

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

May 20, 2019

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, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot and Doucette. Absent – none.

The board of commissioners said the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the consent agenda which includes the following items:

Affirm Chairman Doucette to sign Collaborative Agreement on Jail Diversion (Pathways);

Affirm Probate Court attorney fees of \$75 per hour and travel time fees of \$40 per hour;

Authorize the wage for the Juvenile Officer to \$20.56 per hour;

Authorize the wage for Veteran's Officer at \$19.00 per hour;

Authorize the wage for the Equalization Director to follow union's increases;

Approve Letter of Agreement for Steve Blank, Undersheriff;

Approve 30 pro-rated hours of sick time for 2019 for part-time employees who have worked over 25 hours per week last year;

Appoint Suzanne Hetherington to the Library Board;

Authorize payment to D. Robb Ferguson, Attorney for airport exchange work in the amount of \$3,140.00;

Authorize the Chair to sign the 44N Plan Updates;

Authorize UPACC Spring Conference for June 6 & 7 (Cathy, Esley, Jerry, Mary Ann, Steve, and Pam);

Approve payment to LMAS for their quarterly appropriation in the amount of \$20,049.00;

Approve payment of board bills;

Approve Financial Reports for all funds (Trial Balance Report Available);

Authorize the clerk to transfer \$10,000 from the general fund capital improvement budget into the Probate Court attorney fees line item (101-148-805.000);

Affirm Resolution #2019-04 Grand Island Township Tax Collection;

Affirm Resolution #2019-05 9-1-1 Surcharge;

Affirm Resolution #2019-06 Alger Correctional Facility Officer of the Year:

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes of April 8, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to approve the Special Board meeting minutes of April 15, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of April 15, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to approve the Special Board meeting minutes of April 29, 2019. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Doug Miron, retired Munising Police Chief, was present to discuss the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team (UPSET). Mr. Miron is asking the Board of Commissioners to reconsider funding UPSET. Detective First Lieutenant Robert Pernaski and Lt. Clint Michelin were also present to further discuss drug issues, especially as they pertain to other crimes. Lt. Michelin explained targeting drug crimes is essential to address the overall crime problems in the Upper Peninsula. Lt. Michelin would like the board to consider UPSET in regards to long term budgetary planning. Lt. Michelin explained that training, equipment and officers

are funded by the Michigan State; however, counties do contribute for operating costs. Lt. Michelin noted that UPSET coordinates with federal agencies as well as local law enforcement. Lt. Pernaski elaborated that often the drugs that are acquired on the street are laced with other lethal drugs. Undersheriff Steve Blank questioned if the contribution amounts are dependent on the number of agencies that donate funds. Lt. Michelin explained that there is no set formula. Lt. Pernaski provided the board with some examples of contributions made by other local entities. Doug Miron said the drug problem in Alger County has an adverse effect on the community. Sheriff Brock said that providing monetary assistance to UPSET shows a commitment to addressing the drug problem in our community. Commissioner Rondeau asked how long before the legalization of all illicit drugs. Lt. Michelin does not believe the legalization of more illicit drugs will happen in our lifetimes. Commissioner VanLandschoot asked if UPSET is involved in the school system. Lt. Michelin explained that the State Police do have community outreach officers that address a myriad of issues, such as domestic violence and drug abuse, starting about fourth grade. Steve Webber would like to see this issue put onto the county's radar. Prosecuting Attorney, Robert Steinhoff, explained that prescription drugs are not prosecuted or legislated as they should be.

There was no unfinished business.

There were no miscellaneous financial matters.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve Resolution #2019-07 Airport Exchange:

KNOW ALL MEN THAT, at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Alger, held on the 20th day of May, 2019, it was resolved the County should complete the land exchange addressed in that Exchange Agreement between the Alger County Board of Commissioners and the United States of America, acting through the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, signed by the County on August 27, 2015, and signed by the United States of America on September 4, 2015, by closing upon the exchange lands in accord with that Agreement.

It was further resolved that Milton G. Doucette, Chairman of the Alger County Board of Commissioners, and Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk of the County of Alger, are authorized to sign the following documents: A Warranty Deed from Alger County, also known as County of Alger, to the United States of America that has been reviewed and approved by the parties and is Exhibit C to the Escrow Instructions pertaining to the exchange; A Telephone Company Right of Way Easement that has been reviewed and approved by the parties; an Upper Peninsula Power Company Utility Easement/Michigan that has been reviewed and approved by the parties; And any and all closing documents required to accomplish the closing and complete the exchange on behalf of the County of Alger.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

It was moved by Commissioner VanLandschoot and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to approve Resolution #2019-08 Creating the Alger County Department of Veterans' Affairs:

WHEREAS, there are many veterans who have served in the armed forces of the United States of America who live in the County of Alger; and,

WHEREAS, many of these veterans would benefit from many services that could be provided by the County of Alger through a Department of Veterans' Affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is authorized under the provisions of MCL 35.621 to create a Department of Veterans' Affairs; and,

WHEREAS, the State Constitution has authorized Alger County to levy up to 0.1 mills on all taxable property within Alger County to create and maintain a county Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide support and assistance to veterans residing in Alger County; now,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alger County Department of Veterans' Affairs is hereby created and established under the terms and conditions as set forth in the statutes of the State of Michigan, and a Veterans' Affairs Committee is established, which will consist of five members who are veterans appointed to the committee by the Board of Commissioners according to the law provided therefore; and the soldiers' relief commission created under MCL 35.22 is hereby declared to be inoperative, and the powers and duties of said commission are hereby transferred to the Department of Veterans' Affairs herein created, as provided for by MCL 35.622.

Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Committee reports were next. Commissioner Rondeau explained that he would like to see two more members for the Veterans Relief Commission. Commissioner Pullen updated the board concerning the airport land exchange. There was some discussion about purchasing title insurance for the lands that Alger County will hold after the exchange is finalized.

There was no correspondence.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Doucette has been in contact with Representative Sara Cambensy regarding HB 4590. Commissioner Rondeau commented on the drug issues that were discussed. Commissioner Pullen also commented on the drug topic.

Staff comments were next. Sheriff Brock expressed his appreciation for all who attended the recent Police Officers Memorial Ceremony. Sheriff Brock also thanked the board for taking the time to hear the presentation on UPSET. Undersheriff Blank wanted the board to know that Bill Ramsey covered the lodging and meal expenses from the memorial. Robert Steinhoff will be hiring Kathleen Lindquist as his office manager. The Prosecutor’s office will be posting their available positions.

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

It was moved by Commissioner Rondeau and seconded by Commissioner VanLandschoot to adjourn this meeting at 5:40 p.m. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

Mary Ann Froberg
Alger County Clerk