



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Cherry Valley Township
Ashtabula County
4045 Russell Road
Dorset, Ohio 44032

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Cherry Valley Township, Ashtabula County¹, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

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 Government'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 Government's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

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

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the Government 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 these requirements.

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

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Government as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, 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 Cherry Valley Township, Ashtabula County as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, 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

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, during 2012, the Township adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Balance Type Definitions*. 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 October 6, 2014, 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

October 6, 2014

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$35,083	\$65,723	\$100,806
Licenses, Permits and Fees	90	3,049	3,139
Intergovernmental	9,027	102,707	111,734
Earnings on Investments	84	20	104
Miscellaneous	7,717	930	8,647
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>52,001</u>	<u>172,429</u>	<u>224,430</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	37,807	4,320	42,127
Public Safety		48,552	48,552
Public Works		106,755	106,755
Health	7,783	4,828	12,611
Conservation-Recreation	1,539		1,539
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement		2,467	2,467
Interest and Fiscal Charges		2,280	2,280
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>47,129</u>	<u>169,202</u>	<u>216,331</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	4,872	3,227	8,099
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>3,655</u>	<u>57,010</u>	<u>60,665</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted		59,755	59,755
Assigned		482	482
Unassigned (Deficit)	8,527		8,527
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$8,527</u></u>	<u><u>\$60,237</u></u>	<u><u>\$68,764</u></u>

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

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$34,395	\$57,121	\$91,516
Licenses, Permits and Fees	525	3,545	4,070
Intergovernmental	9,821	106,266	116,087
Earnings on Investments	89	20	109
Miscellaneous	2,535	1,286	3,821
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>47,365</u>	<u>168,238</u>	<u>215,603</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	36,548	6,307	42,855
Public Safety		38,517	38,517
Public Works		118,802	118,802
Health	7,742	4,363	12,105
Conservation-Recreation	1,447		1,447
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement		2,341	2,341
Interest and Fiscal Charges		2,406	2,406
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>45,737</u>	<u>172,736</u>	<u>218,473</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	1,628	(4,498)	(2,870)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>2,027</u>	<u>61,508</u>	<u>63,535</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted		54,838	54,838
Assigned		2,172	2,172
Unassigned (Deficit)	3,655		3,655
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$3,655</u></u>	<u><u>\$57,010</u></u>	<u><u>\$60,665</u></u>

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

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012**

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 Cherry Valley Township, Ashtabula County, (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 Dorset and Wayne Townships to provide fire services and Community Care Ambulance Services, to provide ambulance services.

The Township participates in public entity risk pool and is associated with a related organization. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio Townships.

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

B. Accounting Basis

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

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

C. Deposits and Investments

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

D. Fund Accounting

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

1. General Fund

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

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds

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

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

Fire Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire services for Township residents.

Ambulance Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide emergency services for Township residents.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

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

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2013 and 2012 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(Continued)

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 Township must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

1. Nonspendable

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

2. Restricted

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

3. Committed

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

4. Assigned

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

5. Unassigned

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

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

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

G. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

H. Accumulated Leave

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

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits and Investments

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

	2013	2012
Demand deposits	\$68,764	\$60,665

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, 2013 and 2012 follows:

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$46,266	\$52,001	\$5,735
Special Revenue	170,460	172,429	1,969
Total	\$216,726	\$224,430	\$7,704

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$49,917	\$47,129	\$2,788
Special Revenue	190,495	169,202	21,293
Total	\$240,412	\$216,331	\$24,081

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(Continued)**

3. Budgetary Activity (continued)

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$45,981	\$47,365	\$1,384
Special Revenue	164,339	168,238	3,899
Total	\$210,320	\$215,603	\$5,283

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$48,002	\$45,737	\$2,265
Special Revenue	189,626	172,736	16,890
Total	\$237,628	\$218,473	\$19,155

4. Property Tax

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

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

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

5. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2013 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Notes	44,262	5%
Total	\$44,262	

The Township issued general obligation notes to finance construction of the Township garage. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the notes.

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(Continued)**

5. Debt (continued)

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

Year ending December 31:	General Obligation Notes
2014	\$4,747
2015	4,747
2016	4,747
2017	4,747
2018	4,747
2019-2023	23,736
2024-2026	12,263
Total	<u>\$59,734</u>

6. Retirement Systems

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2013 and 2012, OPERS members contributed \$6,014 and \$5,805, respectively, 10% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling \$8,419 and \$8,128, respectively, 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2013.

7. Risk Management

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

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

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

Casualty and Property Coverage

The Pool is a member of American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by York. APEEP provides the Pool with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement,

**CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012
(Continued)**

7. Risk Management (continued)

OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2013, OTARMA retained \$350,000 for casualty claims and \$250,000 for property claims.

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

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2013 and 2012 (the latest information available):

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Assets	\$34,954,286	\$34,771,270
Liabilities	8,486,363	9,355,082
Net Position	\$26,467,923	\$25,416,188

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$7.9 and \$8.7 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.4 and \$7.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 948 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2013, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$2,000.

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

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
\$3,597	\$3,579

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

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Cherry Valley Township
Ashtabula County
4045 Russell Road
Dorset, Ohio 44032

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 Cherry Valley Township, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated October 6, 2014 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. We also noted the Township adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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

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

Dave Yost
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 6, 2014



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

CHERRY VALLEY TOWNSHIP

ASHTABULA 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 21, 2014**