

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

March 21, 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 3:00 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. 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 VanLandschoot 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.

John Madigan was present to discuss the airport exchange. He said that this was a long, long process for the county to own the airport and they are finally at a process to move this to the next level. Charlie Marsh from the Forest Service gave an overview of the process to identify lands for the aspect of the exchange and then to see if it would be feasible to enter into an exchange. Last summer they did a feasibility analysis where they evaluated the lands that the federal government has versus the private lands that were being proposed in terms of the exchange. He said that their specialists did a quick analysis to be able to determine whether it was feasible to enter into the exchange. He said that they sent the analysis to their regional office in Milwaukee. They reviewed the information from the analysis and said that it was a feasible exchange. In the packet that was given is a letter saying that the exchange was feasible and an agreement to initiate with the lands associated with the exchange. He said they could paper shuffle back and forth as long as is needed to make it work. Exhibit C is an implementation schedule and is a guess of what the timeframes are. They have proposed what potential expenditures would be in Exhibit E. He said that the split in costs are 83% for the government and 17% for the county. Commissioner Mattson asked what additional costs could occur going forward that the board is not aware of at this time. Charlie said that there should be no other costs. John Madigan asked about a baseline comparison of the property on the appraisals. Charlie said that exchange must be in equal value and cannot exceed 25% of the exchange value. He said that the agreement is non-binding. Commissioner Doucette asked what the future plans of the airport are. John Madigan said that they should focus on getting the property and then maybe get grants for paving the airport or improving the airport. There was much discussion on the improvements that could be made to the airport and the business and tourism that this could bring into Alger County. There was discussion on what the expenses could be with paving the airport. There was discussion on the cemetery in Munising Township and that they could expand the cemetery with five acres with the exchange of 40 acres in Munising Township. Dan Wilson said that the township needs the five acres. It was discussed that the county could get the airport property for \$6,000. Ed Lindstrom said that it is a win-win for the county. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize the chair to sign the agreement to initiate with the chair being the spokesperson and the vice-chair being the second spokesperson with the projected cost of \$5,900. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

There was discussion on hiring an attorney to handle the airport exchange. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize hiring an attorney to handle the airport exchange. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette discussed the county declaring a state of emergency regarding the freeze ups. Devin Olson, City Manager, said that he understands that the county has to be in certain thresholds. It was discussed that the region should declare the state of emergency. Commissioner Doucette said that on Tuesday there is a meeting for the 15 counties. He said Senator Casperson's office said that they are having the State Representatives requiring that all county board chairman's throughout the Upper Peninsula declare a state of emergency to aid in financial assistance to the Governor's office for the freeze up damages. Commissioner Doucette thanked everyone for coming.

Board comments were next. There were none.

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.

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn this meeting at 3:53 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