# VILLAGE OF BRADY LAKE PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO

**AUDIT REPORT** 

For the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014





Village Council Village of Brady Lake 6500 Lakeview Dr Ravenna, OH 44266

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Village of Brady Lake, Portage County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Village of Brady Lake is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Dave Yost Auditor of State

October 4, 2016



## VILLAGE OF BRADY LAKE PORTAGE COUNTY

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#### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Village of Brady Lake Portage County 6500 Lakeview Dr. Ravenna, OH 44266

To the Village Council:

#### 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 the Village of Brady Lake, Portage County, (the Village) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

#### 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 Village'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 Village'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 adverse and qualified audit opinions.

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the Village 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, to satisfy 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.

Village of Brady Lake Portage County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

Though the Village 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 Revise 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 Village as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

#### Basis for Additional Opinion Qualification

Municipal income taxes are reported at \$62,044 and \$52,744 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, which are 22 percent of General Fund receipts for the year ended December 31, 2015, and 26 percent of General Fund receipts for the year ended December 31, 2014. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence supporting the completeness of the amounts recorded as municipal income taxes. Consequently, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to these amounts were necessary.

#### Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

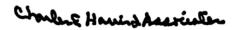
In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Additional Opinion Qualification* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined cash balances of the Village of Brady Lake, Portage County as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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.

#### Emphasis of Matter

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Village will continue as a going concern. As discussed in Note 12, as of December 31, 2015, the Village's audited General Fund balance is a negative (\$2,353) and has been selling certain assets. These conditions raise substantial doubt about the Village's ability to continue as a going concern. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 20, 2016, on our consideration of the Village'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 Village's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. July 20, 2016

### VILLAGE OF BRADY LAKE PORTAGE COUNTY

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Ocale Province	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts	Ф 20.20	<b>-</b> •	e 20.024	Ф FC 400
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 29,26		\$ 26,934	\$ 56,199
Municipal Income Tax	62,04 67,29			62,044
Intergovernmental Fines and Forfeitures		•	5,482	97,660 27,243
Charges for Services	27,24		-	27,243
<u> </u>	12,60		-	12,605
Fees, Licenses and Permits	5,51	i - 5 1	-	5,511
Earnings on Investments			-	6 6 190
Miscellaneous	6,18	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	6,180
Total Cash Receipts	210,15	0 24,882	32,416	267,448
Cash Disbursements Current:				
Security of Persons and Property	120,19	4 640	-	120,834
Community Environment	2,80	-		2,808
Transportation	4,20	22,867	-	27,067
General Government	140,64	5 54	-	140,699
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement		- 476	20,201	20,677
Interest and Fiscal Charges	1		15,742	15,742
Total Cash Disbursements	267,84	7 24,037	35,943	327,827
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(57,69	7) 845	(3,527)	(60,379)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)		_		
Sale of Capital Assets	70,72	-		70,720
Transfers In	(0.4. o=	- <del>-</del> `	21,077	21,077
Transfers Out	(21,07	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	(21,077)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	49,64	3	21,077	70,720
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(8,05	4) 845	17,550	10,341
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	5,70	115,758	(15,828)	5,631
Fund Cash Balances, December 31 Restricted Assigned Unassigned (Deficit)	10 <sup>-</sup> (2,45		3 - - 1,722 	16,603 1,822 (2,453)
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ (2,35	3) \$ 16,603	\$ 1,722	\$ 15,972

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

## VILLAGE OF BRADY LAKE PORTAGE COUNTY

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

Ocale Province	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts	<u>ቀ</u>	<b>c</b>	ф <u>20.02</u> 0	¢ 50,600
Property and Other Local Taxes  Municipal Income Tax	\$ 30,652	\$ -	\$ 29,028	\$ 59,680
Intergovernmental	52,744 57,284	22,920	5,439	52,744 85,643
Fines and Forfeitures	14,184	22,920	5,439	14,184
Charges for Services	13,085	-	-	13,085
Fees, Licenses and Permits	5,755	-	-	5,755
Earnings on Investments	3,733	_	_	3,733 1
Miscellaneous	14,031	-	-	14,031
Miscellarieous	14,001			14,031
Total Cash Receipts	187,736	22,920	34,467	245,123
Cash Disbursements				
Current:	62 000			62 000
Security of Persons and Property	62,808 1,285	-	-	62,808 1,285
Community Environment Transportation	1,200	20,152	-	20,152
General Government	117,829	20, 152	-	117,829
Debt Service:	117,029	-	-	117,029
Principal Retirement	8,015	_	23,543	31,558
Interest and Fiscal Charges	170	_	17,105	17,275
interest and risear onlarges	170	·	17,100	11,210
Total Cash Disbursements	190,107	20,152	40,648	250,907
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(2,371)	2,768	(6,181)	(5,784)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements) Sale of Capital Assets	13,400			13,400
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	13,400			13,400
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	11,029	2,768	(6,181)	7,616
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	(5,328)	12,990	(9,647)	(1,985)
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted		15,758		15,758
Assigned	1,275	13,730	238	1,513
Unassigned (Deficit)	4,426	- -	(16,066)	(11,640)
Chaodynou (Bollott)	1, 120		(10,000)	(11,040)
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 5,701	\$ 15,758	\$ (15,828)	\$ 5,631

