

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

July 13, 2015

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 6 Commissioners VanLandschoot and Doucette.

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.

The consent agenda was presented.

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

John Sherman-Jones was present to discuss the Alger County Food Pantry. It was formed in February of 2012. He said that the program targets the most in need and stresses respect, dignity, privacy, and fairness in distribution. The program is needs-based and has a threshold of below 200% of the poverty line. There is a limit of six times in a calendar year per family. In 2014, 60% of those requesting help only asked once or twice and only 31 families maxed out. The Food Pantry is currently housed in DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) and is an all-volunteer program with over 100 community members. In 2014, 1,350 volunteer hours were logged and the Food Pantry was awarded the U.P. Service Award. The Alger County Food Pantry is granted wholesale prices and works closely with Family Fare with an emphasis on fresh foods. In 2014, there were 898 requests by 2,219 individuals including 357 families; this is a 47% increase over 2013. The Food Panty has a 1% operating cost with the majority of operating costs going to the State of Michigan in fees. The Alger County Board of Commissioner has been approached about utilizing space if DHHS moves out of the building. There was a comment from the floor that the Pantry cannot afford rent. Commissioner Mattson stated DHHS is leaving in September, and with the jail renovation, there will be substantial changes over the next six months. Commissioner Mattson noted the obligation to pay off DHHS's portion of the bond (\$103,000 per year for 12 years).

John Herman was present to discuss land swap figures for the airport. In order to equalize the values, Alger County will owe \$20,000 for 205 acres with generally mature timber on it. The timber could be cut clean and sold but will take between three to six months. John asked to leave a strip of timber to act as a snow fence. Commissioner Pullen expressed concern that nothing was budgeted for this, but after many meetings, the land swap is close to completion. Commissioner Pullen floated the idea of borrowing from the DTR (Delinquent Tax Revolving) Fund and paying back after the sale of the timber harvest. Commissioner Mattson stated it would be good for all involved to come to the full board meeting to bring Chairman Doucette up to speed. Charles Nebel stated Charles Marsh at the Forest Service is the local unit in charge at the local level. Commissioner Mattson reiterated that his concern is the cost to the budget. Commissioner Pullen stated there is a right to revert if the land is not used for an airport. Charles Nebel asked about the appraisals, which were received today.

Next on the agenda was a 1.5% increase in pay for Terry McLaren and Lynne Maki. Commissioner Mattson stated that they are part of the court staff and in the past, raises have been in tandem with the court staff. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the 1.5% raise and pay back to the court staff's date of the tentative agreement.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing of the collection agreement between Alger County Board of Commissioners and the USDA, Forest Service Hiawatha National Forest.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing of the exchange agreement between the Alger County Board of Commissioners and the USDA, Forest Service.

It was the consensus of the board to adopt a resolution authorizing Jerry Doucette or Elsey Mattson to sign the Construction Manager's Contract on behalf of Alger County with the clarification that said resolution specifically states for the jail renovation.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the agreement with Lakeshore Environmental Industries, Inc. for removal and disposal of asbestos in the jail windows and main entrance.

There was discussion on battery backups for the 911 system. Sheriff Hughes stated the battery backup issue is a carryover item from last month. He said that currently there is a heat issue in the room with the battery backups. He said that this bid does not include air conditioning for the room, but he is still working with Murray Donnelly to vent the room. Sheriff Hughes stated that after a power failure, the downtime is minimal so he is recommending the 6-13 minute backup option. Commissioner Pullen stated this is an essential fix. It was the consensus of the board to authorize purchasing three battery backup units and electrical work through Empiric Solutions in the amount of \$8,155.29 (\$6,434.06 is to come from the 911 Fund and \$1,721.23 is to come from the General Fund for county servers).

There was discussion on authorizing eight personnel to have 911 online training. Sheriff Hughes stated continuing education is necessary for dispatch. He discussed that the full-time employees are charged \$120 each, but the part-time employees are free. It was the consensus of the board to authorize eight personnel for 911 online training in the amount of \$960. The monies are to come from 911 training fund.

There was discussion on authorizing four personnel to attend a 1-day active shooter and armed intruder response for dispatcher and 911 call takers. It was the consensus of the board to authorize 911 dispatch training for 4 personnel. The monies are to come from the 911 training fund.

There was discussion of a letter of support to the USDA for Munising Bay Healthcare (MBH) for a Community Facilities Direct Loan (the CF Loan) to finance the purchase of Munising Memorial Hospital (MMH). It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing a letter of support for MBH.

There was some discussion regarding the size of an ad necessary for the plat book. It was the consensus of the board to authorize a half page ad for a new plat book in the amount of \$375. The monies are to come from the commissioner's budget.

There was no old business.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to Pathways for their community mental health quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$8,305. The monies are to come from their appropriation (101-649-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills with the exception of the Healthy Homes carpet cleaning bill pending confirmation that the Friend of Court office was cleaned and clarification of Soil Conservation, which has no carpets.

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.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Commissioner Pullen noted that Deb LeBlanc from the Forest Service sprayed the airport for spotted knapweed for free. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the airport tractor. He said that the tractor part came in from Bergdahl; however, the radiator is cracked. Commissioner Mattson stated that the jail committee met and gave unanimous support to Sgt. Webber to go ahead with the final draft drawing. There was discussion on there being maintenance on the airport tractor in the fall.

Correspondence was briefly read regarding LMAS May 4, 2015 Board of Health minutes; a note from the treasurer that \$14,435.18 in additional monies came from the State of Michigan for the 2011-2012 DHHS operating cost adjustments; a letter from the United States Department of the Interior explaining that Alger County is entitled to a PILT payment of \$261,917; a Resolution in Support of Maintaining the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Office in Alger County from Delta County; and lastly, a Notice of Intent Comment Form from CUPPAD regarding Munising Bay Healthcare regarding land, building and equipment acquisition.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen noted that the Investment Fund Report is new. Commissioner Rondeau stated that the DNR meeting they had gone very well. He said that the land acquisition is now 60 acres, down from 130 acres. Commissioner Pullen stated the meeting was useful. Commissioner Mattson announced Commissioner VanLandschoot's surgery went well, but may not be able to attend meetings for a few weeks.

There were no staff comments.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk