



## Administrator/Controller Report March 2014

### Strategic Goals

1. Maintain financial strength and stability
2. Strengthen and expand the County's use of technology
3. Address infrastructure needs
4. Continue community engagement and access to information
5. Ensure that County is viewed as a fair and equitable employer
6. Expand the capabilities of the Board of Commissioners
7. Advance the health and quality of life of the region
8. Protect and preserve County's water resources, forests, natural areas and scenic beauty

### Administration Office (1)

- There is a new postage machine for the Governmental Center that provides updated technology at a lower cost, saving the County approximately \$140 per month.
- Updates to the web site include:
  - Welcome message
  - County Government
  - Demographic Trends
  - General Information
  - Our Community
  - Services Tab
  - Our Locations
  - Home Page
  - New Photos
  - Links to area culture and social activity places and the area's largest employers

### Boardman River Dams Project (8)

- The agreement for design and engineering for the Boardman Dam removal, river restoration, and Cass Road Bridge replacement has been signed between the county, road commission, and URS. Signatures are also currently being obtained for the detailed Work Plan, which utilizes currently available funding.
- The Implementation Team (IT) has authorized its attorneys to enter into a settlement between the insurance company and one of the property owners in the Brown Bridge lawsuit. The IT also approved sending a letter to AMEC tendering the third lawsuit filed in the Brown Bridge incident. It is anticipated that the three lawsuits will be consolidated soon by the circuit court.
- The County sent a request for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) asking that all local funding that takes place from this point forward be counted toward the 35% local match for the project. Normally, any local funds spent prior to the signing of the Definite Project Report (DPR) would not be included in the 35% requirement. We have received word that the MOU will not be approved until the final DPR documents are prepared.

## Commission on Aging (7)

- Senior Center Renovation Project  
The City of Traverse City has made the decision to use Cornwell Architects for the Traverse City Senior Center renovation project design work. Cornwell Architects had prepared draft drawings on a volunteer basis for the Senior Center project. City officials had discussed sending out an RFP, but decided to move forward with Cornwell Architects. Once the design and details are completed, staff will bring the drawings to both the Commission on Aging Board and the County Board of Commissioners for review. The ultimate decision is that of the City of Traverse City, as they own the building. The county notified that city that it expects that the Commission on Aging will be allowed to review and provide input on the plans.
- Wait Lists  
The Commission on Aging Program Committee has made it their primary goal (in 2014) to address wait list concerns – number of persons on the wait lists, time on the wait lists. They are holding extra meetings to expedite the process. More to follow.
- Certificates of Appreciation  
Certificates of appreciation were presented to CDM Mobile Shredding (free shredding events, Senior Center Network), Comfort Keepers, Leslie Knopp, (sponsorship of Senior Center Network events), RJG and RJG Cares Committee (purchasing items for seniors in need) at the Commission on Aging February board meeting.
- Outside Agency Funding  
The COA approved appropriations of \$40,000 to: Meals on Wheels-\$20,000; Senior Companion Program-\$10,000; Long Lakers Senior Center-\$1,200; Kingsley Area Retirees-\$1,200; Area Agency on Aging-\$7,600. Amounts are unchanged from 2013.

## Equalization

- Equalization has received preliminary assessment databases from all the local units. This data is prior to the March Board of Review, and is subject to change. These databases were requested for mutual benefit to the assessors and Equalization. The assessors receive a second set of eyes to check for proper assessing practice and procedures. Several assessing issues were discovered, and the assessors were very grateful to be able to fix the problems before they were locked in by the March Board of Review. Equalization was able to check the assessment levels and the tentative equalization ratios have been met as per the equalization study.
- Assessors have indicated that the personal property legislation has been very difficult to administer requiring extra time to verify the data submitted. The personal property values received in the local unit's preliminary databases was incomplete because they were submitted to Equalization prior to the February 20<sup>th</sup> personal property statement deadline. The impact on personal property assessed and taxable value due to the new legislation is hard to predict.

- Tentative equalization ratios and estimated State Equalized Value (SEV) multipliers were published per MCL 211.34a. The March Board of Review times and dates for each local unit were also published as a joint venture between Equalization and local units.

### **Facilities (3)**

- The county is currently working with the Pavilions on the possibility of renting the old Health Department building on Garfield Road for a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). PACE provides comprehensive long term services and supports to Medicaid and Medicare enrollees. An interdisciplinary team of health professionals provides individuals with coordinated care. For most participants, the comprehensive service package enables them to receive care at home rather than receive care in a nursing home.

### **Finance (1)**

- Continued to work with the Board of Public Works regarding the accounting treatment of membrane replacement at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Legal counsel for the Board of Public Works concluded that our position, that it is subject to sales tax, was appropriate, but suggested that the Board of Public Works appeal the issue to the Michigan Department of Treasury.
- Completed the preliminary closing of our 2013 fiscal year. Additional adjustments may be recorded once we know the impact of the March Board of Review adjustments on the estimated tax revenue that was recorded for 2013 in the General Fund. We have also estimated the amount we anticipate to receive for Medicaid cost settlements (Health Fund). If we receive actual payments that differ significantly from our estimates, we may propose adjustments for these revenues as well. Preliminary work has also started on the 2013 Audit.
- In addition to attending the budget meetings that have been scheduled by the Board to review the 2014 Budget and to prepare for 2015, we have assisted several departments with their preparation for these meetings.

### **Health Department & Emergency Management (7)**

#### **➤ ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE DIVISION**

- Electronic Health Record was implemented in the immunization program at the end of January. Progress continues toward testing and implementation at the two adolescent health clinics in June, followed by Reproductive Health later this summer. There were challenges in the fall with signature pads and other technology and delays in the upgraded software version roll-out from the vendor which resulted in changing the order of the program rollouts, but overall work is still on-track.
- Participated in the agro-terrorism training for the County and PIO training.
- Continuing discussions with Medical Examiner, Munson and funeral home directors regarding the increase in unclaimed bodies (due to economy) and possible solutions.

- Amended Medicaid Cost Settlement reports have been filed with the State of Michigan for 2011 and 2012 based upon revised guidance received from MDCH Medical Services Administration. These reports reflect a significant increase in settlement funds due for the two periods.
- With the amended Cost Settlement reports having been completed, final journal entries have been prepared to close out the financial results for the Health Fund for 2013. The additional Cost Settlement revenue contributed to an increase in fund balance for the Health Fund for the fiscal period ending December 31, 2013.
- Finance staff is preparing amended budgets for all State contractual programs as the delayed County budget process required submission of preliminary projections to meet contract obligations, which subsequently have changed significantly.

#### ➤ **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION**

- Mercury Spill Response - Environmental Health Staff coordinated the clean-up of elemental mercury at a local health clinic as a result of the release of mercury from an old sphygmomanometer (blood pressure device). Our Department worked closely with the clean-up contractor, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) On-site Coordinator, and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Toxicologist's in a coordinated effort to insure that breathing air returned to safe levels. The health clinic was closed for approximately two and a half (2 ½) days during the clean-up period. Luckily, the spill occurred in the afternoon on a Friday, which resulted in minimal disruption of clinic services.
- Multi-jurisdictional Illness Outbreak Investigation Training - Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) staff from Environmental Health, Community Health, as well as the Emergency Preparedness Division, attended a one-day training in Gaylord on conducting Multi-jurisdictional Illness Outbreak Investigations. This training was conducted by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) and the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) in order to prepare local health departments for large regional or statewide illness investigations.

#### ➤ **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS DIVISION**

- Emergency Management
  - Developing tabletop exercises for the National Cherry Festival organization, Grand Traverse Mall Security as well as leading the planning team for a full-scale exercise dealing with an agro-terrorism event in conjunction with the National Guard 51st Civil Support Team. The 51st is one of a few elite support teams that specialize in Chemical, Biological, Environmental, & Nuclear responses.
  - Started planning meetings with the Bayshore Marathon group as far as assisting in creating an emergency evacuation plan for their 7,000+ participants.
  - Began updating the County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan with county-wide stakeholder group from public safety, county, city & municipal governments, and private sector. The plan is required for all federal emergency grants.

