

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

December 15, 2014

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 4:07 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 ó none.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of December 8, 2014 with a correction changing the committee reports \$3,000 ALTRAN budget to \$3,000 ALTRAN appropriation; and the regular board meeting minutes of November 17, 2014. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

David Bowerman was present to contest changing the insurance carrier from Blue Cross Blue Shield to Consumers Mutual. He expressed concern about changes to the policy. David questioned the Board's understanding of the renewal as quoted by Blue Cross Blue Shield. He said that the deductibles went from \$4,000 to \$2,000 for a single and \$8,000 to \$4,000 for a family. He said that someone is misdirecting him, either the county or Blue Cross Blue Shield. Ron Pierce said that Blue Cross Blue Shield changed the benefits and no longer provides the \$4,000 and \$8,000 deductibles. Mr. Bowerman said that he now has to pay \$40 per visit for physical therapy. Commissioner VanLandschoot stated the board voted on a uniform package suggested by the insurance committee. Commissioner Pullen reminded Mr. Bowerman that retirees could not have better insurance than active employees. David demanded to know if his deductible is lower and wants the County Board to check into it. Commissioner Pullen and Commissioner Doucette expressed to Mr. Bowerman that he should convene with Sheila Peters and Ron Pierce. He kept asking the board if they knew what they had passed. He discussed an injury to his knee that he hurt working for the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Pullen asked Dave to contact Ron Pierce from City Insurance. He said that he did and he also talked with Blue Cross Blue Shield with Mary Ann and Joel. He said that Blue Cross Blue Shield said that the county changed the policy. He said that Ron told him that Blue Cross Blue Shield changed the policy. He asked that the board to find out for him what the discrepancies are. Commissioner Doucette told him to get with Sheila and Ron on speaker phone and find out and let the board know what they said. Commissioner Rondeau said that he would have to go over his notes from the meetings. David is to get in touch with Ron Pierce and have him call Blue Cross Blue Shield with him there.

Judge Nebel discussed his request for health insurance. He believes he is the only Judge in the state that does not have coverage available through his county. Commissioner Mattson thought Judge Nebel should be added to the Schoolcraft County health insurance policy. Dan LaFoilie was contacted by Commissioner Mattson and Dan said Schoolcraft would cover 50% of the premium and Judge Nebel would pay 15% of that 50%. For Alger County's purposes Judge Nebel requests that he pay the equivalent employee portion, which is currently 11%. Judge Nebel reaffirmed that he be treated the same as other county employees. Commissioner VanLandschoot expressed concern that Schoolcraft County has acted alone in the past, and that the judicial committee's own policies were not followed. Commissioner Rondeau asked if there was a mechanism that was not followed. Commissioner Mattson explained that policy changes should be unanimous through judicial council. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to agree to pay 50% of Schoolcraft County's insurance premium for health care. Judge Nebel is to pay 11% of that 50% to Alger County for the year 2015. It was agreed to the he will pay whatever the % is that the employees pay for that county. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, and Doucette. Nays ó Commissioner VanLandschoot. Absent ó none.

Commissioner VanLandschoot stated that his no vote was that he is not against the judge getting insurance, but is against the procedure. It had to be unanimous vote by the committee, not by each individual board. Commissioner Rondeau commented that Judge Nebel's letter has been floating around since April 13, 2009. Commissioner Doucette said to address Commissioner Pullen's concerns at the Organizational meeting.

The appointment for a partial term to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Board ending October 31, 2016 was up next. Cathy Weymouth submitted a letter of interest and recommendations. Donald Kinnunen also submitted a letter of interest. It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to appoint Cathy Weymouth to the partial term ending October 31, 2016. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. The County Clerk's office will send a letter of notification to Cathy Weymouth and DHS.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize using Kushner as the third-party administration in place of Health Equity. It was discussed that Ron Pierce stated that City Insurance is giving up their commission to pay for the 3rd party administration cost of Kushner and that Ron will handle the administration of the paperwork between the county and Kushner. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Sergeant Steve Webber explained the design of the jail to the Board. Commissioner Rondeau questioned parking and approval from the Fire Chief. Sergeant Webber suggested angled parking and that firewalls will separate existing structure and the new construction. The internal design and layout of beds, control room, and maintenance were discussed at length. Pam Johnson, Treasurer, explained that bonds will be sold and that it would go through the USDA. The payment is currently \$216,000 and will increase to \$280,000 for 30 years with a lower interest rate of 3.75%. Undersheriff Brock explained that even with no income from the jail, the payment could still be made. Commissioner Pullen was also questioning the loss of parking spaces. Sheriff Hughes explained that Murray Donnelly believes no more than six spaces would be lost after adjustments. Commissioner Pullen stated we are on a hill and you cannot blacktop everything, fearing flooding. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize starting the new jail process and the \$5,000,000 bond process. Commissioner Rondeau stated he wanted to know where the public stands on this. Pam Johnson said it would be a part of the bond process with a public hearing. Sheriff Hughes said that he wants to minimize visibility to the public with a fence until the garage is built. Commissioner Doucette stated that the project will not cost the public anything. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Next item was the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS) and the County of Alger. See the following:

MOU14-13001

Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) serves as an agreement between the **Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS)** and the **County of Alger** effective January 1 thru December 31 each calendar year for Social Welfare Fund county appropriations.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum is to define the roles and responsibilities of the parties identified above, in providing financial support, for social welfare fund county appropriations in Alger County.

1. Responsibilities

A. MDHS

- 1. Accept funds from County of Alger from approved county appropriations budget from the social welfare fund.**
- 2. Provide payments to approved vendors at the discretion of the Alger County DHS director.**
- 3. Provide quarterly expenditure and revenue reports to the County of Alger. Reports will be due to the County of Alger on the 15th of the month after the quarter ends.**
- 4. Provide reconciliation and return any unused portion of these funds to the County of Alger at year end or carry forward to the next fiscal year if agreed to by both DHS and the County of Alger.**

B. County of Alger

1. Provide County of Alger county appropriation funds from the social welfare fund to MDHS.
2. Submit payments to MDHS when requested by the Alger County DHS director.
3. Submit payments to:

State of Michigan
651 S. Walnut
P.O. Box 30802
Lansing, MI 48909-8302
Coding: TC 195 81020/11549/1305

MDHS/County of Alger

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MOU14-13001

2. Modifications

Any changes, amendments, or revisions to this agreement shall only be effective if made in writing with the written concurrence authorized by all parties – MDHS and County of Alger.

3. Termination

This MOU shall be in full force and effective for the period specified in this agreement. This memorandum may be terminated by either party by giving 60-days written notice, stating the reasons for termination and the effective date, or upon the failure of either party to carry out the terms of this agreement, by giving 30-days written notice stating cause and effective date.

4. Special Condition

This agreement is conditionally approved subject to and contingent upon the availability of funds and shall be renewed annually.

5. Liability

The County of Alger shall indemnify, save and hold harmless, MDHS against any and all expense and liability of any kind which the MDHS may sustain, incur or be required to pay arising out of this MOU provided, however, that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to liabilities or expenses caused by or resulting from the commission or omission of willful or negligent acts or omissions of MDHS or any of its officers or employees. Further, in the event the County of Alger becomes involved in or is threatened with litigation, the County of Alger shall immediately notify MDHS and MDHS may enter into such litigation to protect the interests of MDHS.

6. Special Certification

The individual or officer signing this MOU certifies by his or her signature that he or she is authorized to sign this MOU on behalf of the responsible governing board, official or Department.

MDHS/County of Alger

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Signature Section

Michigan Department of Human Services

Director/Designee

Date

Print Name

County of Alger

Executive Director

Date

Print Name

MDHS/County of Alger

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Chairman Doucette's understanding was that DHS was to set a budget to the county and that Alger County will not be cutting checks. Commissioner Pullen noted item 4. It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen that the MOU be accepted. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

The Federal Surplus Assistance Program Resolution for acquiring surplus property was explained by Sheriff Hughes. Commissioner Pullen questioned what the service charges were. Sheriff Hughes said the vehicles that are serviceable have no fees; they just need to be picked up. Sheriff Hughes said that he is looking for a minivan. A phone call was requested to the Chair or Vice-Chair before any purchase or collection was made. It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the following resolution:

STATE OF MICHIGAN
BOARD RESOLUTION
FEDERAL SURPLUS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, THE [] , State of Michigan has met all
(Agency)
other State and Federal requirements for participation in the Federal Property Assistance Program under Public Law 94-519.

WHEREAS, it is a requirement that a resolution be adopted by the governing body specifically designating a coordinator as Surplus Property Donee and Custodian, to be responsible for the acceptance and accountability and authorized to sign for surplus property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Governing Body for the []
(Agency)
the of the State of Michigan, hereby designates []
(Name)
who is the authorized coordinator as the person responsible for accepting Federal Surplus Property, with the power and full authority to sign for such surplus property.
2. The coordinator named above is to be held responsible for the accountability and will maintain the necessary records for all surplus property obtained for public purposes until relieved from accountability by State and/or Federal authorities.
3. That money is available to pay service charges for surplus property obtained.
4. That the coordinator is further hereby authorized to direct payment of service charges for surplus property to complete all transactions.

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the favorable vote of a majority of the member of said [] Date: []
(Agency)

[] Signature, Chairman of the Board [] Signature, Secretary/Clerk/Treasurer

[]
[]
[]
Agency Mailing Address

Phone: []

e-Mail: []

G:/Federal Surplus/Forms/Board Resolution

Exhibit - J

Return form to: State of Michigan, DMB
Federal Surplus Program
P.O. Box 30026
Lansing, MI, 48909

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

The county's life insurance policy was discussed. Commissioner Doucette said that he would like some movement on this issue. He said that questions regarding Barbara Johnson's policy persist. The board discussed keeping the policy as is at \$15,000. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize changing the life insurance carrier from Lincoln to Minnesota Life, keeping rates as they are presently and to seek legal advice in regards to Barbara Johnson's increase to \$50,000. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize a 2.5% cost of living adjustment increase for four retirees (Joan Pelletier, Vivian Hakkola, Ethel Holmquist, and Vivian Rousseau). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize payment of the Harris bill for January 2015 in the amount of \$13,841.43. \$6,714.02 is to come from the treasurer's 2015 budget and \$7,127.41 is to come from the clerk's 2015 budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded Commissioner Mattson to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$7,759. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000). Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee and the committee of the whole. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen 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 Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the clerk to transfer \$300 from the bond payment budget into the veteran's burials budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize the clerk to transfer \$24.63 from the bond payment budget into the county's law library budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the treasurer to transfer the following funds:

*Transfer \$3,164.86 from Building Code Dept. fund to Delinquent tax fund for repayment of loan

*Transfer \$3,500.00 from Building Code Dept. fund to general fund ó 2014 rent

*Transfer \$36,000.00 from 911 wireless fund to general fund transfer in 911 wireless

*Transfer \$5,000.00 from Remonumentation fund to general fund transfer in Remonumentation

*Transfer \$24.63 from the general fund Law Library to the Law Library fund

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the treasurer to create fund #264 ó 911 Millage. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the treasurer to create fund #293 ó Veteran's Millage. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There were no miscellaneous items.

Resolutions were next. There was discussion on resolution #2014-21. Commissioner Rondeau questioned if the issue meets a high standard. Commissioner Mattson said they had missed opportunities in the past to recognize previous accomplishments. It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following resolution #2014-21:

RESOLUTION #2014-21

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE 2014 BOYS CLASS D MHSAA FINALIST FOOTBALL TEAM

MUNISING MUSTANGS

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners commends rare athletic achievement, and give special honor and commendation to those athletic teams who pursue such excellence that they become examples for the youth of this community; and

WHEREAS, each member of the Munising High School football team have shown hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship both on and off the football field; and

WHEREAS, they inspire community pride through their commitment to excellence.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the achievements of the Munising High School football team; of its head coach, Jeff Seaberg; and of its talented coaching staff deserve recognition and have earned a rightful place at the top of their sport. For their impressive 2014 season and for the example that they have set for future generations of young athletes in this community, this body honors the **MUNISING MUSTANGS** and wishes them the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Dated: December 15, 2014

Alger County Board of Commissioners:

Jerry Doucette, Chairperson

Catherine Pullen, Commissioner

Esley M. Mattson, Vice-Chairman

Joseph VanLandschoot, Commissioner

Mickey G. Rondeau, Commissioner



Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none. Undersheriff Brock suggested the honor be presented to the football team at the football banquet.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the following resolution #2014-22:

RESOLUTION #2014-22

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192 TO STOP THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE FROM CLOSING AND CONSOLIDATING THE MAIL PROCESSING CENTER IN KINGSFORD, MICHIGAN.

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service plans to close the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan, and consolidate services 100 miles away in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The closure is scheduled to take effect on January 5, 2015; and

WHEREAS, The consolidation will severely delay mail delivery and result in a degradation of postal standards by virtually eliminating overnight first-class mail delivery in large portions of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Kingsford mail processing center is the only center serving the entire Upper Peninsula. The consolidation will require mail to travel up to 230 miles simply for processing and slow current one-day, first-class mail service to two- or three-day service in the Upper Peninsula; and

WHEREAS, This consolidation is not in the public's best interest. For the past four years, the state of Michigan has looked to the Upper Peninsula and its natural resources as a means for sparking economic growth. This degradation of mail service sends a negative message to developers and investors. In addition, current Upper Peninsula business owners rely greatly on the U.S. Postal Service for their mail and shipping needs. The expected delays will negatively affect these local businesses, particularly small businesses, and residents; and

WHEREAS, The inevitable delays in mail service run directly counter to federal postal policy established by the U.S. Congress. Section 101 of the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970 stipulates:

öThe Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities.ö

It is difficult to conceive how this closure meets the U.S. Postal Service's obligation to provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Board of Commissioners requests the United States Congress to stop the U.S. Postal Service from closing and consolidating the mail processing center in Kingsford, Michigan; and that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the Postmaster General of the United States and the Office of the Governor.

Adopted this 15th day of December, 2014.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioner Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen asked if the \$3,000 for ALTRAN is in the budget. Commissioner Pullen also suggested using the consent agenda for financial matters. Commissioner Doucette said he was going to bring it up at the board's organizational meeting. Commissioner Rondeau stated the blueprints for the office at Hanley Field Airport were approved by the building inspector. It was discussed that the ground for the Veteran's Museum could break this spring. Chairman Doucette thanked Mary Ann Froberg for her participation at the meeting in Lansing.

Correspondence was briefly read. There was a public notice from the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, regarding replacing existing culvert for the purpose of restoring flows to Scott Falls. Also, a letter from Representative Dan Benishek regarding his efforts to delay electricity rate increases. These will be placed in the file.

Board comments were next. Chairman Doucette reminded everyone of a special board meeting on December 18th at 4:00 p.m. for budget approval. He also explained that his trip to Lansing was interesting. Commissioner Doucette and Mary Ann attended senate hearings for cell towers in the U.P. He said that the issue passed through committee and should increase cell coverage in the 906 area. Furthermore, the issue of big box stores closing and the tax tribunal was discussed.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot would like to know when resolution #2014-21 will be ready. Undersheriff Brock invited the Board to attend football team's banquet to present the team with the resolution. Commissioner Rondeau said that he has constituents that are complaining about the price of firewood. He said that he called Dan Benishek's office and talked to Dan Blough in regards to wood lots. State Senator Tom Casperson's office was also contacted with no response at this time. Commissioner Rondeau stated he will be gone all of January. Commissioner Pullen had a constituent questioning the fairness of the sheriff's rotation for wreckers. Sheriff Hughes explained the rotation is fair and all calls are recorded. Sheriff Hughes audited all wrecker logs; preference calls and rotations followed procedure.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Hughes echoed Undersheriff Brock's sentiments regarding the jail committee. He wanted to point out the action taken tonight minimizes the county's liability. He said that the new design opens up the visibility inside the jail, and improves the safety and security of the jail. Sergeant Webber explained the work will really begin now and that the Sheriff's Department will come to the board all along the way. The bidding process will begin and the department is looking for the biggest bang for its buck. There was some discussion and questions concerning the bidding process. Sergeant Webber and the board want to avoid looking biased in the process, so they will bid out for an architect and general contractor.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes 6 Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Nays 0 none. Absent 0 none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk