

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

August 23, 2012

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 1:00 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

The Board of Commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioner Pullen.

The cost allocations were discussed regarding the road commission and the library. It was discussed that the law library is looking at being moved to the county building with regards to concerns that some citizens legally are not able to go to the school to do research. It was also discussed getting some legal advice in regards to the cost allocations and where to go from here. Commissioner Doucette is to ask MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) about the cost allocations. The board will then wait for their reply and go to the next step. Commissioner Doucette is also to talk to Doug Miron regarding the cost allocation.

The national forest reserve was discussed and that it is around \$124,000 per year wherein 75% is sent to the schools and the other 25% is sent to the townships. The treasurer said that the county could get 100% but there were restrictions on what the money could be spent on, not including the general fund. She said that the board has to answer by September 23rd. The treasurer is to look to see if the county is to receive the money, how the schools are affected and if they do not get the 75%. The 25% for the townships are to be used for roads. A decision is to be made at the next board meeting.

Budgets were then discussed. Commissioner Mattson said that it was predicted in June that there was going to be a \$170,000 short fall. He then said that since that meeting other issues have come up being cost allocations, trials, revenue shortfalls, unemployment issues, housing inmates in another county, among other things. Lee Paquette asked about hiring an attorney for negotiations. Commissioner Mattson responded that they have had to deal with unions and not going anywhere with the unions. She asked the board what happens if they go over the budget with the costs. Commissioner Doucette said that there is no doubt they will go over. He said that they needed to get a new attorney because the old attorney could no longer handle the county. He said that there are new laws coming out and that he has never been involved in 312 arbitration and that the attorney knows what is going on. Lee asked if they had a cap on the attorney costs. Commissioner Doucette said that there is no cap. Lee also asked about the new insurance agent and what happens if the new agent comes in higher than City Insurance. He said that Employee Benefits said that they would work in the negotiations. She said that they hired a company without putting it out on bids without any facts or figures. She wondered if they are still going to accept bids and make Employee Benefits bid on it. She said that per board policy they have to receive bids on it. Commissioner Doucette said that it is under discussion and that he is not going to give her an answer right now. The budgets were then discussed more. Commissioner Doucette said that he could put out another memo to the departments to help reduce the projection. He also said that he has a hard time reducing staff and that we need the people that we have. Commissioner Rondeau said that if you have to reduce staff, you have to. Commissioner Doucette said that he discussed with the treasurer and the clerk about closing their offices from 8 a.m. - 9 a.m. and from 3 p.m. - 4 p.m. to help getting some of the work get done without interruptions. Commissioner Rondeau said that according to the manual he thought that the Prosecuting Attorney's job was to handle negotiations, but she won't so they have to hire an attorney. He thought that the cost of the attorney should come from the Prosecuting Attorney's budget. There was discussion on the Honeywell invoices and using some of the 911 and ambulance funds for paying the invoice. There was discussion on billing state inmates. There was discussion on the cost allocations and that the treasurer has not transferred the monies from the ambulance and 911 yet. Commissioner Mattson said that he discussed using 911 on some part time help. Commissioner Doucette said that there was a savings of \$10,000 with AT&T and the 911 system. Undersheriff Brock talked about an employee retiring in the spring. He said that with anticipation of the person leaving in the spring (no longer

than May 23rd) they want to hire a full time person by using 911 funds up until the point where the retiring employee retires and to replace that person with an already trained person. He said that out of the part time employees, one is leaving for the Department of Corrections, one is going to school, and the other is seeking employment somewhere else. He said that they are looking for one to two temporary employees to work at the Sheriff's Department. It was discussed that the hiring of a full time employee is time sensitive because the person is scheduled to go to Lansing for training by next Tuesday.

Commissioner Mattson said that they have to look at reducing the budget without trying to lose employees. There was talk about charging for rescues with the boat. It was discussed that last year's amount that was spent on all of the budgets was \$1,070,616 and that it maybe it is not as bad as they thought it was. It was discussed that the expenses and any shortfall of revenues are projected to be a deficit of \$110,000 plus any attorney fees.

Commissioner Pullen arrived at 3:37 p.m.

There was discussion on the hiring at the sheriff's department. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the sheriff to hire a specific full time employee with all expenses to come from the 911 fund until such time that the retiring person in the sheriff's department retires. It was discussed that this is a time sensitive issue. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

The DTR (Delinquent Tax Revolving) fund was discussed and using some of it for MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) of Michigan. Revenues were discussed and what could be expected for next year. Funding some more of MERS will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Mattson still has concerns about the budget but they will take another look in September. Commissioner VanLandschoot wants the sheriff's department hire to be correctly done and to be put on the agenda at the next board meeting. Commissioner Rondeau thinks that Lee was able to talk too long and that anyone that addresses the board should be kept at two minutes. Commissioner Doucette thanked everyone for coming and to start thinking about ways to reduce the budgets.

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.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn this meeting at 4:25 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk