



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Benton Township
Paulding County
6100 Road 33
Payne, Ohio 45880

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 Benton Township, Paulding County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

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 opinions.

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

As described in Note 2 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, 2016 and 2015, 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 Benton Township, Paulding County, Ohio as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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 2.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 28, 2017, 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

September 28, 2017

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$51,586	\$87,786		\$139,372
Licenses, Permits and Fees	875	7,500		8,375
Intergovernmental	26,044	114,449	\$42,296	182,789
Earnings on Investments	527	360		887
Miscellaneous	72,947	165,640		238,587
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>151,979</u>	<u>375,735</u>	<u>42,296</u>	<u>570,010</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	111,378			111,378
Public Safety	3,048	33,711		36,759
Public Works		240,956		240,956
Health		4,150		4,150
Capital Outlay		3,875	42,296	46,171
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement		18,985		18,985
Interest and Fiscal Charges		2,671		2,671
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>114,426</u>	<u>304,348</u>	<u>\$42,296</u>	<u>461,070</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements</i>	<u>37,553</u>	<u>71,387</u>		<u>108,940</u>
Other Financing Receipts				
Other Financing Sources	325			325
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	37,878	71,387		109,265
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>204,493</u>	<u>511,062</u>		<u>715,555</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted		516,520		516,520
Committed		65,929		65,929
Assigned	242,371			242,371
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$242,371</u>	<u>\$582,449</u>		<u>\$824,820</u>

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

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016**

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Benton Township, Paulding 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Payne to provide fire services and emergency medical services

The Township participates in the Ohio Plan public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

General Fund - The General fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

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

Gasoline Tax Fund - The Gasoline Tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Fire District and EMS Fund - The Fire District and EMS fund receives property tax money to contract fire services and emergency management services (EMS) with the Village of Payne.

Capital Project Funds - These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant Capital Project fund:

Permanent Improvement Fund - This fund receives proceeds from the sale of capital assets. The fund is being used for any permanent improvements with a life span of over five years

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)**

Basis of Accounting

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.

Budgetary Process

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

Appropriations - Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, 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.

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.

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 2016 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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.

Capital Assets

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

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.

Fund Balance

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:

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)**

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2016 follows:

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$152,920	\$152,304	(\$616)
Special Revenue	370,412	375,735	5,323
Capital Projects	42,296	42,296	
Total	\$565,628	\$570,335	\$4,707

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)**

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$357,413	\$114,426	\$242,987
Special Revenue	881,474	304,348	577,126
Capital Projects	42,296	42,296	
Total	\$1,281,183	\$461,070	\$820,113

Note 4 – 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:

	2016
Demand deposits	\$824,820

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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.

Note 6 - 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. Effective November 1, 2012 (and through October 2014) the

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)**

plan increased its retention to 50% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Effective November 1, 2014, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 772 and 783 members as of December 31, 2015 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 equity at December 31, 2015 (the latest information available).

	2015
Assets	<u>\$14,643,667</u>
Liabilities	<u>(9,112,030)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$5,531,637</u>

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

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Township officials and 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. 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, 2016.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2016 was as follows:

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)**

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Notes	\$81,155	2.66%

In 2015, the Township obtained a note in the amount of \$100,140 from the Antwerp Exchange Bank. The note proceeds were used to finance the purchase of a 2016 Western Star Truck with a plow. The note is for a five year period with an annual interest rate of 2.66% and a maturity date of July 24, 2020.

Amortization

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

	General Obligation Bonds
Year ending December 31:	
2017	\$21,656
2018	21,656
2019	21,656
2020	21,656
Total	\$86,624

Note 10 – Miscellaneous Receipts

Miscellaneous receipts in the General Fund are comprised of tax incrementing financing monies from wind farm settlements collected and distributed through Paulding County.

Miscellaneous receipts in the Special Revenue fund type was primarily comprised of a \$165,000 reimbursement from the Horizon Windmill Company for damage done to Township Road 70.

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$52,285	\$89,139		\$141,424
Licenses, Permits and Fees	375	6,150		6,525
Intergovernmental	30,781	109,905		140,686
Earnings on Investments	583	254		837
Miscellaneous	71,805	579		72,384
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>155,829</u>	<u>206,027</u>		<u>361,856</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	125,510			125,510
Public Safety	2,322	24,046		26,368
Public Works		197,162		197,162
Capital Outlay	1,603	77,510	\$38,938	118,051
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>129,435</u>	<u>298,718</u>	<u>38,938</u>	<u>467,091</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>26,394</u>	<u>(92,691)</u>		<u>(105,235)</u>
Other Financing Receipts				
Sale of Notes		100,000		100,000
Sale of Capital Assets			38,938	38,938
Other Financing Sources	42			42
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts</i>	<u>42</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>\$38,938</u>	<u>138,980</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	26,436	7,309		33,745
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>178,057</u>	<u>503,753</u>		<u>681,810</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted		453,164		453,164
Committed		57,898		57,898
Assigned	204,493			204,493
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$204,493</u>	<u>\$511,062</u>		<u>\$715,555</u>

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

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015**

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Benton Township, Paulding 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Payne to provide fire services and emergency medical services

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

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Fire District and EMS Fund - The Fire District and EMS fund receives property tax money to contract fire services and emergency management services (EMS) with the Village of Payne.

Capital Project Funds - These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

Ohio Public Works Commission Fund - The Township receives State of Ohio grant money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(Continued)**

Basis of Accounting

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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.

Budgetary Process

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

Appropriations - Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, 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.

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.

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 2015 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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.

Capital Assets

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

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Fund Balance

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:

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(Continued)**

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2015 follows:

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$94,242	\$155,871	\$61,629
Special Revenue	300,339	306,027	5,688
Capital Projects	38,938	38,938	
Total	\$433,519	\$500,836	\$67,317

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$272,299	\$129,435	\$142,864
Special Revenue	804,092	298,718	505,374
Capital Projects	38,938	38,938	
Total	\$1,115,329	\$467,091	\$648,238

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(Continued)**

Note 4 – 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:

	<u>2015</u>
Demand deposits	<u><u>\$715,555</u></u>

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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.

Note 6 - 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. Effective November 1, 2012 (and through October 2014) the plan increased its retention to 50% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Effective November 1, 2014, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 772 and 783 members as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 respectively.

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(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 equity at December 31, 2015.

	2015
Assets	<u>\$14,643,667</u>
Liabilities	<u>(9,112,030)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$5,531,637</u>

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

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Township officials and 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. 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, 2015.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2015 was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
General Obligation Notes	<u>\$100,140</u>	2.66%

In 2015, the Township obtained a note in the amount of \$100,000 from the Antwerp Exchange Bank which included an additional \$140 in loan fees as part of the principal outstanding. The note proceeds were used to finance the purchase of a 2016 Western Star Truck with a plow. The note is for a five year period with an annual interest rate of 2.66% and a maturity date of July 24, 2020.

**Benton Township
Paulding County**

**Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2015
(Continued)**

Amortization

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

Year ending December 31:	General Obligation Bonds
2016	\$21,656
2017	21,656
2018	21,656
2019	21,656
2020	21,656
Total	<u>\$108,280</u>

Note 10 – Miscellaneous Receipts

Miscellaneous receipts in the General Fund are comprised of tax incrementing financing monies from wind farm settlements collected and distributed through Paulding County.

Note 11 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10, the Township incorrectly recorded proceeds from the sale of permanent improvements in the General Fund rather than a Permanent Improvement Fund.



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

Benton Township
Paulding County
6100 Road 33
Payne, Ohio 45880

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 Benton Township, Paulding County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015 and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 28, 2017, 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 opinions 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 certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that we consider material weaknesses. We consider findings 2016-001 and 2016-002 to be material weaknesses.

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 matter we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2016-001.

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

September 28, 2017

**BENTON TOWNSHIP
PAULDING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2016-001

Noncompliance and Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (F) requires that except as provided in divisions (G) and (H) of this section, if a permanent improvement of the subdivision is sold, the amount received from the sale shall be paid into the sinking fund, the bond retirement fund, or a special fund for the construction or acquisition of permanent improvements; provided that the proceeds from the sale of a public utility shall be paid into the sinking fund or bond retirement fund to the extent necessary to provide for the retirement of the outstanding indebtedness incurred in the construction or acquisition of such utility. Proceeds from the sale of property other than a permanent improvement shall be paid into the fund from which such property was acquired or is maintained or, if there is no such fund, into the General Fund. **Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.01 (E)** defines "Permanent improvement" or "improvement" as any property, asset, or improvement with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more, including land and interests therein, and reconstructions, enlargements, and extensions thereof having an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more.

The Township received \$3,938 for its portion of the proceeds from the sale of an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) vehicle and \$35,000 for the sale of a 2007 dump truck in 2015. Monies were posted to the General Fund instead of a Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Fund.

These errors were a result of inadequate policies and procedures in monitoring financial transactions. Adjustments were made to the financial statements and notes to the financial statements to correct these posting errors.

To help ensure monies are budgeted and posted to the proper fund, we recommend the Fiscal Officer budget and post proceeds of the sale of permanent improvements, with an estimated life of greater than 5 years, into a Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Fund.

FINDING NUMBER 2016-002

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

The Township's management is responsible for the fair presentation of the financial statements. In addition, GASB Statement No. 54 requires fund balance be divided into one of five classifications based on the extent to which constraints are imposed upon the resources. The following errors were noted in the financial statements that required audit adjustments:

- The unassigned General Fund balance was overstated and assigned fund balance for subsequent year appropriations was understated by \$204,493 in 2015.

- The restricted Road and Bridge Special Revenue fund balance was overstated and committed fund balance was understated by \$65,929 and \$57,898 in 2016 and 2015, respectively.
- A \$165,000 reimbursement for road damage was misposted as an extraordinary item instead of miscellaneous receipts in the Gasoline Tax Special Revenue fund in 2016.
- Debt payment on a new truck of \$21,656 was misposted to public works disbursements instead of debt principal and debt interest disbursements by \$18,985 and \$2,671, respectively, in the Gasoline Tax Special Revenue fund in 2016.

These errors were a result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements were adjusted to correct these and other errors.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Fiscal Officer and the governing board and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements is complete and accurate.

To help 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 audit committee to identify and correct errors and omissions. In addition, the Fiscal Officer should also review the Auditor of State's (AOS) Township handbook which contains a chart of accounts as well as AOS Bulletin 2011-004 for guidance on GASB 54.

Officials' Response:

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



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

BENTON TOWNSHIP

PAULDING 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
OCTOBER 10, 2017**