

PORTAGE COUNTY
Patty Dreier



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
County Executive

October 1, 2013

Dear Citizens of Portage County:

It is my honor and privilege to present the 2014 Executive Budget. I believe it strikes an important balance between funding our County's mandates and community's priorities while holding the line on taxes and spending.

It retains all core local government services, improves public safety, ensures strong health and human services, protects and improves our infrastructure, and supports recreational, educational, and conservation efforts.

In short, I believe that this budget will help us take another fantastic step forward together.

After two years of equalized valuation that was in the negative, I am very pleased to report that we are now on the positive side again with a 1.30% increase in equalized valuation in 2014. There is also good news with net new growth on the incline with 1.24% compared with .72% in 2013. The tax rate that I have proposed in 2014 is 5.36 or \$5.36/\$1,000. For every \$1,000 of equalized value, the county levy is \$5.36 of county tax. For instance, the County's property tax on a \$144,400 home (median value for a home in Portage County) would be \$773.98. This is an increase of \$15.88

over what someone with a \$144,400 home would have paid when the tax rate was 5.25 in 2013.

I have proposed a total County budget of \$109,499,012 which is a 1% decrease from last year. It includes our 2014 tax levy total of \$25,731,728. This total tax levy amount includes a levy transfer of \$584,324 for unified dispatch. Citizens in the City of Stevens Point and Portage County, along with law enforcement, fire, and other emergency responders now share a common 911 call center which will help us save money and provide better unified response into our future.

This budget also applies 60% of the unused levy capacity from 2013 to cover two important items: 1) Deferred Prosecution Program, a \$20,000 contracted program with Justiceworks to hold offenders accountable while helping them address issues like anger management or drug abuse; it saves jail costs; 2) "Enhanced" 911 infrastructure costs passed down to us through policies from the state because there are fewer LAN lines (some 911 funding comes through LAN line phone bills). The E911 costs totaled \$150,000 this year. We have applied unused levy capacity to cover \$96,511 of that additional cost and have covered the remainder in the Sheriff's Office budget. E911 will help our 911 dispatch center use video and other technologies to help stream information and help provide better emergency response going forward.

“Health and Safety, and Service and Strategy” are our budget themes again this year as we continue addressing performance, accountability, and transparency issues and opportunities in these areas.

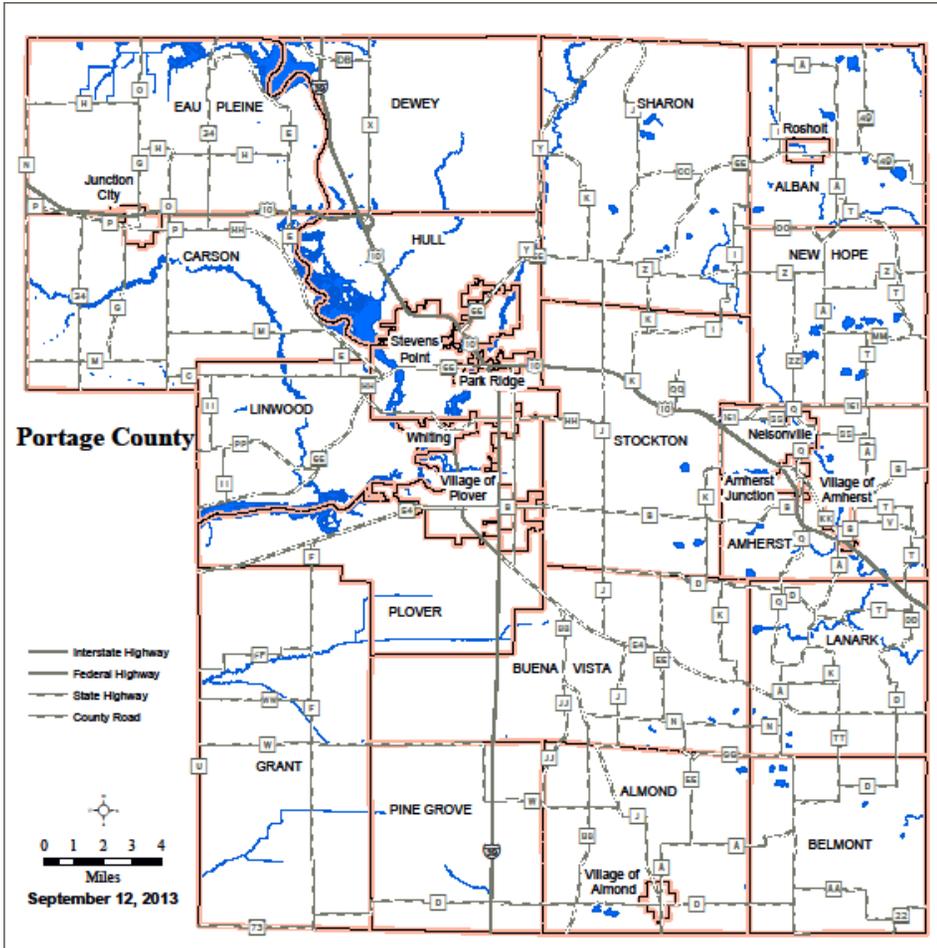
I invite you to learn more about the details by perusing our new, more user-friendly budget book. I hope you will also take a look at the outline of my budget presentation which can be found at our County website, www.co.portage.wi.us. Please call or email my office (715-346-1997 or dreierp@co.portage.wi.us) or contact your County Board Supervisor to share your feedback! Together, I am sure we will create an even better way forward.