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

#### 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 Village of Brady Lake, Portage County, Ohio, (the Village) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides police services, fire protection services, park operations and zoning. The Village contracts with Ravenna Township to provide dispatching and emergency medical services. The Village appropriates general fund money to support a volunteer fire department.

The Village participates in the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM), an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program. Note 8 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village 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 Village 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 Village'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 Village pooled all money into demand deposits.

#### D. Fund Accounting

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

#### 1. General Fund

The General Fund reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### 2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes other than debt service. The Village had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

<u>Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund</u> - This fund receives gasoline tax and motor vehicle tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Village streets.

#### 3. Debt Service Funds

These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted to expenditure for principal and interest. The Village had the following significant Debt Service Funds:

<u>Fire Tanker Repair Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money to pay debt service on a bond issuance.

<u>Recreation Levy Bond Fund</u> – This fund receives property tax money to pay debt service on a bond issuance.

#### E. Budgetary Process

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

#### 1. Appropriations

Budgetary disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Village Council must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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 Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2015 and 2014 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### F. Fund Balance

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

#### 1. Nonspendable

The Village 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

Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution or ordinance). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution or ordinance. 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 Village Council or a Village 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 Village 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.

#### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

#### G. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Village 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.

#### 2. Equity in Pooled Deposits

The Village maintains a deposit 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:

	2015		2014	
Demand deposits	\$	15,972	\$	5,631
Total deposits	\$	15,972	\$	5,631

**Deposits:** 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, 2015 and 2014 follows:

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts	
2010 Duageted vs. Actual Necelpts	

	В	Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type	F	Receipts		Receipts		Variance	
General	\$	339,062	\$	280,870	\$	(58,192)	
Special Revenue		43,505		24,882		(18,623)	
Debt Service		34,108		53,493		19,385	

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements

	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type	Authority		Disbursements		Variance	
General	\$	347,062	\$	288,924	\$	58,138
Special Revenue		43,505		24,037		19,468
Debt Service		29,028		35,943		(6,915)

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

2014 Badgeted V3. Notdai Neccipts							
		Budgeted Actual					
Fund Type	F	Receipts		Receipts	Variance		
General	\$	251,361	\$	201,136	\$	(50,225)	
Special Revenue		35,000		22,920		(12,080)	
Debt Service		34,367		34,467		100	

#### 3. Budgetary Activity (continued)

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements

	Арі	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type		Authority		Disbursements		Variance	
General	\$	271,117	\$	191,382	\$	79,735	
Special Revenue		60,000		20,152		39,848	
Debt Service		34,291		40,648		(6,357)	

#### 4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Council 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.

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

#### 5. Local Income Tax

The Village levies a municipal income tax of 1 percent on substantially all earned income arising from employment, residency, or business activities within the Village as well as certain income of residents earned outside of the Village.

Employers within the Village withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit the tax to the Village either monthly or quarterly, as required. Corporations and other individual taxpayers pay estimated taxes quarterly and file a declaration annually.

#### 6. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2015 was as follows:

	F	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Bonds	\$	247,210	6.00%
Ohio Public Works Commission Loan		6,916	0.00%
Total	\$	254,126	

In 2004, the Village refunded \$415,461 in Various Purpose Improvement Bonds. Along with the refunding, the Village also issued \$35,000 for a fire truck. The total Various Purpose Improvement Bonds issued in 2004 was \$450,461. The fire truck part of the Various Improvement Bonds is paid along with the Refunding, however it follows its own schedule and began with its first payment on issuance on June 1, 2005 and ended on December 1, 2014.

The Ohio Public Works Commission Loan (OPWC) relates to a road paving project that took place during 2009. The OPWC Loan was in the amount of \$9,537, with bi-annual payments of \$238.43 and will end on January 1, 2030.

The Village's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

#### 6. Debt (continued)

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

Year ending December 31:	General		
	Obligation		PWC
		Bonds	Loan
2016	\$	35,943	\$ 477
2017		35,943	477
2018		35,943	477
2019		35,943	477
2020		35,943	477
2021-2025		143,773	2,384
2026-2031			2,147
Total	\$	323,488	\$ 6,916

#### 7. Retirement Systems

The Village's full-time police officers belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). Other employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) or pay into Social Security. 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 2015 and 2014, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the Village contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2015.

#### 8. Risk Management

The Village 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 783 and 774 members as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively (the latest information available).

#### 8. Risk Management (continued)

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 retained earnings at December 31, 2014 and 2013 (the latest information available).

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

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

#### 9. Contingent Liabilities

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits.

#### 10. Interfund Transfers and Advances

The Village had a transfer during 2015 that was to pay debt.

#### 11. Compliance

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.10(H), at December 31, 2015 and 2014, various funds had negative fund balances.

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.36(A)(1) the Village did not certify the correct beginning fund balances to the Portage County Auditor for 2015 and 2014.

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) the Village did not certify that expenditures were lawfully appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance for all expenditures tested during 2015 and 2014.

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.39, the Village's total appropriations from various funds exceeded total estimated resources during 2015 and 2014.

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B), the Village's total budgetary disbursements from various funds exceeded the total appropriations during 2015 and 2014.

Contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.14(E), the Village posted a transfer from the General fund without Council approval during 2015.

#### 12. Going Concern/Management's Plans

As of December 31, 2015, the Village had a negative fund balance in the General Fund of (\$2,353). As of December 31, 2014, the Village had negative fund balances as follows: Debt Service – Fire Tanker (\$6,341) and Debt Service – Recreation Levy (\$9,725). Also, the Village has been selling certain assets to maintain their fund balances. These conditions raise substantial doubt about the Village's ability to continue as a going concern.

Management is in the process of reviewing delinquent taxpayers to alleviate the negative fund balances. In addition, Council is considering placing a levy on the November 2016 ballot asking the voters to approve a street levy and an ambulance service levy. Ambulance services are currently provided using general funds. Management has also entered into a contract with the City of Akron to provide security to the City's water plant which has increased the charges for services revenue of the Village.

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#### Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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

Village of Brady Lake Portage County 6500 Lakeview Dr. Ravenna, OH 44266

To the Village Council:

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 the Village of Brady Lake, Portage County (the Village) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 20, 2016, wherein we noted the Village followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. We also qualified our opinion due to the lack of sufficient appropriate audit evidence supporting the amounts recorded as municipal income taxes. We also noted a substantial doubt about the Village's ability to continue as a going concern.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Village's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Village'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 Village'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 of significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that we consider material weaknesses. We consider findings 2015-001, 2015-002, 2015-004, 2015-005 and 2015-007 to be material weaknesses.

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#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Village'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 2015-001 through 2015-004, 2015-006 and 2015-008 through 2015-012.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we have reported in our letter dated July 20, 2016.

#### Entity's Response to Findings

The Village's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the Village's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

#### 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 Village's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Village's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Charles Harris Assertiation

**Charles E. Harris and Associates, Inc.** July 20, 2016

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

Finding Number: 2015-001 - Noncompliance and Material Weakness

#### <u>Setting up a Debt Service Fund for the 2004 Various Purpose Improvement Bonds, Series 2004</u> Issuance

The Village issued a \$450,461 bond issuance called Various Purpose Improvement Bonds, Series 2004. The Transcript of Proceedings Section 3.30 Bond Fund requires the debt to be paid out of a debt service fund.

Noncompliance was noted with the bond issuance debt covenant since the Village is paying debt out of three different funds for this Bond Issuance. The money is segregated by the County Auditor on the Statement of Semiannual Apportionment of Taxes and is appropriately budgeted for on the Official Certificate and any respective amendment with the County Auditor, however a portion of the Bond Issuance for the administration building is improperly being paid out of the General Fund. In addition, the amount of debt principal and interest payments are not segregated.

The auditor has been provided permission from Council and the Clerk Treasurer to adjust the Bond Issuance payments to reflect it being paid out of a Debt Service Fund and segregate out the debt payments into principal and interest. During the audit period the bond was paid from the functions of Community Environment, Capital Outlay and Security of Persons and Property.

