

***BUFFALO TOWNSHIP***  
**NOBLE COUNTY**

**Audit Report**

**Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**







# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees  
Buffalo Township  
57036 SR 147  
Quaker City, Ohio 43773

We have reviewed the *Report of Independent Accountants* of Buffalo Township, Noble County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. 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. Buffalo Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost  
Auditor of State

November 10, 2015

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***BUFFALO TOWNSHIP***  
**NOBLE COUNTY**  
**Audit Report**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013**

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Rockefeller Building  
614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242  
Cleveland OH 44113-1306  
Office phone - (216) 575-1630  
Fax - (216) 436-2411

***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc***  
*Certified Public Accountants*

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

Buffalo Township  
Noble County  
57036 SR 147  
Quaker City, Ohio 43773

To the Board of Trustees:

***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Buffalo Township, Noble County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

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

***Auditor's Responsibility***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles***

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

***Basis for Adverse Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting***

During a prior audit for the period from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008, the Township improperly paid salaries for Trustees from the Gasoline Tax Fund, Special Revenue Fund type, in the amount of \$7,776 that should have been paid from the General Fund, in the amount of \$7,776. The Township declined to make this adjustment.

During a prior audit for the period from January 1 2009 to December 31, 2010, the Township paid employees \$3,195 from the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund, \$150 from the Permissive License Tax Fund and \$7,751 from the Gasoline Tax Fund, Special Revenue Fund types instead of the General Fund, in the amount of \$11,096 for mowing of cemeteries within the Township and charging road funds and the improper allocation of Trustee salaries and fringes to Gasoline Tax Fund instead of General Fund. The Township declined to make this adjustment.

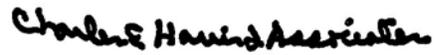
During a prior audit for the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012, the Township paid for mowing of cemeteries from Gasoline Tax and Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund in the amounts of \$3,282 and \$3,789, respectively, improperly allocated Fiscal Officer and Trustee salaries to the Gasoline Tax Fund, in the amount of \$4,843 instead of posting these expenditures to the General Fund, in the amount of \$11,914. Also, the Township posted rollback/homestead receipts to the Gasoline Tax Fund, in the amount of \$1,388 instead of to the General Fund. The Township declined to make these adjustments.

***Adverse Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in all material respects, the combined cash balances of Buffalo Township, Noble as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 1.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 28, 2015, 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.



***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
July 28, 2015

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP**  
Noble County, Ohio  
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements  
and Changes in Fund Balances  
All Governmental Fund Types  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 20,843	\$ 10,296	\$ 31,139
Intergovernmental	12,185	97,820	110,005
Earnings on Investments	23	21	44
Miscellaneous	-	236	236
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>33,051</u>	<u>108,373</u>	<u>141,424</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	21,863	-	21,863
Public Safety	-	2,201	2,201
Public Works	-	100,959	100,959
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	10,423	10,423
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	571	571
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>21,863</u>	<u>114,154</u>	<u>136,017</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	11,188	(5,781)	5,407
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>35,494</u>	<u>87,542</u>	<u>123,036</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>			
Restricted	-	81,761	81,761
Unassigned	46,682	-	46,682
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 46,682</u>	<u>\$ 81,761</u>	<u>\$ 128,443</u>

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

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP**  
Noble County, Ohio  
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements  
and Changes in Fund Balances  
All Governmental Fund Types  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 18,427	\$ 9,798	\$ 28,225
Intergovernmental	5,622	101,130	106,752
Earnings on Investments	24	29	53
Miscellaneous	2,759	155	2,914
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>26,832</u>	<u>111,112</u>	<u>137,944</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
General Government	29,370	-	29,370
Public Safety	-	1,997	1,997
Public Works	-	120,060	120,060
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	9,941	9,941
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	1,053	1,053
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>29,370</u>	<u>133,051</u>	<u>162,421</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(2,538)	(21,939)	(24,477)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>38,032</u>	<u>109,481</u>	<u>147,513</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>			
Restricted	-	87,542	87,542
Unassigned	35,494	-	35,494
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 35,494</u>	<u>\$ 87,542</u>	<u>\$ 123,036</u>

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

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

**1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**A. Description of the Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Buffalo Township, Noble 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 Villages of Belle Valley, Caldwell, Pleasant City, and Senecaville to provide fire and emergency medical services.

Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for these entity.