Every day is a great day to serve as your County Executive. Thank you for putting your trust in me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Dreier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patty Dreier
Portage County Executive



Portage County Mission Statement

It is the mission of Portage County government to enhance the quality of life for all its residents by providing fiscally responsible services that enable our citizens to build productive communities, families, and lives.

Portage County in Brief

Portage County, located in central Wisconsin, covers an area of 810 square miles. Intersected by two major highways, US Highway 10 and Interstate 39/US Highway 51, the County is approximately 170 miles east of Minneapolis/St. Paul, 50 miles west of Green Bay, and 155 miles northwest of Milwaukee.

Founded in 1842, Portage County has a diverse landscape and rich culture. Its roots are in the logging industry and trading posts that defined its communities. Major commerce of the area now includes agriculture, food processing, manufacturing, insurance, and education. The rural setting of the County also allows for year-round recreational areas including parks, lakes, streams; the 26-mile Green Circle Trail for biking, hiking, and jogging; numerous cultural festivals, live music/entertainment venues, restaurants, coffee shops, and shopping locations.

The County is governed by a County Executive and a 25-member Board of Supervisors, elected from of one city, nine villages, and seventeen townships, with an estimated population of 70,019 (2010 Census). The County seat is located in the City of Stevens Point.

Portage County consists of:

1 City	Stevens Point
17 Townships	Alban, Almond, Amherst, Belmont, Buena Vista, Carson, Dewey, Eau Pleine, Grant, Hull, Lanark, Linwood, New Hope, Pine Grove, Plover, Sharon, Stockton
9 Villages	Almond, Amherst, Amherst Junction, Nelsonville, Park Ridge, Plover, Rosholt, Whiting

Largest Employers:

Sentry Insurance	Lands' End
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point	McCain Foods
Stevens Point Public Schools	Donaldson Company, Inc.
St. Michael's Hospital	H.O. Wolding, Inc.
County of Portage	Associated Bank
<i>*Source: Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development</i>	

Employment by Industry:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational services, and health care and social assistance Manufacturing Retail trade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
<i>*Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>

Principal Tax Payers:

Sentry Insurance	Wal-mart Real Estate
American Intl Realty Corp	St. Michael's Hospital
Stora Enso North America Corporation	Lands' End Inc.
Seramur Family Ltd. Partnership	Heritage Investment Company
Hospitality Group Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center	IRET Properties Emeritus Senior Living
<i>*Source: Portage County Treasurers Office of Tax Year 2012</i>	

Miles of Roads and Streets:

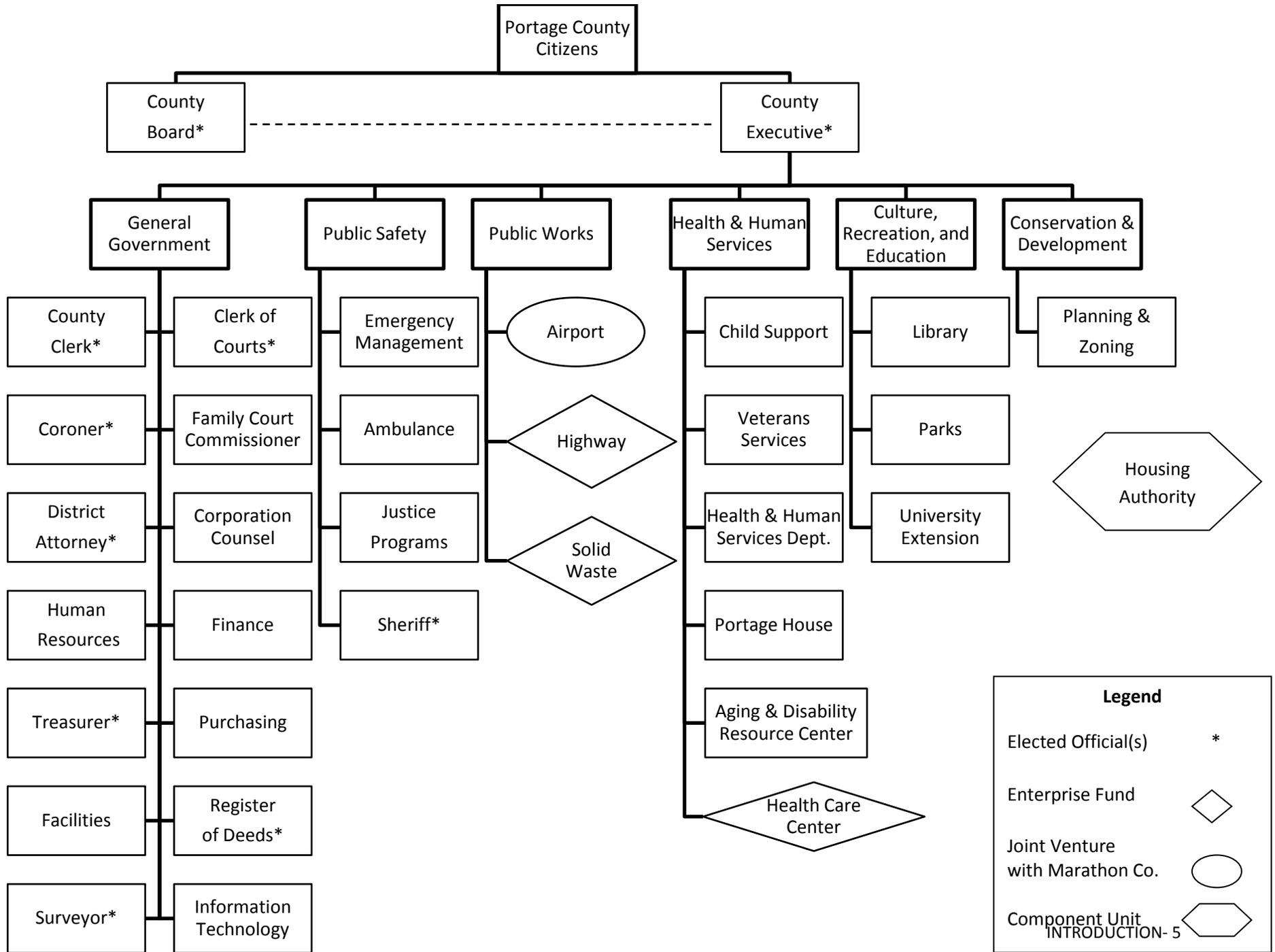
State	174
County	434
Towns	1,192
<i>*Source: Portage County Highway Department</i>	

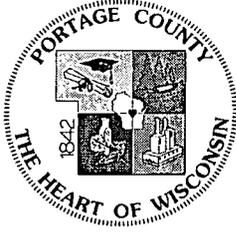
Income, Jobs, & Unemployment:

Per Capita Income	\$25,207	Civilian Labor Force	39,158
Median Family Income	\$66,037	Portage County 2012 Annual Unemployment Rate	6.6%
Median Non-Family Income	\$26,080	Wisconsin 2012 Annual Unemployment Rate	6.9%
<i>*Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development</i>			

Education:

Elementary/Secondary	
Almond/Bancroft	Rosholt
Stevens Point – Bannach, Jefferson School for the Arts, Kennedy, Madison, McDill, McKinley, Plover-Whiting, Roosevelt I.D.E.A , & Washington	Tomorrow River/Amherst
Junior High /High Schools	
Almond/Bancroft	Stevens Point Area Senior High Senior
Ben Franklin	Rosholt
Charles F. Fernandez Center for Alternative Learning	Tomorrow River/Amherst
P.J. Jacobs Junior High	
Post-Secondary	
Mid-State Technical College	University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point





Portage County Clerk

Shirley M. Simonis

1516 Church Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 715-346-1351 Fax: 715-346-1486

CERTIFICATION

I, Shirley M. Simonis, Clerk of the County of Portage, Wisconsin do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of

Resolution/Ordinance No. 219-2012-2014 - AMENDED
RE: ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY APPORTIONMENT
FOR THE 2013 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2014

which was introduced and adopted by a vote of:

23 for

_____ against

_____ abstained

_____ vacant

2 excused Flood, Zdroik

at an Adjourned Session of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, held on the 4th day of November, 2013, and recorded in the minutes of said meeting, a quorum of members being present.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the County of Portage, Wisconsin, this 12th day of November, 2013.

Shirley M. Simonis KTK
SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS
Portage County Clerk (SEAL)

u drive, My files, County Board, Certification Letter

RESOLUTION NO: 219-2012-2014 - Amended

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: ADOPTION OF THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY APPORTIONMENT FOR THE 2013 TAX LEVY PAYABLE IN 2014

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue establishes the Equalized Value for Portage County for the 2013 apportionment which is set at \$4,801,949,000; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive has duly formulated her 2014 budget proposal and presented it to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, to fund and operate the County, a tax levy \$25,715,728 with an associated rate of \$5.36 per thousand (\$1,000) of equalized value is needed; and

WHEREAS, the levy is in compliance with the levy limit as imposed by 2013 Wisconsin Act 20 (2013-2015 State Budget) which limits the property tax levy increase to the greater percent change of net new construction for Portage County at the level of 1.242%, or the statutory rate of 0%; and

WHEREAS, the levy amount includes an adjustment for the previous year's unused levy in the amount of \$116,511 which requires a majority vote of the County Board if the increase is 0.5% or less of the prior year's actual levy and by a three-quarters majority vote of the County Board if the increase is more than 0.5%, up to a maximum increase of 1.5%, and is allowable as an adjustment as stated in sec. 66.0602(3)(f)3.a., Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the levy amount includes an adjustment for the transfer of services from another governmental unit in the amount of \$584,324, resulting from the transfer of dispatch services from the City of Stevens Point, and is allowable as an adjustment as stated in sec. 66.0602(3)(b) Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were noticed on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2014 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 4, 2013.

FISCAL NOTE: This resolution establishes the tax levy for the 2014 Portage County Budget to be apportioned to Portage County municipalities. The total levy is \$25,715,728 for the 2014 Budget as follows:

	Amount
Operating Levy – General	\$22,358,999
Operating Levy – County Wide EMS	1,129,533
Debt Service Levy	<u>2,227,196</u>
TOTAL Levy	\$25,715,728

This resolution requires a majority vote of the board for passage.

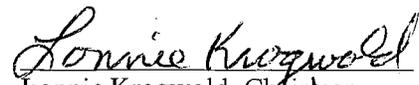
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes a property tax levy in the amount of \$25,715,728 in support of the 2014 budget.