- Conducted a Public Information Officer workshop on February 18, 2014 for 10 members of county government and public safety agencies.
- Emergency Preparedness
  - Mike Lahey, the new emergency preparedness specialist, has been settling in and attending a lot of orientation meetings over the past few weeks. He completed the Michigan Office of Public Health Preparedness: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator orientation training last week in Lansing and has been meeting with his partners within our Region for collaboration and coordination on upcoming multiple large projects.
  - Internally, we are working on Grand Traverse County's Strategic National Stockpile Plan and preparing some revisions as recommended by the state.
  - Preparing to deliver updated National Incident Command System training for Health Department staff, as is required by State and Federal guidelines in preparation for the Agro terrorism full scale exercise this summer.
  - Training to be the county's administrator for the Michigan Healthcare Alert Notification (MiHAN) system as well as an administrator for CodeRED.

➤ **COMMUNITY HEALTH DIVISION**

- Disease Control and Prevention Programs We are seeing a decrease in the number of influenza cases in Grand Traverse County. There have been a variety of other viral and bacterial illnesses that have needed follow up. Staff participated in a multi-jurisdictional foodborne outbreak training.
- Maternal and Child Health Programs (MIHP)
  - Maternal Infant Health Program Quality Assurance activities and three month post survey consultative visit by Joni Detwiler, Public Health Consultant, from MDCH occurred over this past month as we continue to address improvements in our indicator compliance in preparation for a site survey in April.
  - Healthy Futures On 2/18/2014, MMC Healthy Futures representatives met with clinicians regarding strategies to improve birth outcomes, breastfeeding rates, etc. Healthy Futures enrollment is up to 70% of all Grand Traverse County births, which is a significant increase from past year's 50%. Healthy Futures is the entry point for postpartum moms to access such programs as MIHP, an evidence-based home visit program, and other beneficial community programs.
  - Children's Special Health Care Services Current enrollment is 289. Preparing for 2 infants coming back from DeVos on ventilators, working with the families regarding electrical and other special care needs. Airway Oxygen and Thompson Pharmacy are no longer supplying a RCF supplemental drink to our clients due to the reimbursement costs from private and Medicaid, however, Spectrum Health plans to supply our clients this drink, which is the only commercial infant formula available for seizure management in infants and is

intended for persons who are unable to tolerate the type or amount of carbohydrate in milk or infant formulas. Receiving great comments from our clients on our great team work and assistance.

- Immunizations Successful implementation of full electronic health record, all staff completed training and practice prior to our go live date of January 31st. Over this past month, the immunization team has focused on improving compliance and accuracy of documentation and data uploads as we prepare for our site visit scheduled on 2/25/2014. State Immunization Report Card is now available publicly on-line at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) for every county in Michigan. This will not only show our immunizations compared to the State and National levels, but will provide our County rank and comparison to the Healthy People 2020 goals. This will be a great benchmarking tool for our agency.
- WIC The number of enrollees continues to be high at 2526; however, the winter weather has impacted our show-rate for appointments made demonstrating only 68% for the month of January. Change in Medicaid enrollment process starting 2/1/2014 resulted in a delay in Medicaid applications for some of our clients as we awaited the issuance of a new agency Medicaid number so that we could assist clients in completing the application process on-line. We received the agency number finally on 2/14/2014.
- Hearing & Vision Most school hearing screenings are now complete, and vision screenings have begun for this part of the school year. We are still trying to recover from all of the snow days in January, with multiple reschedulings. Kindergarten Round-Ups for all schools have now been scheduled. Hearing & vision screenings are required by the State for kindergarten entry, and the Health Department facilitates this during Round Ups at the area schools. These will begin in March and run through June, with the majority taking place in May. Some private/charter schools utilize Public Health Nurses to facilitate review of health histories, immunizations, etc.

## **Human Resources (5)**

- General Fund positions approved by County Administrator/Controller/Board of Commissioners: (5)
  - Deputy – Sheriff's Office
  - GIS Technician – GIS
  - Office Specialist – Planning and Development
  - Corrections Officer
- COA, DPW, and Facilities Management employees were trained by MIOSHA in January and February on many aspects of safety standards.(4,7)
- The Employee Recognition team is soliciting nominations for Volunteer of the Year. This award is given out each year to an employee who has performed unselfish and dedicated acts of service to the community through volunteerism and who have made a significant difference, positively representing Grand Traverse County in the community. Deadline to nominate an employee is April 4, 2014. Additional details can be found at:

[http://www2.co.grandtraverse.mi.us/Welcome/Enhancement\\_Teams/ERSA/VolunteeroftheYear.htm](http://www2.co.grandtraverse.mi.us/Welcome/Enhancement_Teams/ERSA/VolunteeroftheYear.htm) (4)

- The County will be participating with the Blood Drive in Memory of Sgt. Dennis W. Finch this year during May 12-14. Three locations will be available to donate over the three days. More to come in the Communicator. (4)
- ❖ Thank you to all who participated in the Relay for Life Bake Sale/Pampered Chef fundraiser. Employees raised over \$550 for the County's Relay for Life Team!

## **Information Technology**

- Eighteen Dell semi-rugged laptops have been ordered for the Sheriff's department patrol cars. The Dell laptops come with car mounts and five-year accidental damage warranty. Switching to the Dell laptops from the previous Panasonic Toughbooks will save \$20,000 from the budgeted amount. The \$20,000 will now be applied to upgrading the servers and software for the Sheriff's police applications as presented to the Board in December.
- Implemented a new process in the Friend of the Court (FOC) where documents faxed by clients are received by the FOC copier and are then saved in electronic form to a County server. The fax documents are then automatically imported into the document imaging system and routed to staff for processing. The new process eliminates the printed fax and the manual scanning of the fax into the document imaging system.
- Replaced an onsite backup server with a higher performance server to support the data backups of the 30+ physical and virtual servers.
- Implemented "Teamviewer" product for IT support. The software allows IT Technicians to support County/City computers using remote control, screen sharing, file transfer, and online meetings and training sessions.
- Installed cabling and assisted with move of Circuit Court Records to the Hall of Justice.
- Configured two Android tablets with cellular Mi-Fi service for DPW personnel to remotely monitor and reset alarms for the water/sewer utility systems.
- Completed implementation of electronic records in Immunization. Additional divisions will be implementing electronic health records later this year.

## **MSU Extension (7, 8)**

- We are in the process of filling a brand new MSU position to be housed in the Grand Traverse office: an Extension Educator with the focus of Disease Prevention and Management.
- The 4-H Coordinator resigned recently, and she will be replaced by Karin Stevens, who is currently the 4-H Coordinator for Leelanau County. During this transition, Karin, Barb Duvall, the Children & Youth Educator for our region, and Pat Swanson, Office Specialist, will continue to provide support for Grand Traverse 4-H program.
- The U.S. Senate passed the Farm Bill on Tuesday, February 4, after the House passed it the previous week, and it was signed by President Obama at Michigan State University

on February 7. The Farm Bill has many elements, but among them is the authorization for the work we do in Michigan State University Extension and the federal funding that supports it. It also includes important changes for fruit producers.

- The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Michigan Small Farm Conference was held February 1 at the Grand Traverse Resort. The conference is organized by community partners that include MSU Extension, the Institute for Sustainable Living, Art and Natural Design, Michigan Land Use Institute, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, the Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians, and dedicated agriculture business owners and educational consultants. More than 950 farmers and food enthusiasts gathered for the State's largest sustainable farming conference, which this year included over 25 educational workshops, youth programming with hands-on sessions, a trade show with over 80 vendors, and keynote speaker, John Ikerd, author of Small Farms Are Real Farms.

### **Parks and Recreation (7)**

- Power Island Ferry Service The county is in discussions about the possibility of using the DNR dock at the Bowers Harbor boat launch for a Power Island ferry service. The county has submitted information requested by the DNR, and the DNR is developing a proposed one-year agreement to allow the ferry service.
- Water Safety for Freshman Program The most recent session of the Freshman Water Safety Program was completed on January 9, 2014. To date, the county has provided training for 254 TCAPS students. The next freshman sessions at the Civic Center are set for May, 2014.

### **Planning/Brownfield/Economic Development/Housing (1, 3, 4, 7, 8)**

- Staff is engaged in a conversation with Northwestern Michigan College and others in the use of a new Regional Economic Modeling Inc. (REMI) planning tool for Grand Traverse County and the region. The REMI model provides economic projections and allows analysis of the impact of economic development projects.
- The County received \$600,000 from the Michigan Fast Track Land Bank Authority to address ground contamination in the area near the Hotel Indigo site. The funding comes in the form of an \$180,000 grant and \$420,000 loan.
- Facilitated with the EDC and County Board a resolution to initiate the process to issue \$4,000,000 in revenue bonds for the new Grand Traverse Bay YMCA facility in Garfield Township. This bond issue has no impact on debt limits or requirement for financial reporting, and does not require the County's full faith and credit.

### **Prosecuting Attorney**

#### **➤ PROSECUTION**

As the County's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, the Prosecuting Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of crimes including juvenile, misdemeanor and felony offenses, protection of abused and neglected children, and establishment of child support for needy children. For the month of January, we engaged in the following:



- Authorized 160 misdemeanor warrants
- Authorized 37 felony warrants
- Authorized 16 juvenile warrants
- Initiated 4 neglect/abuse cases (our office has 54 open neglect/abuse cases involving 80 children)
- Reviewed 26 referrals from the Office of Child Support
- Handled the following matters in Family Court:
  - 10 paternity cases
  - 16 child support cases
  - Obtained 6 judgments of child support

➤ **CIVIL COUNSEL**

Contract Drafting and Review

As the County’s civil counsel, we assist various County departments in reviewing and drafting contracts and other agreements. Our involvement ranges from reviewing a contract and approving it “as to form,” to negotiating the terms and conditions of the contract with the other party. For the month of January, we reviewed **four** contracts for the following department:

- Health: One
- Administration: Two
- Resource Recovery: One

FOIA Coordination

In 1997, the County Board of Commissioners designated the Prosecuting Attorney as the FOIA coordinator for Grand Traverse County. As the coordinator, we ensure that the various county departments are complying with Michigan’s FOIA law including determining whether the requested information should be exempt from disclosure. For the month of January, we reviewed **nine** FOIA requests, and provided advice and consultation to the following departments:

- Central Dispatch
- Soil Erosion
- Sheriff
- Administration
- Prosecuting Attorney

Board of Commissioners/ Staff Questions

Part of our duties as Civil Counsel involves answering questions and preparing opinion memoranda for the Board of Commissioners and County staff related to a wide variety of issues, ranging from compliance with state and federal statutes to advising on exposure to liability. For the month of January, we prepared **two** memoranda for the Board of Commissioners and various departments including:

- Resource Recovery
- Clerk

Ordinance Drafting

As you know, under MCL 46.11, a county board of commissioners has the authority to adopt ordinances related to county affairs. One of our responsibilities is to prepare, amend or repeal ordinances when requested by the Board of Commissioners. **In January, we did not draft any ordinances.**

### Litigation

We represent the County in civil actions filed in the Grand Traverse County District and Circuit Courts as well as the Federal District Courts. For the month of January, we represent the County in the following cases:

- **Parcel 80 BIA Appeal.** We have filed this appeal challenging the decision of the Michigan Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs placing 12 acres of property into trust owned by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. In November of 2012, the Grand Traverse Band filed an application with the Michigan Agency requesting 12 acres of property located in Acme Township near the Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel be placed into trust pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. This federal act allows recognized Native American Tribes to place land into trust, which has the effect of making property exempt from taxation. On February 28, 2013, the Superintendent for the Michigan Agency issued a decision to place the 12 acres into trust. On April 2, 2013, we filed a notice of appeal challenging the decision of the Superintendent. Citing to the United States Supreme Court decision *Carcieri v. Salazar*, we have argued that the Superintendent was without authority to place the property into trust because the Grand Traverse Band was not recognized by the Federal government in 1934 when the Indian Reorganization Act was adopted. The appeal is pending with the Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It will take the Regional Director at least 60 days to decide the appeal. On May 2, 2013, we filed a statement of reasons with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which is similar to an appellate brief. In the statement we again argued that the Carcieri decision mandates reversal of the Superintendent's decision placing Parcel 80 into trust. We continue to await a decision from the Regional Director.
- **Parcel 82 BIA Appeal.** On August 1, we filed an appeal challenging the decision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Midwest Regional Director placing **158 acres** of property into trust owned by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. In November of 2011, the Grand Traverse Band filed an application with the Regional Director requesting 158 acres of property located in Acme Township near the Turtle Creek Casino and Hotel be placed into trust pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. On July 2, 2013, the Regional Director issued a decision to place the property into trust. We filed a notice of appeal challenging the decision of the Director. As we did in the Parcel 80 appeal, citing to the United States Supreme Court decision *Carcieri v. Salazar*, we have argued that the Director was without authority to place the property into trust because the Grand Traverse Band was not recognized by the Federal government in 1934 when the Indian Reorganization Act was adopted.

**The appeal is still pending with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Appeals Board. On December 30, we filed our appellate brief with the Appeals Board. The Tribe, Secretary of Interior, and other interested parties will have the opportunity to file responsive briefs within the next 30 days. We expect the Appeals Board to take at least six months to decide our appeal. On January 31, we received notice from the Office of the Field Solicitor for the Secretary of the Interior that they are seeking an extension of time to file a response brief to February 14.**

### Board of Commissioners Meetings

We attend every Board meeting, committee meeting and any special meetings. For the month of January, Bob Cooney attended the regular meeting. Chris Forsyth also attended the meetings for the Resource Management and Administration, Public Health and Safety, and the Ways and Means Committees.

### Miscellaneous

In addition to the items discussed above, we assist the Board of Commissioners and County Departments in other ways. Some items to note include we continue to assist Administration in various issues related to the ongoing dams removal project.

## **Resource Recovery (8)**

- The first of four HHW collection events in 2014 will be held on March 27, 2014 at the DPW Garage, 361 E. Welch Ct., Traverse City, MI. The event will start at 1 pm and end at 7 pm. Appointments are required and department staff began taking appointments on March 4.
- Staff will be attending and assisting the Michigan Green Consortium during their Spring 2014 Clean Up and Green Up event at the American Waste Material Recycling Facility located at 280 Hughes Drive, Traverse City on *Sunday, March 9, 2014* from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. A complete list of materials that will be accepted can be viewed on the [cleanupgreenup.com](http://cleanupgreenup.com) website.
- Department staff delivered a RecycleSmart presentation at the February 6, 2014 monthly township supervisor lunch.
- Department staff attended an eight-hour hazardous waste operations and emergency response refresher training class in Grand Rapids, MI on February 21, 2014. The class provides basic health and safety training skills necessary to work with and around hazardous materials as mandated by OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120.

## **Legislative Update**

- On March 4, the Senate approved legislation that, beginning in 2016, will provide for 100% reimbursement to counties for losses associated with the reform of PPT. The proposed legislation will make several clarifications to the law, including larger allocations of use tax revenue to the authority charged with local government reimbursements. The package also amends the August ballot proposal language to clarify the intentions of the proposal.

The PPT reforms are still dependent on the passage of the ballot proposal slated for a vote of the people in the August primary. If the ballot proposal does not pass, both the tax reform and the local reimbursement reform are repealed and we will be back to the drawing board.

- County Commissioners, Countywide Elected Officials, and Department Heads have been invited to the annual Coffee Meeting with Senator Walker and Representative Schmidt for Friday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room at the Governmental Center. Commissioners and Department Heads will have an opportunity to get updates and provide input on legislative issues.

- Governor Snyder submitted his recommended budget to the legislature on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and to everyone's surprise, it included full funding for county revenue sharing.

In the past, locals had to meet three criteria, with success in each bringing one-third of their funding. Those areas involved:

1. Publishing financial data in an easy to read format online (dashboard)
2. Collaborating with nearby communities
3. Curbing legacy costs

The Governor is proposing elimination of these criteria and instead requiring each local government to certify with the state that it:

- Has an unrestricted general fund balance in its most recently audited financial report of at least 6 percent of the most recently adopted general fund budgeted expenditures;
- Is contributing to pension plans at least equal to the annual required contribution amounts;
- **Is contributing to post-employment benefit plans at least at the annual required contribution amounts; and**
- Has a general obligation bond or credit rating from two of the three ratings agencies of at least AA- or the equivalent of that rating (this standard only applies to those with general obligation debt).

The county meets all the new criteria except the third, which is highlighted in boldface above. County Administration will be recommending that the budget include a contribution for 2014 based upon the actuarial report received in August 2013. Once all divisions are closed to new hires, Administration will come forward with a recommendation to either open up a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association with MERS or create another type of trust for pre-funding retiree health care benefits.