We recommend the Village implement controls to help ensure they comply with debt covenants. In addition, we recommend the Clerk Treasurer segregate principal and interest payments and reflect all debt payments for the Bond Issuance out of the Debt Service Fund.

Finding Number: 2015-002 - Noncompliance and Material Weakness

#### Mispostings and Misclassifications Resulting in Financial Statement Adjustments

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-02(A) provides that all local public offices should maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets, document compliance and finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements.

The Village Officers' Handbook (revised March 2016) provides suggested account classifications. These accounts classify receipts by fund and source (taxes or charges for services, for example). Using these classifications and the aforementioned accounting records will provide the Village with information required to monitor compliance and with the budget and prepare annual reports in the format required by the Auditor of State.

The Village could not provide supporting documentation for 1 out of 10 payroll payments tested for 2015. Alternative procedures were utilized to verify that this expenditure was for a proper public purpose and that amount paid was correct.

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS - continued

#### Finding Number: 2015-002 - Noncompliance and Material Weakness (continued)

Also, our testing revealed numerous instances where errors were made with respect to the posting and reporting of various transactions, the more significant of these misclassifications included the following:

- During 2015 and 2014, Homestead and Rollback monies were misclassified as Property Taxes revenue instead of Intergovernmental revenue.
- During 2015 and 2014, a receipt of Local Government Distributions was misclassified as Municipal Income Tax revenue instead of Intergovernmental revenue.
- During 2015 and 2014, Debt Service Fund debt principal and interest payments were misclassified as Capital Outlay and Community Environment rather than Debt Service – Principal and Debt Service – Interest.
- During 2014, General Fund debt principal and interest payments were misclassified as Security of Persons and Property instead of Debt Service – Principal and Debt Service – Interest.
- During 2015 and 2014, receipts of Motor Vehicle License Tax monies were recorded in the General fund instead of the Street, Construction, Maintenance and Repair fund.
- During 2015 and 2014, governmental expenses were classified and reported by object instead of by function and were reclassified accordingly.
- During 2015, transfers in were posted to the Building Bond fund instead of the Fire Tanker Repair and Recreation Levy funds. Principal and Interest payments were then made from the Building Bond fund instead of the Fire Tanker Repair and Recreation Levy funds.
- During 2015 and 2014, the Village did not prepare or file notes to the financial statements.

Management agrees with these adjustments and they were adjusted in the Village's records and the accompanying financial statements.

We recommend the Village use more caution to ensure all activities of the Village are recorded accurately. The Clerk Treasurer should refer to the Village Officers' Handbook to ensure proper fund and account classification. We also recommend that the Village adhere to its Records Retention policy regarding the disposition of financial records to ensure that all supporting documentation is maintained and available for inspection.

#### Finding Number: 2015-003 - Noncompliance

#### **Negative Fund Balances**

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.10(H) states that money paid into a fund must be used only for the purposes for which such fund has been established. As a result, a negative fund balance indicates that money from one fund was used to cover the expenses of another fund.

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS - continued

#### Finding Number: 2015-003 - Noncompliance (continued)

The General Fund had a deficit fund balance as of December 31, 2015 of \$2,353. For 2014, the Fire Tanker Repair Fund had a deficit fund balance \$6,341 and the Recreation Levy Bond Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$9,725.

We recommend Council pay close attention to the bank reconciliations and financial reports the Clerk Treasurer provides at each meeting. We also recommend that the Finance Committee review and sign off on all monthly reconciliations and maintain vigilance over each fund and its respective balance from this point forward.

Finding Number: 2015-004 - Material Weakness and Noncompliance

#### **Budget Amounts Not Entered Into Accounting System**

Ohio Administrative Code 117-2-02(C) states that all local public offices must integrate the budgetary accounts, at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts and remaining uncommitted balances of appropriations.

The legal level of control is the level at which spending in excess of budgeted amounts would be a violation of law. This is established by the level at which the legislative body appropriates.

In 2015 and 2014, the Village Clerk Treasurer did not enter estimated resources into the financial accounting system for any fund. Total estimated resources for all funds as approved by the Budget Commission were \$416,675 and \$320,728 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

During 2015 and 2014, total appropriations approved by the Budget Commission were \$419,595 and \$365,408, however, the Clerk Treasurer posted \$460,850 and \$270,855 in the financial system.

Inaccurate appropriations and estimated receipts in the fund ledgers do not provide the Village's management and Council with the necessary data to make decisions regarding the Village spending and operations.

We recommend the Clerk Treasurer ensure that complete and accurate budgetary data is entered into the fund ledgers by comparing the appropriations, estimated receipts and amendments thereto with the Village's fund ledgers on a monthly basis.

#### Finding Number: 2015-005 - Material Weakness

#### **Cash Reconciliations**

A bank to book reconciliation should be performed monthly and reviewed and approved by an individual with appropriate fiscal authority. The reconciliation of the Village's bank accounts with its cash ledgers is a necessary control procedure to adequately safeguard cash and to provide an accurate financial picture of the Village. As part of the bank reconciliation, all differences between the balance appearing on the financial statements and the balance of cash according to the Village's records should be accounted for.

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS - continued

#### Finding Number: 2015-005 – Material Weakness (continued)

The Village's bank accounts and fund balances were not reconciled during fiscal year 2015 and 2014. The Village Clerk Treasurer hired an external consultant with governmental experience to perform a proof-of-cash reconciliation for the two year audit period. Upon conclusion of the reconciliations being performed, the Village's books were understated each year.

At December 31, 2015, the Village's financial accounting system was understated by a net amount of \$428, and there were 34 adjustments to the cash reconciliation. At December 31, 2014, the Village's financial accounting system was understated by a net amount of \$830, and there were 31 adjustments to the cash reconciliation. In addition, a misposting of the previous year's audit adjustments resulted in an understatement of the beginning fund balances on the books totaling \$1,459.

These adjustments were posted to the Village's financial accounting system and to the audited financial statements.

We recommend the Village implement procedures to help ensure that bank statements are reconciled to the Village's books in a timely manner. We further recommend the bank reconciliations be presented to the Finance Committee so they can sign off on them and present to the entire Council for approval on a monthly basis within the minute records. All reconciling amounts should be easily identifiable and explained.

#### Finding Number: 2015-006 - Noncompliance

#### **Certification of Available Revenue**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.36(A)(1) indicates on or about the first day of each fiscal year, the fiscal officers of subdivisions and other taxing units are to certify to the county fiscal officer the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund in the tax budget along with any unencumbered balances existing at the end of the preceding year. Although, the Certificate of the Total Amount From All Sources Available for Expenditures, and Balances was filed with the Portage County Auditor for fiscal year 2015 and 2014, the beginning fund balances were omitted.

We recommend the Village file on or about the first day of the fiscal year an accurate Certificate of the Total Amount From All Sources Available for Expenditures, and Unencumbered Balances existing at the end of the preceding year.

#### Finding Number: 2015-007 - Material Weakness

#### Income Tax Receivables Accounting System and Supporting Documentation

The Village levies a municipal income tax of 1 percent on substantially all earned income arising from employment, residency, or business activities within the Village as well as certain income of residents earned outside of the Village. The Village offers a credit of .5 percent for local income taxes paid to another municipality.

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS - continued

#### Finding Number: 2015-007 – Material Weakness (continued)

The Village does not utilize a receivables system for income tax collection purposes. Instead, the Village posts income tax receipts directly into the Village's financial accounting system. This practice does not allow for the functionality needed to properly track the amounts paid and owed to the Village. Estimated tax payments made by individuals and withholding payments made by businesses cannot be credited to a taxpayer's account to ensure that claimed amounts are not overstated on final tax returns. As such, the Village has no way to ensure completeness of accounting records relating to income tax collections.

The Village does not require taxpayers to provide the supporting documentation necessary to properly recalculate income earned, taxes withheld or payment of municipal taxes to another entity. This can result in a misstatement in municipal income tax revenue. Due to this lack of supporting documentation, the Clerk Treasurer does not recalculate income tax returns filed. During testing performed, we noted that numerous taxpayers reported the incorrect amount as income earned and calculated estimated tax payments, credits claimed and taxes withheld incorrectly.

We recommend the use of a receivables system to account for income tax payments received by the Village and amounts owed to the Village. The system should assign taxpayer numbers to all residents to ensure completeness of residence records. The Village's Clerk Treasurer should recalculate all final income tax returns using supporting documentation to ensure the accuracy of the returns filed.

#### Finding Number: 2015-008 - Noncompliance

#### **Fiscal Officer's Certification of Expenditures**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making a contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by a fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

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

1. "Then and Now Certificates" – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that contract or order was made ("then") and at the time that the fiscal officer was completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Village can authorize the drawing of a warrant for payment of the amount due. The Village has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Village.

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS - continued

#### Finding Number: 2015-008 - Noncompliance (continued)

- 2. Blanket Certificates Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by ordinance or resolution adopted by a majority of members of the legislative authority against any specific line item amount 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 Certificates The Village may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount for a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most profession services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. 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.

The Village did not make the proper certification of funds for any disbursements tested during the audit period.

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 that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Village's expenditures exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Village certify expenditures prior to incurring the liability. Also, we recommend the Village only use "then and now" certificates for items under \$3,000 and to have all certificates approved by Council. This will assist in keeping adequate controls over disbursements and encumbrances.

#### Finding Number: 2015-009 - Noncompliance

#### **Posting of Transfers Without Approval**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.14(e) states, in part, that no transfer can be made from one fund of a subdivision to any other fund, except money may be transferred from the general fund to any other fund of the subdivision. 1989 Op. Atty. Gen. No 89-075 requires a governing board resolution or ordinance passed by a simple majority of the board members to transfer funds.

During our testing of transfers, we noted one transfer for \$21,077 from the General Fund to the Fire Tanker Repair and Recreation Levy funds in 2015 that was not approved by Council in a resolution or ordinance, as required.

We recommend that all transfers be formally approved by resolution or ordinance of Council. The resolution or ordinance should include the amount to be transferred, the name of the fund paying the money and the name of the fund receiving the money, as well as the purpose of the transfer. The Village should ensure there is proper statutory authority to use the money in the fund transferring the cash for the same purpose for which the fund receiving the cash was established.

## FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS - continued

Finding Number: 2015-010 - Noncompliance

#### **Annual Financial Statement Filing**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 117.38 requires entities filing on a cash basis to file substantially complete annual reports with the Auditor of State within 60 days of the fiscal year end on the form used by the public office. In order for the filing to be deemed substantially complete, submissions must include the financial statements and notes to the financial statements.

For 2015 and 2014, the Village did not file annual financial statements through the HINKLE system as required by the Auditor of State. In addition, the Village did not prepare notes to the financial statements and the financial statements prepared were significantly misstated as noted in Finding Number 2015-002 above.

We recommend the Village create controls to ensure that the financial statements prepared are in accordance with the form prescribed by Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code 117-2-03(B). In addition, we recommend the Village file substantially complete reports via the HINKLE system by the required date.

#### Finding Number 2015-011 - Noncompliance

#### **Disbursements Exceeding Appropriations**

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B) requires that budgetary disbursements shall not exceed appropriations. In 2015, budgetary disbursements exceeded appropriation authority in the Debt Service Funds by \$6,915. In 2014, budgetary disbursements exceeded appropriation authority in the Debt Service Funds by \$6,357.

We recommend that the Village monitor its budget closely to prevent disbursements from exceeding appropriations. Also, we recommend that the Village post appropriations into the accounting system in a timely manner.

#### Finding Number 2015-012 - Noncompliance

#### **Appropriations Exceeding Estimated Resources**

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.39 provides in part that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total estimated resources.

During 2015, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in the General Fund by \$2,299 and the Debt Service Funds by \$10,748. During 2014, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in the General Fund by \$25,084, the Special Revenue Funds by \$12,010 and the Debt Service Funds by \$9,571.

We recommend that the Village monitor its budget closely to prevent appropriations from exceeding estimated resources. Also, we recommend that the Village ensure that certification of estimated resources is completed accurately and posted into the accounting system in a timely manner.

**Management's Response:** Management will work diligently to correct the above findings. Also, they are actively pursuing other revenue streams to initiate various Village projects, especially a road program.

#### VILLAGE OF BRADY LAKE PORTAGE COUNTY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

FINDING NUMBER	FUNDING SUMMARY	FULLY CORRECTED?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2013-01	Setting up a Debt Service Fund for the 2004 Various Purpose Improvement Bonds, Series 2004 Issuance	No	Repeated as 2015-001
2013-02	Mispostings and Misclassifications Resulting in Financial Statement Adjustments	No	Repeated as 2015-002
2013-03	Negative Fund Balances	No	Repeated as 2015-003
2013-04	Budget Amounts Not Entered Into Accounting System	No	Repeated as 2015-004
2013-05	Cash Reconciliations	No	Repeated as 2015-005
2013-06	Certification of Available Revenue	No	Repeated as 2015-006
2013-07	Income Tax Receivables Accounting System and Supporting Documentation	No	Repeated as 2015-007
2013-08	Fiscal Officer's Certification of Expenditures	No	Repeated as 2015-008





#### **VILLAGE OF BRADY LAKE**

#### **PORTAGE 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.

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU** 

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED OCTOBER 18, 2016