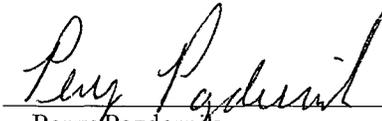
BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to levy the required taxes against all taxable property in Portage County and to levy special assessments and charges against the respective municipalities as provided by law.

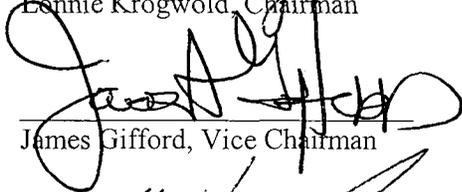
DATED THIS 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

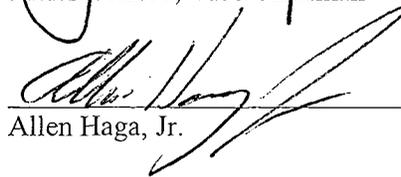
PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE

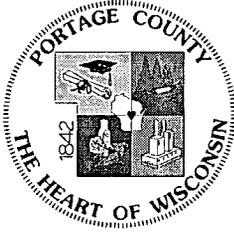

Lonnie Krogwold, Chairman


Perry Pazdernik


James Gifford, Vice Chairman

Excused
Jeanne Dodge


Allen Haga, Jr.



Portage County Clerk

Shirley M. Simonis

1516 Church Street

Stevens Point, WI 54481

Phone: 715-346-1351 Fax: 715-346-1486

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Resolution/Ordinance No. 218-2012-2014

RE: ADOPTION OF THE 2014 PORTAGE COUNTY BUDGET - AMENDED

which was introduced and adopted by a vote of:

23 for

_____ against

_____ abstained

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at an Adjourned Session of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, held on the 4th day of November, 2013, and recorded in the minutes of said meeting, a quorum of members being present.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the County of Portage, Wisconsin, this 12th day of November, 2013.

Shirley M. Simonis RT6
 SHIRLEY M. SIMONIS
 Portage County Clerk (SEAL)

u drive, My files, County Board, Certification Letter

RESOLUTION NO: 218-2012-2014 - Amended

TO: THE HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

RE: ADOPTION OF THE 2014 PORTAGE COUNTY BUDGET

WHEREAS, the County Executive and Finance Committee have conducted numerous budget meetings in formulating the 2014 budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 budget proposed by the County Executive has been presented and detailed to the County Board of Supervisors on October 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, formal publication of the budget summary and announcement of the public hearing were formally noticed on Monday, October 7, 2013 in the Stevens Point Journal in accordance with Section 65.90 of the Wisconsin State Statutes; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed 2014 Portage County Budget was held at 5:00 P.M. on November 4, 2013, as required by law; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the annual budget of \$116,592,867 at its annual fall meeting on November 4, 2013 to fund and operate the County.

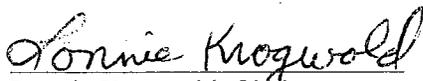
FISCAL NOTE: This resolution adopts the 2014 Portage County Budget of \$116,592,867 including the appropriations, revenues, and use of fund balance as proposed by the County Executive and amended by the County Board of Supervisors as outlined in the 2014 Portage County Budget. Passage of this resolution requires a majority vote of the county board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portage County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts the budget of \$116,592,867 for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2014.

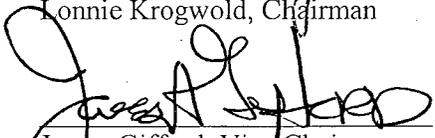
DATED THIS 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2013.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

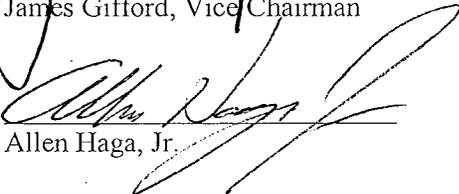
PORTAGE COUNTY FINANCE COMMITTEE


Lonnie Krogwold, Chairman


Perry Pazdernik


James Gifford, Vice Chairman

Excused
Jeanne Dodge


Allen Haga, Jr.