

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

September 12, 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 4:00 p.m. on the above date.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doucette with the following Commissioners present: Commissioners Mattson, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent – Commissioner Pullen.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public comment session was open. Teri Grout from the Alger County Conservation District said that she is working on two Conservation District proposals and is requesting a pledge of support regarding their office space.

The agenda was presented.

There was discussion on the settlement with Stryker and a lawsuit against Mark Grossbauer. Prosecuting Attorney Karen Bahrman explained the Larceny-by-Conversion charge against Michigan First Response (MFR). The title of an ambulance was withheld because of nonpayment. An offer was made to delay sentence if restitution is paid was presented to Mr. Grossbauer. Stryker is willing to settle for \$22,000 with Michigan First Response. The court will determine restitution after his plea has been entered. Lt. Matt Waldron explained that the settlement came with contingencies. Stryker is willing to settle with Alger County for \$35,000. Attorney fees have passed \$13,000. Ms. Bahrman said you can focus on punishment which makes him uncollectable, or allow him to continue working and pay restitution. Tina Waldron explained Stryker is a large company that Alger County uses for many services. The board has the option to pay off Stryker and clear our debt with them. The option to wait and see if Michigan First Response settles with Stryker was discussed. Commissioner Doucette concurs with Karen Bahrman to wait and see what happens between MFR and Stryker. It was the consensus of the board to further discuss this issue at next week's board meeting.

Terry McLaren was present to request that the board sign off on the 2017 Child Care Budget to allow for 50% reimbursement of expenses. It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing the 2017 Title IV Budget Development Certification.

The GIS system was discussed. Deanna Boyak explained that Grand Island Township only needs GIS parcel mapping, but is not set on which company to go with. Thomas Balmes stated that after discussion with their Assessor Mark Maki, AuTrain Township needs the 50% initial setup cost but will agree to either proposal. Roy Aho explained that this issue was recently discussed at the Mathias Township meeting. They are leaning towards the CUPPAD (Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Regional Commission) proposal. Teri Grout explained Rock River has financial constraints but could budget more appropriately next year, and will address the issue at their next board meeting. An addendum was received for both proposals, which adds an additional layer. Todd Brock noted that the county and townships already have a relationship with CUPPAD. Commissioner Mattson noted only Limestone has gone out on its own to contract mapping software. Thomas Balmes stated that AuTrain has a great working relationship with CUPPAD from previous projects. Mr. Balmes noted that Bay College is already offering GIS courses and he believes the cost of this technology will decrease in the near future. Mr. Balmes asked if a contract would be drawn up, and thanked the board for matching 50% of the costs.

The Veteran's Relief millage rate was discussed. It was the consensus of the board to authorize collection of .10 of a mill for the Veteran's Relief millage.

There was discussion on the Friend of the Court Cooperative Reimbursement Contract. It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing the Friend of the Court Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for 5 years.

There was discussion on the Prosecuting Attorney's Child Support Cooperative Reimbursement Contract. It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing of the Prosecuting Attorney's Child Support Cooperative Reimbursement Contract for 5 years.

There was discussion on the letter of support for the White Pine Power Plant. Commissioner Doucette explained there will be meetings with state and local representatives regarding the White Pine Power Plant. It was the consensus of the board to postpone this issue until the next board meeting.

There was discussion on the airport land exchange. It was the consensus of the board to postpone discussing: authorizing payment for the closing and drafting of documents for the airport exchange, authorizing approval of attorney fees with Robb Ferguson for the airport land swap, authorizing signing of the Deeds and Easements for the airport exchange.

There was discussion on the UPACC (Upper Peninsula Association of County Commissioners) Fall Conference. It was the consensus of the board to authorize Commissioners Mattson, Doucette, and Rondeau to attend the UPACC Fall Conference on October 13th and 14th at Bay Mills.

Cost saving ideas / revenue sources were next. There were none.

There was no old business.

It was the consensus of the board to approve payment of all board bills and move this item to the consent agenda. The six-month policy memo should be forwarded on to each of the courts.

It was the consensus of the board to approve the financial reports for all funds and move this item to the consent agenda. A full 30-page report is available upon request with the treasurer.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was the consensus of the board to authorize signing of Resolution: Opposition to New EPA Guidelines.

Sgt. Webber updated the board on the Jail Expansion. There was an issue with solid doors needing to be replaced with see-through doors which would come from the contingency funds. The cost to surface the floors in a longer lasting surface is pending. There was discussion on the noise from the construction is interfering with dispatching services. The recommendation is to move dispatch out while that portion is being completed. Undersheriff Brock offered the board a tour of the jail expansion which Commissioner VanLandschoot agreed to and suggested Monday before the next meeting. Sgt. Webber noted the 2016/2017 Stonegarden Grant appropriation is in mid-cycle, and should bring in \$59,333. The Department of Natural Resources is meeting with the Sheriff's department and the Road Commission in an attempt to increase funding for the damage to local roads. Commissioner Mattson said having Regional Government meetings was long overdue. Most departments are in good budgetary shape. There is an individual interested in a public defender position and Schoolcraft County is looking to move forward with this issue. Commissioner VanLandschoot noted Community Action Alger Marquette is progressing with the Grandview Marquette Apartments conversion of the Holy Family Orphanage. Commissioner Doucette has a conference call lined up with Marquette and Delta Counties regarding concerns over MERS cost increases. ALTRAN will have a grand opening of the new facility in May 2017.

Correspondence was briefly read from the DNR regarding 2018 YOE Shingleton Forest Management Unit Open House and Compartment Review; a letter from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding State Ward Chargeback Rate for calendar year 2017; and from Hiawatha National Forest regarding information related to Camp Cooks Integrated Resource Management Project proposal.

Board comments were next. Commissioner VanLandschoot would like to discuss the veteran's millage proposal at the American Legion tonight. Commissioner Mattson noted MERS funding levels are an issue for LMAS. He also said that the Deerton Post Office does not meet code standards because it has no running water and only has an outhouse.

Staff comments were next. Sgt. Webber attended a 911 Ceremony in Lansing and heard huge praise for Commissioner Doucette, the DHHS cost recovery and the jail expansion project. Pam Johnson noted that the purchase of new vehicles needs to be added to the next agenda. Documents for the grant need to be submitted as soon as possible, so this issue will be a priority at the next board meeting.

Public comment session was open.

This meeting is now adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk