Court budget (Community Corrections)	\$16,500
Capital Improvements	\$46,000

This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to transfer between the following 2016 general fund budgets:

- *\$1,773.20 from the Audit budget into the Board of Commissioners budget
- *\$919.44 from the Probate Court's budget into the Circuit Court budget
- *\$1,177.47 from the Probate Court's budget into the Prosecuting Attorney budget
- *\$57.97 from the Audit budget into the Treasurer's budget
- *\$2,450.88 from the Probate Diversion Officer's budget into the Building & Grounds budget
- *\$857.22 from Probate Court's budget into the Postage budget
- *\$2,177.88 from the Motor Pool budget into the Sheriff's Department budget
- *\$5,633.31 from the Clerk's budget into the Jail budget
- *\$1,080.12 from Equalization's budget into the Medical Examiner's budget
- *\$5,045.81 from the Sheriff's Secondary Road Patrol budget into the Bond Payment budget
- *\$2,029.00 from Equalization's budget into the Employee Fringe Benefit's budget

This will be added to the consent agenda.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to transfer between the following 2017 general fund budgets:

- *\$4,500.00 from the Sheriff's budget into the Board of Commissioner's budget
- *\$1,000.00 from the Sheriff's budget into the Capital Improvement's budget
- *\$23,000.00 from the Building & Grounds budget into the Capital Improvement's budget

This will be added to the consent agenda.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was the consensus of the board to approve resolution #2017-03 as follows:

RESOLUTION #2017-03

WHEREAS, Health care costs continue to rise for all Americans and, for some Americans, this increase can be devastating; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is the focus of many lawmakers who portray it as an "entitlement" program that costs the Treasury too much money. Technically, the term "entitlement" is correct but it has an unfortunate connotation; and

WHEREAS, Medicare is an essential medical plan that millions of seniors and disabled individuals depend upon to stay alive. Medicare is not a gift, as the term "entitlement" suggests. Many of the beneficiaries have worked their entire adult life and paid into the system in order to receive this crucial medical plan; and

WHEREAS, Due to spiraling costs largely associated with the price of prescription medications, our elected officials find themselves passing on increased costs to those who can least afford that increase, namely senior citizens and disabled individuals who are on Medicare's Part D drug program; and

WHEREAS, When congress enacted Medicare Prescription Drug Bill they enacted a law that does not allow Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies for drug price the way Medicaid and the Veterans Administration does; and

WHEREAS, One economist, Dean Baker, estimates that Medicare could have saved approximately \$332 billion dollars between 2006 and 2013 (approximately \$50 billion a year) had the Department of Health and Human Services been permitted to negotiate prices of drugs with the drug companies, as federal agencies do in other programs; and

WHEREAS, Rising prescription drug costs have been the primary reason for the increase in health benefit costs; and

WHEREAS, the increasing cost of prescription drugs and outrageous profits made by pharmaceutical companies is a systemic problem that significantly affects our state and our nation. It deserves non-partisan effort; and

WHEREAS, we must prevent our elected officials from balancing the budget on the backs of those who can least afford it, the elderly and disabled. Increases in premiums and drug costs are unacceptable ways to deal with a flawed Medicare Prescription Drug Bill; and

WHEREAS, We must preserve the Medicare program as it currently exists and to do so requires immediate action to cut unnecessary costs, particularly in the area of prescription drug coverage; and

WHEREAS, We must revise the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper, drugs from Canada and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, We cannot allow the previously approved bill to stand as adopted at the risk of having the Medicare program be the cause of a staggeringly increasing deficit which will require tax increases or cuts to the rest of the government, nor can we allow the continuance of price increases to our citizens cause many to contemplate discontinuing medically necessary drugs in order to pay their bills, heat their houses and have food on the table;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners goes on record urging our Legislators to immediately commence the process of revising the Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003 to allow negotiating lower drug prices and the importation of identical, cheaper drugs from Canada and elsewhere;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our area Federal and State Legislators, the National Association of Counties, the Michigan Association of Counties and the other Michigan counties.

This item will be moved to the consent agenda.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen said that she's been busy with Pathways. She has not heard anything about the airport and that they could use community corrections for the airport mowing.

Commissioner Rondeau asked if anything was done with the Construction Board of Appeals. There was some discussion on this. Commissioner Mattson said that everyone should have the Annual LMAS Report to review before next month's meeting. He said that the judicial committee is still working with Judge Carmody and Schoolcraft County on a public defender and some potential space. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that his housing and full board with Community Action Alger Marquette (CAAM) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) will be held this week. Commissioner Doucette discussed Commission on Aging and that they have worked with MI Works for a selection with folks for ALTRAN. He said he is heading to the U.P. Energy Summit and then heading to Washington, D.C. He also said that he has U.P.911 in Escanaba on the 3rd.

Correspondence was briefly read from Washtenaw County Solid Waste Division regarding their Solid Waste Management Plan; Hiawatha National Forest Service proposing authorizing construction of the Nahma & Northern Grade Multi-Use Trail in Delta County; LMAS board minutes and monthly meeting schedule; Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council (UP RC&D) on the projects they have done and the funds that were spent; Department of the Army Corps of Engineers regarding a Public Notice for John Madigan, Pictured Rocks Cruises; and board meeting notice, agenda, and minutes from the Alger County DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) board. These will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette said they were waiting for the nepotism and social media policies and to keep it in mind down the road.

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.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk