

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

**May 8, 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, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent – Commissioner Rondeau.

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. Under old business nepotism and social media policies are to be added.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to appoint Victoria Petruske to the ALTRAN Board. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – Commissioner Rondeau.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize payment of the airport insurance in the amount of \$2,599.00. The monies are to come from the airport budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – Commissioner Rondeau.

Hiring a temporary fill-in secretary for Leota was discussed. Commissioner Mattson is still uncomfortable with hiring a temporary worker to replace Mrs. Paquette while she is on vacation. Leota has reiterated the need for a temporary replacement, as the Prosecutor's Office has been very busy. Mrs. Paquette will be away for nine days, and would like one full day to train a replacement. The Prosecutor's Office only has two people working in the office. The Crime Victim's Advocate, Kathleen Lindquist, must attend court and this would leave the office unattended and therefore the office would have to close. Court is scheduled Tuesdays and Thursdays and two Mondays per month. Commissioner Pullen asked if a temporary replacement could fill-in for Kathleen. There are too many privacy concerns and state requirements for Kathleen's position so temporarily replacing her is more difficult. Commissioner Mattson said that he is uncomfortable because this issue is not in the court staff contract. Commissioner VanLandschoot agreed with Commissioner Mattson. There was no consensus by the board as they are uncomfortable with this request as this could open the door to other departments requesting temporary replacements during vacations.

Commissioner Pullen explained the Commission on Aging (COA) Constitution and By-Laws. Commissioner Doucette further elaborated on the issue. It was the consensus of the board to approve the COA Constitution and By-Laws. This item will be moved to the consent agenda.

There was some discussion regarding Sheriff Deputies Theodore Woodaz and Rachael Pittman. It was the consensus of the board to pay out accumulated leave for Deputy Woodaz in the amount of \$8,792.37 and Deputy Pittman in the amount of \$1,093.05. Deputy Woodaz is to be paid from Wireless 911 monies (265-000-702.000) and Deputy Pittman is to be paid from jail monies (101-351-702.000). This item will be moved to the consent agenda.

The Alger County Sheriff Department would like to enter into a contract with Northern Service Bureau Escanaba, Inc. for the collection of delinquent jail accounts. Sheriff Brock explained that he spoke with Neil Simons about placing an ad in the Munising News, announcing that unpaid jail bills will now be collected using this agency. The board had consensus and this item will be moved to the consent agenda.

There was discussion on charging a \$500 fee for rescues when a rescue team is called. Commissioner Doucette explained that Alger County employees and equipment are at risk because of irresponsible behavior on the part of individuals. Undersheriff Blank agreed with having a rescue fee when the individual is at fault but not when the rescue is due to a mishap or unforeseen circumstance. Sheriff Brock and Undersheriff Blank will further research this issue and make inquiries with other counties. There was consensus to implement a \$500 rescue fee. This item will be added to the consent agenda.

Sheriff Brock gave the following Sheriff Department Year End Report for 2016:

**2016 Sheriff's Office Year End Report**

**To: Alger County Board of Commissioners**

**From: Sheriff Brock**

**Jail:**

- Average daily population 23
- 287 bookings (206 males, 81 females)
- We currently rent 12 beds to Luce County at \$30.00 per day per inmate (\$131,400 revenue)

**Ambulance:**

- 1,066 ambulance runs

**911 Calls/Dispatch:**

- 2,262 911 calls (1,569 wireless calls, 693 land line 911 calls)
- 11,670 other calls ( administrative, general information)
- 13,932 calls through our dispatch center in 2016)
- NOTE: During our construction phase of our control room, our 911 calls were not tracked during October and November in our VIPER system. The 2,262 calls were over a 10 month time frame, the number would have been much higher

**416 Road Patrol/Departmental Complaints:**

- 1,198 hours patrol hours on 416 R.P.
- 508 complaints (Includes arrests, investigations, traffic accidents, and general assistance)
- Zero traffic related fatalities in 2016
- Approximately 400-500 civil paper's come in per year, which need patrol services to serve these papers

**Snowmobile:**

- 295 hours worked
- Contacts: 974
- Citations: 7 citations, and 43 verbal warnings
- 11 personal injury accidents
- 3 fatal accidents

**ORV:**

- 295 hours worked
- 421 contacts
- 6 complaints, 2 citations, 8 verbal warnings

**Rescue Team 21:**

- **Boat: 7 water rescues (large majority kayaks) Also 26 patrol hours doing compliance checks**
- **Snowmobile: 6 team responses**
- **Search and Rescue: 7 team responses**
- **Extrication: 4 team responses**
- **Hovercraft: 1 team rescue**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Sheriff Todd Brock**

There was no cost saving ideas or revenue sources.

Under old business the nepotism and social media policies are still being researched.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$4,329.50. Those monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000). This will 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.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot said there will be: a Community Action Alger-Marquette (CAAM) meeting on May 16; a Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) meeting on May 18; and a full CAAM Board meeting at Lakeshore Manor on May 18. Commissioner Mattson is going to make contact with the owner of the landfill regarding being open one day on the weekend. Commissioner Pullen will bring a diagram of the Orphanage Housing Conversion project that Amy Lerlie gave her. Commissioner Pullen is still working hard with Pathways and also attended the annual meeting at the Animal Shelter. Commissioner Doucette noted Michigan Works has been looking for a replacement CEO. A gentleman from Ottawa County, who was a regional manager for Michigan Works before the organization was restructured into fewer districts, may be interested in the position.

Correspondence was briefly read from Stephen and Gloria Rinne regarding appreciation for Glenn Marshall's work with veterans.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen stated she has heard great things about the Alger County Veteran's Officer and says Glenn is doing a good job. Commissioner Doucette gave an update about the recent courthouse security meeting. Contractors toured the premise and the need of each department has been noted. The intent is to move forward with this project. Commissioner Doucette expressed concern over roof repairs. He said that there is now a lighted bulletin board outside the building for posting meeting notices and announcements to the general public. He also said that the grievance over the Community Service position is moving forward.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Brock explained he has made a few cuts to the ambulance staffing which should bring the budget back in line. Undersheriff Blank said that he started a new rescue team which currently has 23 members. The sheriff said that grant funding will be sought for uniforms and other equipment. Sheriff Brock and Commissioner Doucette expressed the need for a building and grounds meeting to discuss replacing Murray Donnelly.

Public comment session was open. Neil Simons from the Munising News explained there will be a Veterans Town Hall Meeting at the American Legion on Wednesday at 10 a.m. and the same day Peoples State Bank will be holding its customer appreciation day. He said that Pictured Rocks Cruises is close to completing their visitor's center. There is going to be some major work done on the bike trails behind Hillside Party store. Neil also told the board of an upcoming story about two business owners in the Skandia area.

Commissioner Pullen forgot to mention that she and Commissioner Rondeau had met with Gary Severson at the Forest Service Ranger Center. She said that they had a very profitable conversation about the ice caves, the roads and how to bring together a plan involving the road commission, townships, Forest Service and the county. Rescues were also discussed; the needs for local law enforcement and how it all had to work together because it should be a combination of local, state and federal people. Commissioner Pullen said that Charles Marsh noted that the Forest Service could not take a leadership role, they can only offer support and ideas, but cannot take the lead. Commissioner Doucette said that he spoke with Charles Marsh about the proposed public access project north of the Cameron Crossing on AuTrain Lake.

The Chairman adjourned this meeting at 6:00 p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk