



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Liberty Township
Hancock County
406 Colorado Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fair presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the Township's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinion.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1B of the financial statements, the Township prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03, which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, to satisfy requirements.

The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1B and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined cash balances of Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 permits, described in Note 1B.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 1F to the financial statements, during 2011 Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 6, 2013, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

June 6, 2013

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$313,070	\$87,660	\$400,730
Licenses, Permits and Fees	46,867		46,867
Intergovernmental	111,309	130,832	242,141
Earnings on Investments	555	157	712
Miscellaneous	13,153	5,396	18,549
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>484,954</u>	<u>224,045</u>	<u>708,999</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	202,712		202,712
Public Safety	92,505		92,505
Public Works	170,424	254,032	424,456
Health	79,125		79,125
Human Services		1,939	1,939
Capital Outlay	29,184	6,534	35,718
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>573,950</u>	<u>262,505</u>	<u>836,455</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(88,996)	(38,460)	(127,456)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>476,357</u>	<u>458,612</u>	<u>934,969</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted		420,152	420,152
Unassigned	387,361		387,361
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$387,361</u></u>	<u><u>\$420,152</u></u>	<u><u>\$807,513</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$315,241	\$89,343	\$404,584
Charges for Services	6,414		6,414
Licenses, Permits and Fees	53,950		53,950
Intergovernmental	218,316	129,994	348,310
Earnings on Investments	671	602	1,273
Miscellaneous	3,997	372	4,369
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>598,589</u>	<u>220,311</u>	<u>818,900</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	212,268		212,268
Public Safety	110,925		110,925
Public Works	69,992	189,131	259,123
Health	82,304		82,304
Human Services		1,935	1,935
Capital Outlay	216,631	9,055	225,686
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>692,120</u>	<u>200,121</u>	<u>892,241</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(93,531)</u>	<u>20,190</u>	<u>(73,341)</u>
Other Financing Receipts			
Insurance Proceeds	79,508		79,508
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(14,023)	20,190	6,167
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>490,380</u>	<u>438,422</u>	<u>928,802</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted		458,612	458,612
Unassigned	476,357		476,357
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$476,357</u>	<u>\$458,612</u>	<u>\$934,969</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and fire protection.

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

C. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

The Township values certificates of deposit at cost

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2012 and 2011 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Fund Balance

For 2011 the Township implemented GASB Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions". GASB Statement No. 54 establishes fund balance classifications that comprise a hierarchy based primarily on the extent to which a government is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources reported in governmental funds. GASB Statement No. 54 also clarifies the definitions of governmental fund types. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 54 did not have an effect on the previously reported fund balances.

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Township must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

1. Nonspendable

The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(Continued)

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

2. **Restricted**

Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

3. **Committed**

Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

4. **Assigned**

Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

5. **Unassigned**

Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

G. **Property, Plant, and Equipment**

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(Continued)**

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits

The Township maintains a deposit pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2012	2011
Demand deposits	\$745,053	\$872,509
Certificates of deposit	62,460	62,460
Total deposits	\$807,513	\$934,969

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2012 and 2011 follows:

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$469,416	\$484,954	\$15,538
Special Revenue	199,502	224,095	24,593
Total	\$668,918	\$709,049	\$40,131

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$919,937	\$573,950	\$345,987
Special Revenue	329,100	262,505	66,595
Total	\$1,249,037	\$836,455	\$412,582

2011 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$459,023	\$678,097	\$219,074
Special Revenue	203,956	220,311	16,355
Total	\$662,979	\$898,408	\$235,429

2011 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$990,973	\$692,120	\$298,853
Special Revenue	263,600	200,121	63,479
Total	\$1,254,573	\$892,241	\$362,332

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(Continued)**

4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

The County is responsible for assessing property, and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

5. Retirement System

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2012 and 2011, OPERS members contributed 10%, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2012.

6. Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. York Risk Pooling Services, Inc. (formally known as American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc.) (York or Management), functions as the administrator of the Pool and provides underwriting claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for the Pool. Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty and Property Coverage

APEEP provides OTARMA with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2012, OTARMA retained \$350,000 for casualty claims and \$250,000 for property claims.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(Continued)**

6. Risk Management (Continued)

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreement does not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Assets	\$34,771,270	\$35,086,165
Liabilities	<u>(9,355,082)</u>	<u>(9,718,792)</u>
Net Position	<u>\$25,416,188</u>	<u>\$25,367,373</u>

At December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$8.7 and \$9.1 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.96 and \$8.6 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 944 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2012, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$12,000.

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
\$19,582	\$19,287

After one year of membership, a member may withdraw on the anniversary of the date of joining OTARMA, if the member notifies OTARMA in writing 60 days prior to the anniversary date. Upon withdrawal, members are eligible for a full or partial refund of their capital contributions, minus the subsequent year's contribution. Withdrawing members have no other future obligation to the pool. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

7. Compliance

Contrary to ORC 5705.10 (C), the Township credited revenues restricted for the Road and Bridge Fund to the General Fund. The accompanying financial statements have been adjusted to correct this.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Liberty Township
Hancock County
406 Colorado Avenue
Findlay, Ohio 45840

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of Liberty Township, Hancock County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 6, 2013 wherein we noted the Township followed a special purpose framework the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and the Township implemented the requirements of GASB 54.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, that we consider a material weakness.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. We consider finding 2012-001 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2012-001 and 2012-002.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

June 6, 2013

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2012-001

Noncompliance Citation / Material Weakness

Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.10(C), states all revenue derived from a special levy shall be credited to a special fund for the purpose for which the levy was made.

In 2012, real estate taxes in the amount of \$87,438 and homestead and rollback reimbursements in the amount of \$12,085 for the Road and Bridge Fund were posted to the General Fund. During 2011, real estate taxes in the amount of \$45,982 for the Road and Bridge Fund were posted to the General Fund.

The accompanying financial statements and the Township's accounting records were adjusted to reflect these amounts in the proper funds.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Fiscal Officer and the Board of Trustees and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements is complete and accurate. To ensure the Township's financial statements and notes to the statements are complete and accurate, the Township should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the statements and notes by the Fiscal Officer and the Board of Trustees, to identify and correct errors and omissions. The Fiscal Officer should also review the UAN chart of accounts and the Township Handbook's chart of accounts to ensure all accounts are being properly posted to the financial statements.

FINDING NUMBER 2012-002

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.41(D)(1), provides in part no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the Fiscal Officer the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated for such purpose and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the requirement stated above where a Fiscal Officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, each of which are provided for in sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

**FINDING NUMBER 2012-002
(Continued)**

1. **“Then and Now” Certificate** – If the Fiscal Officer can certify both at the time the contract or order was made (“then”), and at the time the Fiscal Officer is completing the certification (“now”), sufficient funds were available or in the process of collections, to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance, the Board of Trustees can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Board of Trustees has thirty days from the receipt of the “then and now” certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution. Amounts less than \$3,000 may be paid by the Fiscal Officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the “then and now” certificate, provided the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.
2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal Officers may prepare “blanket” certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
3. **Super Blanket Certificate** – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

Eighty-two percent of the transactions tested were not certified by the Fiscal Officer at the time the commitment was incurred, and there was no evidence the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township’s funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Fiscal Officer should certify the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, “then and now” certification should be used.

The Fiscal Officer should certify the full purchase amounts to which section Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders which include the certification language which Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) requires for the authorization of disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification prior to incurring a commitment, and only when the requirements of Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials’ Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2010-001	Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.10(C), for amounts posted to incorrect funds	No	Reissued as Finding 2012-001 in this report.
2010-002	Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.41 (D), for failure to certify disbursements	No	Reissued as Finding 2012-002 in this report.

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

HANCOCK COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 27, 2013**