

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

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

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Leota Paquette from the Prosecutor's Office was asking the board if the employees can have access to the postage machine after the offices close at 4:00 p.m. or on the weekends. She asked if Stephanie can lock the doors at 5:00 p.m. She said if they don't have access after-hours, they will have to buy stamps. She also asked if the postage machine can be put back where it was. Commissioner Doucette said no, that it was the sheriff's department now. Commissioner Rondeau asked if the postage machine can be put in their office. Lee said no she does not want it there. The commissioners said they will consider the options. There was no other 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.

Stephanie Pierson presented the board with the Equalization Apportionment Report. She explained the report and said that it might have to be amended after they decide the veteran's millage rate, the 911 millage rate, and possibly for the Superior Central School election in November. It was the consensus of the board to approve the Apportionment Report.

Joe Verlin, CPA from Gabridge & Co was present to discuss the 2014 audit. He talked about the financial highlights and went over the government-wide financial statements. He said the county has an unfunded post-employment benefit obligation of \$1,420,279. There is also an increase in operating grants and contributions. He discussed the tax revenues and that there is a net loss in the position for the fiscal year of (\$42,815). He said that the county fund balance level is doing well and that the fund balance as of 12/31/2014 was \$202,977. He said that the MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) has 24 more years to fund for the retirements and that there is a UAAL (unfunded actuarial accrued liability) of \$2.6 million. He said that next year a Statement of Emphasis - GASB 68 will be new on the audit and that it will be a significant new liability showing up. The board accepted the 2014 audit.

Commissioner Pullen discussed the health insurance. She said that there were three companies that gave them a bid, Mazzali's, 44 North, and City Insurance. She said that Ron had told them all of the numbers should be the same so it comes down to customer service. She said that Ron Pierce has worked with us extraordinarily well, but after discussion, 44 North went the extra step. Joel VandeVelde said that the cost level at 11% was approximately \$456,000 and 15% was \$468,000. That was with a \$50,000 HRA funding level (16.5% utilization rate). The cost at 11% for a single person is \$25.80, \$45 for a couple, and \$76 for a family. At 15% the cost for a single person is \$35, \$62 for a couple, and \$103 for a family. Commissioner Pullen said that the health insurance will be age banded. So to keep the cost down, the county will have to pool the retirees. For the retirees the cost for a single person would increase a \$75 per month (being a total of \$150), and a \$300 increase for a couple per month (being a total of \$600). There was discussion to also have 44 North come up with 80/20 and the hard-cap numbers. The hard-cap and 80/20 does not include dental or vision, so it will have to be additional. It was discussed that the cost includes Tele-doc and cobra. Commissioner Pullen explained Tele-doc. It was the consensus of the board to go with 44 North and to see what the other numbers come to.

Stacey Masters' PC in Probate Court was discussed. She could get a new machine for \$800 or if that didn't fit the budget, Compudyne could add resources (RAM) at a cost of about \$50. However, the machine is quite old and would need to be replaced soon if they just added the RAM. The board asked if installation is included. The clerk said she will find out. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Compudyne to add RAM to Stacey's computer and that they should put a new computer in the budget for next year.

There was discussion on the CRP reimbursement with the Friend of the Court's fund. It was the consensus of the board to authorize that the adjustments will be made through the CRP reimbursements over the next 12 months starting with October 1, 2015. The amount owed is \$6,814.80, which will come to \$567.90 per month.

There was discussion on authorizing the sheriff's department to hire one full-time replacement. Undersheriff Brock said that Jason Lindquist went to the DNR as a forester. They would like to take the next part-time employee and make them full-time. It was discussed under the condition that the replacement receives no post-employment benefits. It is the consensus of the board to authorize the sheriff's department to hire one full-time employee with no post-employment benefits. There was discussion on what no post-employment benefits meant and if it included retirement or not. The Undersheriff is to find out what happened from the last hire.

There was discussion on the Dog License Ordinance and Snowmobile Ordinance and changing the fines up to \$500 on both. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the change with reviewing of the fines up to \$500 at the Judge's discretion.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the clerk to advertise for bids for snow removal, the audit, remonumentation, and for the cost allocation services. All of these bids are to be for three years.

There was discussion on the UPACC (U.P. Association of County Commissioners) Fall Conference. The registration rate is \$55 per person and the room rate is \$70.85 for a single or double occupancy. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, and Doucette to attend.

There was discussion on the automatic fire suppression system inspection proposal. It was the consensus of the board to authorize the chair to sign the three year contract with Excel Fire Protection Co., Inc. at a cost of \$341 per year.

Old business was next. There was none.

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

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 authorize the treasurer to transfer \$3,500 from the general fund to the building codes fund.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed ALTRAN and that in July or August of 2016 they expect to be in the new building. Four new buses are to be delivered on October 21<sup>st</sup>. She also discussed the MERS (Municipal Employees' Retirement System) conference at length. Commissioner Rondeau discussed Commission on Aging and the health insurance meetings. Commissioner VanLandschoot handed out and discussed the Executive Directors and Housing Services reports from AMCAB (Alger Marquette Community Action Board). Commissioner Doucette thanked Commissioner Pullen, Mary Ann and Pam for attending the MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) conference. He also discussed road funding.

Correspondence was briefly read. There was a notice from Senator Casperson's office offering an amendment to House Bill No. 4012 (S-1), which was payment from DHHS for their bonding issue with the county in the amount of \$667,300; a Memorandum from Judge William W. Carmody regarding the Court Reporter for Alger and Schoolcraft Counties; a Resolution from the City of Munising of the Adoption of the Alger County Hazard Mitigation Plan; and a News Release for Text to 9-1-1 Service Launches in the Upper Peninsula by Tim McKee. These will be placed in the board file.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Rondeau asked about the recreation plan for the county and asked about the new building for the airport and where to store it. It will be stored out at the airport where it is dry. There were no other board comments.

Staff comments were next. There were none.

Public comment session was open. Sergeant Waldron discussed the sheriff wanting to go out on bids for a new ambulance. He said that the current ambulances that they have are a 2009, 2011, and a 2015. He also wanted them to know that the ORV Ordinance has expired and something needs to be done with it. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:50 p.m.