



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ridgefield Township  
Huron County  
1660 Jacob Road  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-9786

To the Board of Trustees:

### ***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of Ridgefield Township, Huron County, Ohio, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

### ***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 Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly 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 1 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(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the Township does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

***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, 2014 and 2013, 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 Ridgefield Township, Huron County, Ohio as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, 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(D) permit, described in Note 1.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 12, 2016, 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

Columbus, Ohio

February 12, 2016

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$23,929	\$84,876	\$108,805
Charges for Services	51		51
Licenses, Permits and Fees	433	5,200	5,633
Intergovernmental	12,383	96,228	108,611
Earnings on Investments	259	165	424
Miscellaneous	54	4,334	4,388
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>37,109</u>	<u>190,803</u>	<u>227,912</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	37,717	23,119	60,836
Public Safety		9,497	9,497
Public Works	42	160,671	160,713
Health	4,802	7,583	12,385
Capital Outlay	134	1,400	1,534
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement		630	630
Interest and Fiscal Charges			
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>42,695</u>	<u>202,900</u>	<u>245,595</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(5,586)	(12,097)	(17,683)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>111,373</u>	<u>196,776</u>	<u>308,149</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>			
Restricted		184,679	184,679
Assigned	<u>105,787</u>		<u>105,787</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$105,787</u></u>	<u><u>\$184,679</u></u>	<u><u>\$290,466</u></u>

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

RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE (CASH BASIS)  
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Private Purpose Trust
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Earnings on Investments	\$2
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Other	70
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balance</i>	(68)
<i>Fund Cash Balance, January 1</i>	1,668
<i>Fund Cash Balance, December 31</i>	<u>\$1,600</u>

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



**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$24,506	\$78,979	\$103,485
Licenses, Permits and Fees	827	2,475	3,302
Intergovernmental	128,793	104,627	233,420
Earnings on Investments	219	177	396
Miscellaneous	14	2,482	2,496
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>154,359</u>	<u>188,740</u>	<u>343,099</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	43,971	19,907	63,878
Public Safety		7,516	7,516
Public Works		157,427	157,427
Health	3,191	10,508	13,699
Capital Outlay	460	1,306	1,766
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement		630	630
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>47,622</u>	<u>197,294</u>	<u>244,916</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	106,737	(8,554)	98,183
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>4,636</u>	<u>205,330</u>	<u>209,966</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>			
Restricted		196,776	196,776
Assigned	111,373		111,373
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$111,373</u>	<u>\$196,776</u>	<u>\$308,149</u>

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

RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE (CASH BASIS)  
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013

	Private Purpose Trust
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Earnings on Investments	<u>\$3</u>
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Other	<u>59</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balance</i>	(56)
<i>Fund Cash Balance, January 1</i>	<u>1,724</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balance, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$1,668</u></u>

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

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

**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 Ridgefield Township, Huron County, Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with North Central Emergency Medical Services, Inc., to provide ambulance services.

The Township participates in one jointly governed organization and one public entity risk pool. Note 7 and 8 to the financial statements provides additional information for these entities. These organizations are:

Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Ohio Plan Risk Management is a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to over

Jointly Governed Organization:

The Huron River Joint Fire District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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 permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board 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 financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

**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.

Investments in STAR Ohio are valued at STAR Ohio's share price, which is the price the investment could be sold for on December 31.

**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:

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

**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. 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.

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

**3. Fiduciary Fund**

Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds and agency funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments which are not available to support the Township's own programs.

The Township's private purpose trust fund is to provide floral arrangements for the grave named in the trust.

**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. Appropriations lapse at year end.

**2. Estimated Resources**

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must 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 canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2014 and 2013 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**F. Fund Balance**

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

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.

**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.

**H. Accumulated Leave**

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

**2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

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

	2014	2013
Demand deposits	\$94,756	\$112,864
Certificates of deposit	175,727	175,376
Total deposits	270,483	288,240
STAR Ohio	21,583	21,577
Total deposits and investments	\$292,066	\$309,817

**Deposits:** The Township's demand deposits and certificates of deposit are held with a credit union contrary to Ohio Law and therefore are not collateralized in accordance with applicable requirements.

**Investments:** Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013 follows:

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$36,444	\$37,109	\$665
Special Revenue	183,832	190,803	6,971
Trust	15	2	(13)
Total	\$220,291	\$227,914	\$7,623

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$147,817	\$42,695	\$105,122
Special Revenue	378,729	202,900	175,829
Trust	1,683	70	1,613
Total	\$528,229	\$245,665	\$282,564

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$150,680	\$154,359	\$3,679
Special Revenue	179,891	188,740	8,849
Trust	25	3	(22)
Total	\$330,596	\$343,102	\$12,506

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$60,201	\$47,622	\$12,579
Special Revenue	385,222	197,294	187,928
Trust	1,749	59	1,690
Total	\$447,172	\$244,975	\$202,197

**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.

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

**5. DEBT**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
OPWC - Huber Road Curve Improvement	\$9,133	0.0%

The Township entered into a \$12,598 interest free loan with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for the Huber Road Curve Improvement project. The loan will be repaid in biennial installments of \$315, commencing on January 1, 2010 and ending July 1, 2029.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year ending December 31:	Huber Road Curve Improvement
2015	\$630
2016	630
2017	630
2018	630
2019	630
2020-2024	3,150
2025-2029	2,833
Total	\$9,133

**6. RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a 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 2014 and 2013, 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, 2014.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) - formerly known as the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan, (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss, except OPRM retains 41.5% (effective November 1, 2011) of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2012 (and through October 2014) the plan increased its retention to 50% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. The Plan's property retention remained unchanged from prior years. This change was made to balance the reinsurance market conditions. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 774 and 783 members as of December 31, 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Plan members are responsible to notify the Plan of their intent to renew coverage by their renewal date. If a member chooses not to renew with the Plan, they have no other financial obligation to the Plan, but still need to promptly notify the Plan of any potential claims occurring during their membership period. The former member's covered claims, which occurred during their membership period, remain the responsibility of the Plan.

Settlement amounts did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and net position at December 31, 2013 and 2014:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets	\$13,774,304	\$14,830,185
Liabilities	<u>(7,968,395)</u>	<u>(8,942,504)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$5,805,909</u>	<u>\$5,887,681</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website,



**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

[www.ohioplan.org](http://www.ohioplan.org).

**8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS**

**Huron River Joint Fire District**

The Township is a member of Huron River Joint Fire District (the District). A four-member Board of Trustees governs the District, with each member of the District appointing one board member. Those subdivisions are the Village of Monroeville, Peru Township, Ridgefield Township, and Sherman Township, all of which are located in Huron County. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District. Financial information can be obtained by contacting Deborah Ewell, Fiscal Officer, Huron River Joint Fire District, 130 North West Street, Norwalk, Ohio 44857-1269.

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# 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

Ridgefield Township  
Huron County  
1660 Jacob Road  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857-9786

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 the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type of Ridgefield Township, Huron County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 12, 2016 wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

### ***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.

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 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. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2014-002 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2014-001.

***Entity's Responses to Findings***

The Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the Township's responses and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

***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.



**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

February 12, 2016

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
HURON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2014-001**

**Noncompliance Citation**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 135.03** provides, in part, that the following institutions are eligible to be designated as public depositories:

- Any national bank;
- Any bank doing business under authority granted by the superintendent of financial institutions;
- Any bank doing business under authority granted by the regulatory authority of another state of the United States, located in this state;
- Any federal savings association;
- Any savings and loan association or savings bank doing business under authority granted by the superintendent of financial institutions; and
- Any savings and loan association or savings bank doing business under authority granted by the regulatory authority of another state of the United States, located in this state.

**Ohio Rev. Code § 135.14(B)(3)** permits the investment or deposit of interim monies in eligible institutions applying for the deposit of interim monies as provided in **Ohio Rev. Code § 135.08** which subjects eligible institutions to the limitations imposed under **Ohio Rev. Code § 135.01 to 135.21**.

During 2014 and 2013 the Township's demand deposits and certificates of deposit were held in a credit union contrary to the above Ohio Rev. Code requirements. In a previous period the Township opened accounts with the credit union as it was unaware that this section prohibits the designation of credit unions as public depositories.

The Township's deposits may be at risk in the event of failure of the credit union since the collateralization of deposits is noncompliant with the provisions outlined in **Ohio Rev. § Code 135.18 to 135.181**.

We recommend all Township demand deposits and certificates of deposits be held only with public depositories meeting the requirements outlined above.

**Officials' Response:**

The Township is aware of the requirements identified above and that deposits held with the credit union are not FDIC insured. The Township elected to maintain deposits with the credit union as they are receiving a higher interest rate through the credit union than those offered by FDIC insured institutions. The Township will follow up with the credit union to determine if deposits are insured through NCUA.

**FINDING NUMBER 2014-002**

**Material Weakness – Financial Reporting**

We identified the following error requiring adjustment to the financial statements or notes to the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2013:

- Estimated receipts for the General Fund were increased \$95,115 to properly reflect amounts listed on the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources that were not in agreement with amounts reported in the Township's accounting system.

We identified the following error requiring adjustment to the financial statements or notes to the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2014:

- General fund tax revenues were decreased by \$3,364 while intergovernmental revenues were increased by \$3,364 to properly account for intergovernmental revenues received by the Township.

These errors were not identified and corrected prior to the Township preparing its financial statements due to deficiencies in the Township's internal controls over financial statement monitoring. The accompanying financial statements, and where applicable, the Township's accounting records have been adjusted to reflect these changes. 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 and accompanying notes 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, to identify and correct errors and omissions. Also, the Fiscal Officer can refer to the Ohio Township Handbook at the following web site address for guidance on the recording of transactions: <https://ohioauditor.gov/publications/15OhioTownshipHandbook.pdf>.

**Officials' Response:**

The Fiscal Officer will ensure proper classification and recording of transactions.



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**RIDGEFIELD TOWNSHIP**

**HURON 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  
MARCH 22, 2016**