

**ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**April 29, 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 1:00 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. Judge Nebel said that he was working on a written response regarding a meeting he had with the Administrator, Clerk, Regional Director from State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO), and himself. He gave a response on his displeasure with the boards decision on reducing the Juvenile Officer's position. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Steve Webber discussed the last full-time position hired at the sheriff's department and that they were in jeopardy of losing that person. It was discussed changing Sheila Peters to work in the emergency management department approximately three days per week and for MIDC (Michigan Indigent Defense Commission) as the deputy for court security for the other days. He said that Sheila changing hours to emergency management made sense because she is the deputy emergency manager. He discussed that he talked with the sheriff to work with him about the situation. He also discussed his position as the county administrator and working with emergency management. He said that he needs more time to work on county issues and this was the only way to fix it. The sheriff said that he agreed with the change. Pam Johnson, Treasurer, said that there was MMRMA grant money that we received from the camera security project. That is helping pay for the job change. Steve said eight hours per week is a fictitious number. He cannot do his job at eight hours per week. On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the change having Sheila working on emergency management approximately three days per week and court security out of the MIDC grant on the other days. That way the sheriff's department can keep an employee and Steve can do the Administrator's job full-time for the county. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund room and board line item in the amount of \$61,995. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the treasurer to amend the revenues in the general fund reimbursements line item in the amount of \$33,620. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in general fund capital improvements budget in the amount of \$61,995. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

On a motion by Commissioner Mattson and seconded by Commissioner Pullen to authorize the clerk to amend the expenditures in the general fund administrator's budget in the amount of \$33,620. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Mattson to authorize the clerk to transfer \$38,910.66 from the Juvenile Officer's budget into the capital improvement budget. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Commissioner Pullen discussed the land swap with the airport exchange. She recommends following Robb Ferguson's advice in the emails regarding the swap and withdrawing lands from CFA. This is to be done all at closing. The property will not come out of CFR status until the deeds are recorded. The deed will be placed in escrow with an agreement that it will be destroyed if the deal falls through. It was moved by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to follow advice of our attorney, D. Robb Ferguson, in the matter of the Munising Lands property being donated to the County and the

withdrawal of the land from the Commercial Forest Reserve act. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to authorize payment of the airport insurance to U.P. Insurance Agency in the amount of \$2,780 per year for a three-year term without the terrorism rider. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Commissioner Pullen also discussed putting signs up at the airport and that they should cost them out. She would like to put them up at both ends of the runway. She said that putting up signs would decrease our liability if there was an accident. On a motion by Commissioner Pullen and seconded by Commissioner Rondeau to cost out signs for the airport and to put up no trespassing signs, especially for atvs and snowmobiles, at both ends of the runway to reduce the risk to minimal. Motion carried by the following vote: Ayes – Commissioners Mattson, Pullen, Rondeau, VanLandschoot, and Doucette. Nays – none. Absent – none.

Board comments were next. Commissioner Pullen thanked Commissioner Rondeau for his questions at the airport committee meeting and expressed her gratitude to Munising Lands, Munising Township, and the City of Munising and the effort of John Madigan, Chuck Nebel, and Charlie Marsh. She said that they started this in the 60's and that this is the 15<sup>th</sup> year for this go around. She said that she is excited and that the goal is to have this done by July 15<sup>th</sup> if not before. Commissioner Rondeau echoed Commissioner Pullen's remarks. He then asked about the Pathways letter. Cathy is to get Pathways here to explain as to what and why about the jail diversion agreement that was sent to the commissioners. Commissioner Doucette discussed our new Veteran's Affairs Officer and she is downstate in training right now. She is to be certified and is supposed to start tomorrow. He also discussed a meeting with Sara Cambensy this morning. They talked about minimum wage, sick time, and emergency management. Steve Webber discussed emergency management with school safety and simplifying the process. He said that the Governor wants to start a school safety committee regarding this. They would like someone from the Upper Peninsula on the committee because the U.P. has already done these things. Commissioner Rondeau said that he was at the state fair board meeting on Friday and that the new community center is going to be open on July 24<sup>th</sup>. He said that four museums will be in there. Marble Arms, John Gilbert has a dairy museum, the veterans will have a museum and logging will have a museum. They are starting that on May 18<sup>th</sup>. He said that it will be opening July 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. and they are trying to get the Governor there.

Staff comments were next. Judge Nebel discussed attorney fees being at \$40 per hour in Probate Court. He said that attorneys are refusing to work with Probate Courts and that he can't have a hearing without representation. He said that Schoolcraft County is paying \$75 per hour. He talked about limiting the travel expenses to \$40 and increasing the legal expenses at \$75 per hour. He said that Judge Graham and Judge Carmody are working on having a circuit-wide consistency of costs. The sheriff said that May 15<sup>th</sup> will be the Peace Officer's Memorial and that he would love to have everyone present. Laurie Pine asked about Sheila doing the EMD work and being an additional person. Steve said that he is still going to be the emergency manager and that Sheila is the deputy emergency manager and will be doing the work and that there is nothing additional.

Public comment session was open. Rick Nebel discussed Probate Court and that the county is about to lose some institutional knowledge and a fantastic employee with Jamie. He talked about how much she loved her job. There was no other public comment from the floor; thus, the public comment session was closed.

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

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Jerry Doucette, Chairman  
Alger County Board of Commissioners

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Mary Ann Froberg  
Alger County Clerk