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

**B. Accounting Basis**

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

**C. Deposits and Investments**

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

**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.

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

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

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

**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 unencumbered 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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

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

**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:

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

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

**F. Fund Balance – (Continued)**

**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.

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

**2. Equity in Pooled Deposits and Investments**

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:

	2014	2013
Demand deposits	\$128,443	\$123,036

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation;

**3. Budgetary Activity**

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

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 26,621	\$ 33,051	\$ 6,430
Special Revenue	105,590	108,373	2,783

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$62,115	\$21,863	\$40,252
Special Revenue	193,132	114,154	78,978

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$22,360	\$26,832	\$4,472
Special Revenue	103,960	111,112	7,152

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

**3. Budgetary Activity – (Continued)**

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$60,392	\$29,370	\$31,022
Special Revenue	213,441	133,051	80,390

**4. Property Tax**

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

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

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

**5. Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
General Obligation Note	\$6,325	4.75%

The Township issued a general obligation note to finance the purchase of a tractor to be used for Township maintenance.

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

	General Obligation Notes
Year ending December 31: 2015	\$ 6,413
Total	\$ 6,413

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

**6. Retirement Systems**

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2014 and 2013, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2014.

**7. Risk Management**

The Township 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), 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, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2014, 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.

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

**7. Risk Management – (Continued)**

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 2014:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets	\$34,954,286	\$35,970,263
Liabilities	8,486,363	8,912,432
Net Position	\$26,467,923	\$27,057,831

At December 31, 2013 and 2014, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$7.9 and \$8.2 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.4 and \$7.2 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 957 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2013 and 2014, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2014, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$ 1,700.

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>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
\$ 3,057	\$ 3,108

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.

Rockefeller Building  
614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242  
Cleveland OH 44113-1306  
Office phone - (216) 575-1630  
Fax - (216) 436-2411

***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
*Certified Public Accountants*

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

Buffalo Township  
Noble County  
51746 Old Infirmary Road  
Pleasant City, Ohio 43772

To the Board of Directors:

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 Buffalo Township, Noble County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 28, 2015, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permits. We issued an adverse opinion on the 2013 and 2014 financial statements due to the Township declining to make adjustments for mispostings.

***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 a combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. 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***

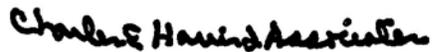
As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial 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 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 2014-001.

***Entity's Response to Finding***

The Township's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the Township'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 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.



***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
July 28, 2015

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

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

**Noncompliance Citation**

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) states that no subdivision shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer of the subdivision. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet such a commitment has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certification should be null and void.

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

2. **Blanket Certificate** - Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not exceeding an amount established by resolution adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account and cannot extend beyond the end of the fiscal year. The blanket certificate may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.

3. **Super Blanket Certificate** – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification 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 Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 90 percent (90%) of the expenditures tested in 2014 and 2013, and there was no evidence that the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013  
(Continued)**

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

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 Township's expenditures exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Township Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Township certify purchases to which Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language Section 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Township Fiscal Officer should sign the certification prior to the Township incurring a commitment, and only when the requirements of Section 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Township Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

**Management's Response** – We did not receive a response from officials to this finding.

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP  
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i><b>Explain</b></i>
2012-001	ORC 505.24 C Payroll expenditures did not follow timesheets for Township Trustees. For the audits covering 2008-07 and 2010-09, there were Findings for Adjustment in the amounts, \$7,776 and \$2,031, respectively, against the General Fund in favor of the Gasoline Tax Fund, Special Revenue Fund type.	Yes	Corrected but prior audit Finding for Adjustments have not been made to the accounting system by the Township.
2012-002	ORC 5705.27(A)(5)(d) expenditures made from improper funds. For audit covering 2010-09, there were Findings for Adjustment, in the amount of \$3,645, against the General Fund in favor of the Special Revenue Fund types, Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund of \$3,195, Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund of \$150 and Gasoline Tax Fund of \$300.	Yes	Corrected but prior audit Finding for Adjustments have not been made to the accounting system by the Township.
2012-003	ORC 5705.27(A)(5)(d) employee fringe benefits allocated to improper fund. For audit covering 2010-09, there were Findings for Adjustment, in the amount of \$5,420 against the General Fund in favor of the Gasoline Tax Fund, Special Revenue Fund type.	Yes	Corrected but prior audit Finding for Adjustments have not been made to the accounting system by the Township.
2012-004	Fiscal officer prepared monthly reconciliations that contained unsupported reconciling items	Yes	Corrected
2012-005	ORC 5705.41(D) for not obtaining fiscal officer's prior certification prior to making a purchase commitment	No	Not Corrected; Repeated as Finding 2014-001.



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**BUFFALO TOWNSHIP**

**NOBLE 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  
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**