

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

May 9, 2016

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 4:03 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. Jim Isleib with MSU Extension gave an update on soils and the different programs MSU Extension has. He handed out a soil sampling information sheet and said that commercial soil sampling has halved over the past few years. He said that home gardener sampling kits are available for \$25. There was no further public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

The consent agenda was presented.

Teri Grout was present with an update on Alger Conservation work and Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development (UPRC&D) work. Teri explained that the first of two invasive species grants will expire in June 2016 and the second in 2017. She said that she appreciates being able to use the in-kind match from the county for the grants. She said that multi-county grants are the new norm, and that the conservation district is able to employ in the summer with these grants; however, surveys are necessary for these grants. She said that UPRC&D operations were cut in 2008 and has been completely reliant on grants since 2008. Teri said she was able to secure \$31,998 in grants for 2015 and that has kept the Alger County Conservation District going. Commissioners Doucette and Rondeau asked about attending meetings and phone conferences.

The bids were open for a new ambulance. Commissioner Doucette stated he has no intention at this point to purchase a new ambulance until the issues with the lawsuit are settled with Stryker. Bids were opened from Emergency Vehicles Plus for a 2016 GMC 6.0L Gasoline engine in the amount of \$209,174.60 and secondly from Life Line Emergency Vehicles for a 2016 GMC 6.0L Gasoline in the amount of \$213,240.00.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to authorize Murray to bypass the bidding process and purchase a Mitsubishi Air Conditioner from Swift for the 911 clean room in the amount of \$7,557.00. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes ó Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays ó none. Absent ó none. The monies are to come from the 911 millage. The old air conditioning system will be integrated in to the jail during construction.

It was the consensus of the board to reappoint John Howko to the Alger County Library Board for another three-year term ending 12/31/19.

It was the consensus of the board to appoint Penny Ray to the Alger County Library Board expiring on 12/31/17.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. Commissioner Rondeau discussed the snowmobile grant and said that he would like to approach the DNR about increasing the snowmobile grant. Undersheriff Brock commented that a plan is in place to bring community service back and remain revenue neutral.

Old business was next. There was none.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to NorthCare for their substance abuse appropriation in the amount of \$4,435. The monies are to come from the convention facilities tax (101-631-969.000).

It was the consensus of the board to authorize payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,745.00 (101-601-969.000).

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 create fund #351 General Debt Service Fund.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$75,244 from Fund #351 General Debt Service Fund to General Fund Transfer in Debt Service.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

There were no resolutions.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Pullen discussed that there had been a break-in at the Animal Shelter and two pit bulls were missing. She also discussed that the airport contract with Dick Cremer (who has passed away) will have to be reviewed. There is a question as to who inherits the contract. Commissioner Pullen said that she attended a meeting in Grand Marais. There was a request in Burt Township to establish an underwater preserve. She said that the township does not seem too enthusiastic in about it. The board will wait to see what Burt Township decides after weighing the pros and cons of the matter. Commissioner Rondeau said that he attended a road commission meeting and that the residents of Burt Township are angry about the roads being torn up by snowmobiles. There was some discussion regarding banning studs on sleds. Commissioner Rondeau said that he is in agreement with the upset residents that road commission funds are being spent to fix damage caused by non-residents. Detective Blank agreed that studs do cause a great deal of damage to the roads and even vehicles. Commissioner Mattson recommended discussing the issue with DNR first, then possibly conduct a public survey. Commissioner Mattson met with Judge Carmody about possibly hiring a defense attorney and possibly it being a shared service with Schoolcraft County. Commissioner VanLandschoot said that he will have a full CAAM (Community Action Alger Marquette) board meeting and will have more details soon. Sergeant Webber updated the board regarding the jail expansion, which is still on track for a May 23rd start date. Commissioner Doucette noted Deana Bosworth will be returning to MAC (Michigan Association of Counties) on June 1, 2016.

Correspondence was briefly read from County of Marquette regarding local zoning.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot wanted to thank Commissioner Doucette for attending the MCSSA (Michigan County Social Services Association) board meeting in Marquette and that his speech was well received. Undersheriff Brock thanked Commissioner Doucette for participating in MAC which he believes was a critical factor in securing the DHHS (Department of Health and Human Services) bond money. Commissioner Doucette said that it also includes Sgt. Steve Webber and Clerk Mary Ann Froberg. Undersheriff Brock also discussed the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new jail that is scheduled for May 23rd.

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

This meeting is now adjourned at 5:30 PM

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk