

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**September 16, 2013**

**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 Vice-Chairman Mattson with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

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.

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

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Regular Board of Commissioners minutes of August 19, 2013 and the Committee of the Whole minutes of September 9, 2013. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

There was discussion on getting estimates on the roof. Murray Donnelly discussed the estimates for the roof provided by Independent Roofing & Siding Co. Commissioner Pullen discussed having Independent Roofing do the job. It was discussed that from this point on, there should be more than one bid. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the work on the roof for the ballast, flashing and the fascia for a total amount of \$7,904. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

There was discussion on the county using Abilita for phone consulting and savings. MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) endorses the use of Abilita. Murray explained what Abilita does and that the only time they will get paid is when there is a savings. He said that they will go over cost saving ideas and then the county would pay 50% of all savings realized as a result of the acceptance of recommendations made by Abilita. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to postpone this until the October meeting. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

Karen LaFoille discussed her retiring and the judicial committee meeting. She said that they have looked at the how the replacements could work very carefully. She said that there are four counties involved and that they are trying to come up with the most efficient and cost effective way to cover circuit court. She said that this job is more than a one person job. There was discussion on Karen LaFoille retiring and replacing her with Chelsea Heyrman and for her to work no more than 29 hours per week. In exceptional trial circumstances, both Stacey Masters and Jill Maddox have volunteered to step up and assist with the circuit court recording. Karen also discussed needing and hiring a part-time person at \$13.68 per hour in Schoolcraft County to help in the circuit court office. This cost for the office help will be split between the four counties (Alger, Luce, Mackinac, and Schoolcraft). She said that they would like to advertise for this position. On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize Karen to advertise for a part-time assistant to the court administer/assistant scheduling clerk position in Schoolcraft County for 24 hours per week at \$13.68 per hour. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot. The circuit court recorder will be discussed more at the next Committee of the Whole meeting in October.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize passing and signing the Annual Child Care budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the clerk to turn over the delinquent health insurance policies of Marcus Jones and Dave Latvala to the Ann Arbor Credit Bureau. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve and authorize anyone that goes onto cobra insurance has to deal with MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) directly, except the ones that are paid for directly by the county. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

The sheriff reiterated on needing to hire a full-time person. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the sheriff to hire one full-time employee. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

There was discussion on authorizing the sheriff to purchase a new ambulance. He discussed the Stryker lift and chair equipment. He said that the old ambulance will go to Mathias Township. He said that the board could delay the decision one month, but the Stryker equipment would increase \$1,179 next month. The sheriff's recommendation is to go with Michigan First Response with the McCoy Miller ambulance. The cost would be \$180,550 plus an additional \$26,108.30 for a Lifepak for a total amount of \$206,658.30. He said that he has \$160,000 for vehicle replacement in this year's budget and the rest would come from next year's budget. He also thought that he would only have to pay 50% of the cost to order the new ambulance. On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the sheriff to purchase the new ambulance from Michigan First Response in the total amount of \$180,550 plus \$26,108.30 for a new Lifepak. The monies are to come from the ambulance fund. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the sheriff to contact salvage dealers and to scrap the 2002 Ford Explorer to the highest bidder. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the sheriff to purchase a new computer from Compudyne in the amount of \$1,147.69. \$286.92 is to come from the ambulance fund, the 911 fund, and the jail budget. \$286.93 is to come from the sheriff's budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize up to three commissioners to attend the U.P. Association of County Commissioners Conference October 17-18, 2013. Registration is \$50 per person and the room is \$70.85 for single or double occupancy. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

Authorizing an administrative leave policy was next on the agenda. The clerk said that the Hillsdale County Clerk is trying to find the policy. The Hillsdale County Clerk said she didn't know of one, but she would check with the commissioners that were here and said that they had one. On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to postpone an administrative leave policy until the information is available. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

Old business was next. There was none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$15,281. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

Board bills were discussed. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve payment of all of the board bills. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the financial reports for all funds. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the treasurer to create department #870 (expenditure miscellaneous budget). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the treasurer to transfer from the general fund to eliminate the deficit funds for the year ending 2012. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the treasurer to transfer from the foreclosure fund #517 into the general fund the amount of \$17,201.47. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the treasurer to transfer in summer tax collection (101-000-444.200) in the amount of \$1,900 out of the summer tax collection fund (602-000-995.101). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the treasurer to amend the following revenues:

#### REVENUE AMENDMENTS

- A. Authorize the treasurer to amend the general fund transfer in foreclosure fund (101-000-446.000) in the amount of \$12,701.47
- B. Authorize the treasurer to amend the general fund postage (101-000-649.000) in the amount of \$2,500
- C. Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund federal park patrol (101-000-506.000) in the amount of \$2,390.49
- D. Authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund miscellaneous revenue in the amount of \$25,732.09 (101-000-677.000).

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

On a motion by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the clerk to amend the following expenditures:

#### EXPENDITURE AMENDMENTS

- A. Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the treasurer's budget in the amount of \$12,701.47
- B. Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the general fund postage account (101-288-729.000) in the amount of \$2,500
- C. Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the general fund federal park patrol in the amount of \$2,390.49
- D. Authorize the clerk to amend the audit budget (101-105-811.000) in the amount of \$4,300
- E. Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the attorneys/consultants budget in the amount of \$2,432.09 (101-135-969.000)
- F. Authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in miscellaneous budget (101-870-995.000) in the amount of \$19,000

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

There were no miscellaneous items.

There was discussion on resolution #2013-12. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve and authorize the chair to sign the following resolution #2013-12:

#### RESOLUTION #2013-12

**WHEREAS**, property owners wanting to appeal the assessed values of their property can do so through the State of Michigan Tax Tribunal, who has the authority under the Tax Tribunal Act to review and reevaluate the assessments and valuation of property under the General Property Tax Act (PA 206 of 1893); and

**WHEREAS**, recent decisions by the Tax Tribunal appear to set a trend for reversing and significantly lowering the property assessments set by local municipalities for larger retail property owners, by using a valuation comparison of dark stores which are closed, abandoned, former retail stores with thriving, occupied retail spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, this concerning trend is costing local municipalities not only in the legal costs to defend their assessments before the Tax Tribunal, but also in the reduced tax income as a result of the Tax Tribunal lowering the property values; and

**WHEREAS**, local municipalities right here in Alger County are being hurt financially by the inaccurate and arguably unfair valuation methods being utilized by the Tax Tribunal; and

**WHEREAS**, Senator Casperson and State Representative Kivela have presented a bill which amends the General Property Tax Act (specifically MCL §211.27), and defines existing use in determining true cash value of property as being based on its use at the time of assessment and current value received from property. It further deems the existing use to be the highest and best use where the use is financially feasible and more profitable than modification or redevelopment; and

**WHEREAS**, with the more specific definitions to the General Property Tax Act, which the Tax Tribunal follows, the detrimental trend of reduced property valuations should cease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alger County Board of Commissioners supports Senator Casperson's and Representative Kivela's bill to amend MCL §211.27, which will better define terms used to assess property values in the State of Michigan.

Adopted this 16th day of September, 2013.

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Jerry Doucette, Chair  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Mattson discussed the Brownfield meeting. He said that two townships (Burt and AuTrain) attended the meeting and will be attending future meetings.

Correspondence was read from the LMAS and Metropolitan Telecommunications d/b/a Mettel. The correspondence will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. There were no board comments.

Staff comments were next. The sheriff thanked the board for the new ambulance and the staff and for understanding the need. The undersheriff discussed Ron Koski, Supervisor for the UPSET Team, and the meth problems starting in Alger County. He discussed that he would like Mr. Koski to come up and give the board a presentation and an idea of what is going on and what kind of drug problems there are. The sheriff also commented that Bill Paige with MMRMA would come and give a presentation on administrative leave. Commissioner Mattson discussed an issue that happened in a federal park in Montana with a wife that pushed her husband off of a cliff and that it was turned over to a federal court system. The sheriff discussed the Richardson case. There were no other staff comments.

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 Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Pullen, Rondeau, and Mattson. Nays ó none. Absent ó Commissioners Doucette and VanLandschoot.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk