

OTTAWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**AUTOMATIC CLEARING HOUSE (ACH) AND ELECTRONIC
TRANSACTIONS OF PUBLIC FUNDS POLICY**

I. POLICY

The County of Ottawa may engage in Automatic Clearing House (ACH) transactions under the terms of this Policy and the procedures and protocols established by the Ottawa County Treasurer, according to the terms of Act 738 of the Public Acts of 2002, MCLA 124.301 et seq.

II. STATUTORY REFERENCES

The Board of Commissioners may establish such rules and regulations regarding the business concerns of the County as the Board considers necessary and proper. See: MCL 46.11(m); Act 156 of the Public Acts of 1851, as amended. The County of Ottawa may engage in Automatic Clearing House Transactions according to the terms of MCLA 124.301 et seq.

III. COUNTY LEGISLATIVE OR HISTORICAL REFERENCES

The original Board policy on this subject matter was adopted on December 9, 2003.

Board of Commissioners Policy Adoption Date and Resolution Number: _____

Board of Commissioners Review Date and Resolution Number: _____

Name and Date of Last Committee Review: _____

Related Policies: _____

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PROCEDURE

1. Authority to Enter Into ACH Agreements and Electronic Transfer of Public Funds: The County Treasurer may enter into ACH agreements and engage in the electronic transfer of public funds as provided for by Act 738. All ACH Agreements entered into by the County Treasurer shall be reviewed and approved according to the standard Ottawa County policies and procedures for the approval of contracts.

2. Responsibility for ACH Agreements: The County Fiscal Services Director shall be responsible for all ACH agreements, including payment approval, reporting, and general oversight of compliance with this Policy. For all ACH transactions, the Fiscal Services Director shall submit to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners documentation detailing the goods or services purchased, the cost of goods or services, the date of the payment, and the department levels serviced by payment. This report may be contained in the electronic general ledger software system or in a separate report to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners.

3. Internal Accounting Controls to Monitor Use of ACH Transactions:

a. The County Treasurer, County Administrator, or his/her designee and the Fiscal Services Director shall jointly determine those invoices to be paid by ACH or electronic transfers.

b. Upon receipt of an invoice of payment for accounts payable by ACH or electronic transfer, the Fiscal Services Director or his/her designee shall approve payment and notify the County Treasurer of the date of debit to Ottawa County's bank accounts. Invoices paid by this method may include utility and recurring lease payments. These payments shall be included on the report of payments to the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners. All invoices approved by the Fiscal Services Director or his/her designee and payable by ACH or electronic transfer may be paid in that manner through the County Treasurer's Office if approved by the County Administrator and deemed in the best interest of the County.

c. For payment of State and Federal payroll taxes, the County Treasurer shall initiate payment to the proper authority upon receipt of the information from the Fiscal Services Director or his/her designee using the established EFTPS and state program.

d. For deposits, including deposits from state, county, and/or federal authorities, and from third-party payment processors, (e.g., banks, vendors), the County Treasurer shall obtain the amount of the deposit and send an advice to the Fiscal Services Director or his/her designee, as may be necessary.

e. All invoices shall be held by the Fiscal Services Director or is/her designee along with copies of payment advices, according the standard Ottawa County policies therefore. Internal controls are subject to ongoing review for appropriateness and compliance and during the annual audit process.

f. This Policy shall not govern ACH and electronic transfers of surplus funds by the Treasurer's Office for investment purposes, which shall be governed by separate investment policies, procedures, and protocols.

REVIEW PERIOD

The County Administrator will review this Policy at least once every two years, and will make recommendations for changes to the Planning & Policy Committee.