

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

February 19, 2019

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. Joe Cilc discussed the enforcement of building codes in vacation rentals. Mr. Cilc is continuing to inspect vacation rental structures if requested. There was no further public comment thus, the public comment was closed.

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

Approve the OPEB Valuation in the amount of \$7,700 with Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Co;

Approve the contract for 911 map maintenance services with Coleman Engineering Company;

Authorize the purchase of a new computer and update of FTR for recorder's station in the courtroom in the total amount of \$1,408.66 – to be split between Circuit and District Courts;

Accept letter of resignation from Jolene Hetherington from the Library Board and authorize the clerk to advertise;

Authorize Patricia LaCombe to be on the DHHS Board (Cathy Weymouth resigned);

Reappoint Cathy Pullen to the Pathways Board;

Authorize payment to Rock River Township First Responders in the amount of \$5,600;

Authorize payment to Mathias Township First Responders in the amount of \$5,600;

Authorize payment of Board Bills;

Approve Financial Reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available);

Authorize the clerk to transfer between 2018 budgets (see sheet);

Authorize the treasurer to amend the 2018 revenues in miscellaneous revenue in the amount of \$50,759.69;

Authorize the clerk to amend the 2018 expenditure budgets in the total amounts of \$50,759.69 (see sheet);

Authorize the treasurer to transfer revenues received in 2019 back into 2018;

Authorize the treasurer to transfer grant revenues received in 2019 back into 2018;

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 VanLandschoot to approve the Organizational meeting minutes of January 4, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of January 14, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of January 23, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Sheriff Brock explained that on January 18, 2019, Sgt. Samuel Grahovac and Deputy Alex Grahovac responded to a cardiac emergency. Using a defibrillator, they were able to revive the individual. Sheriff Brock presented Sgt. Grahovac and Deputy Grahovac with Life Savings Awards.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Juvenile Officer's pay at \$19.00 per hour at 28 hours per week. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve Resolution Authorizing Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund Policy:

WHEREAS, Alger County provides certain other Post-Employment Benefits to its qualified retirees;

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners established a Trust Fund with the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS), pursuant to a Resolution adopted March 20, 2017;

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners has determined that adoption of a policy to manage the impact of OPEB liabilities in conjunction with the Trust Fund is in the best interests of the health, safety, and welfare of Alger County residents.

THEREFORE, the Alger County Board of Commissioners resolves as follows:

I. Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to manage the impact of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities on Alger County's budget and credit rating while meeting obligations to its eligible retirees;

II. Funding Sources

The OPEB Trust Fund established by the Alger County Board of Commissioners with the Municipal Employees Retirement System may be supported by transfers from multiple funding sources, including taxation and free cash. All interest proceeds or other income generated by the accumulated deposits shall accrue to the Trust Fund.

III. Management of OPEB Liability

Alger County administration will continue to make every effort to manage the OPEB liability by identifying revisions to benefit delivery and cost assignment that will reduce current and future costs.

IV. Management Parameters

Management of the Trust Fund is subject to the following parameters:

1. OPEB obligations will be funded on a pay-as-you-go basis;
2. The Alger County Board must authorize any withdrawals from the Trust Fund;
3. Funds may not be withdrawn to meet regular operating costs of retiree health insurance until at least a two (2) year reserve for Alger County's retiree insurance premium costs is maintained;
4. The Alger County Board may only authorize withdrawal from the Trust Fund to offset the impact of unexpected increases in retiree benefit costs once the reserve benchmark has been attained, and only if such increases will destabilize the annual budget;
5. Alger County may, as available funds permit, set aside more than the amount required to maintain the benchmark reserve.

V. Effective Date

The policy adopted by this Resolution shall be effective March 1, 2019.

VI. Rescission of Inconsistent Resolutions

Any policy or any resolution inconsistent with the resolution that adopted this Policy is rescinded.

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 Pullen to approve Peninsula Land Surveying for Alger County Remonumentation Representatives for 2020-2022. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Bids for cost allocation services were opened. MGT proposed not to exceed \$7,900 annually and Maximus for \$5,000 per year. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to postpone the approval the Cost Allocation Plan Consultant until the Regular March meeting so bid packets can be reviewed further. 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 VanLandschoot to approve Board Policy with changes. 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 Pullen to approve Uniform Guidance Policies and Procedures Federal Awards Administration. 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 Mattson to approve 2019 Committee List with the addition of Veterans Committee. 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 letter of support for the 2% funding of Adult Day Program for Commission on Aging. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

There was no unfinished business.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve Resolution #2019-02 Revising Medicare Prescription Drug Bill of 2003:

- 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 The 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 causing many of them 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.

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

Committee reports were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot had meetings cancelled due to weather. Commissioner Rondeau attended an Alger County Road Commission meeting with snowmobile traffic continuing to be an issue.

Correspondence was briefly read from DEQ and DHHS.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau asked Joe Cilc if there will be any changes to Building Codes, which there will not as they have been recently adopted. Also, the Canadian government is not allowing entrance into Canada if you have a misdemeanor.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Brock noted that snowmobile accidents continue to be a problem and the Sheriff has scheduled a meeting with the DNR and Representative Sara Cambensy at 11:00 a.m. on March 8, 2019. Undersheriff Blank is pleased with the Rescue 21 personnel and expressed how valuable their services are to Alger County. There was some discussion about the recent road closures and issues that arise due to severe weather.

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 VanLandschoot to adjourn this meeting at 6:10 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