

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

**August 11, 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 4:00 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 ó none.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Teri Grout was present to ask the board to support two proposals under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. One is for the Alger Conservation District for the Central UP (MI) Invasive Plant Prevention and Control Project and one is for the UPRC&D for Phragmites Prevention and Control Coalition of Michiganø U.P. The board said that they would do letters of support for both. She also said that Liz is reconstituting the Munising Bay Watershed Steering Committee and asked if any of the board members would like to consider being on the committee and to let her know. She also discussed invasive species. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

It was the consensus of the board to look at the minutes and make a motion at Mondayø regular board meeting.

The agenda was presented.

Judge Mark Luoma was present to ask the board for their approval to submit the District Courtø Drug Court Grant. He discussed the grant and that it now involves veterans. He said that it is a 100% reimbursed grant. He also discussed the Cunningham case and not being able to charge court costs. He said they hope that the legislators do something about it. It was the consensus of the board to authorize approval to submit the District Courtø Drug Court Grant.

There was discussion on authorizing the 2014/2015 pre-purchase program with Bowman Gas Co., Inc. Murray is to come to next Mondayø meeting to discuss the options and if they should go out on bids.

There was discussion on authorizing a \$0.30 cents per hour wage increase for circuit court employees in Schoolcraft County being implemented on October 1, 2014. Commissioner Mattson said that their next judicial meeting is in November. He said that the by-laws said that there has to be a unanimous vote by all four county boards. He discussed that it is being brought before the board ahead of time so they can discuss and decide on the increases before Schoolcraft Countyø budget is due. The \$0.30 cents per hour pay increase is to be shared by the four counties being .07 ½ cents per county. It was the consensus of the board that they are not in favor of the raise.

There was discussion on reappointing Anita J. Bouth to the Alger County Library Board. It was the consensus of the board to reappoint Anita J. Bouth to the Alger County Library Board for another 3-year term.

Cost savings ideas / revenue sources were next on the agenda. Sheriff Hughes said that it was discussed at the law enforcement committee meeting to utilize Murray Donnelly in 911at a temporary pay position. There is some research to be done regarding the Labor Department. The sheriff said that he was pleased with the passage of the 911 millage and that the 911 committee will have to have a meeting to see what amount to collect. Lee Paquette was asking about the cable TV and was hoping that they could get cable again. This was discussed.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to NorthCare Network for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$6,698.50. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-631-969.000).

There was discussion on the board bills. It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all of the board bills as recommended by the audit committee.

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.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the revenues in federal park patrol in the amount of \$464.03.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the revenues in county inmate room and board in the amount of \$2,039.

It was the consensus of the board to amend the expenditures in the federal park patrol in the amount of \$2,503.03.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed an insurance committee meeting. She said that there is a 24% increase from Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) for retirees and that they can receive the same plan for one more year. She said that they do not have figures from Consumers Mutual yet. She said that we are grandfathered in on issues and said that it is very confusing. There was discussion on a class action suit with BCBS. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the road commission meeting and that the retirees only get insurance for five years. Commissioner Mattson discussed what Schoolcraft County gets when people retire for new hires, which is nothing. He said that it has dropped drastically. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the U.P. State Fair and also discussed the veterans memorial and a memorial for two veterans that were granted property at the fairgrounds. He also said that the Alger County Fair went well. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board) housing. He said that Earl Hawn will be retiring from AMCAB. He also discussed veterans and the help they can receive. Commissioner Doucette discussed that MIWorks is in their new building and CUPPAD will be moving in the same building. He discussed the commissioners from other counties that will be leaving after the primary election.

Correspondence was read and discussed from Christina Miller from the Office of Waste Management and Radiological Protection Department of Environmental Quality regarding the DRAFT policy and procedures; from the Forest Service regarding the Forest Service-wide Transportation Analysis Planning (TAP); Notice of Intent Forms from CUPPAD Regional Commission regarding FY 2014-15 Head Start Continuation Grant Application from AMCAB and Generating Economic Development from CUPPAD; and LMAS board minutes. These will be filed in the board meeting file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot discussed a presentation for VanLandschoot Fisheries and that they have been around for 100 years. Commissioner Mattson discussed agenda items coming in late and that bills are coming in late. There were no other board comments.

Staff comments were next. The sheriff said that he needed to reschedule the administrative leave committee meeting to August 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. Steve Webber said that the VHF radios and paging system is up and running and that everyone is very happy with the system. There was discussion on funding for municipalities for building projects like a jail and that there are many ways to fund those projects including P3 Financing Programs There were no other staff comments.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 5:53p.m.

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk