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Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY
Regular Audit**

For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

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- Association of Certified Anti - Money Laundering Specialists •



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Clear Creek Township
PO Box 82
Savannah, OH 44874

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Clear Creek Township, Ashland County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., 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. Clear Creek 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

December 2, 2015

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CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

August 31, 2015

Clear Creek Township
Ashland County
PO Box 82
Savannah, Ohio 44874

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of **Clear Creek Township**, Ashland 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 opinion.

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

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

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

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

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

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

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined cash balances of Clear Creek Township, Ashland County 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 1B.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 31, 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.



Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 36,072	\$ 72,406	\$ -	\$ 108,478
Charges for Services	2,450	6,100	-	8,550
Intergovernmental	19,332	106,036	-	125,368
Earnings on Investments	8	-	-	8
Miscellaneous	16,434	4,661	-	21,095
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>74,296</u>	<u>189,203</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>263,499</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	74,051	-	-	74,051
Public Works	-	162,195	-	162,195
Health	-	8,968	-	8,968
Capital Outlay	-	15,291	-	15,291
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>74,051</u>	<u>186,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>260,505</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements</i>	245	2,749	-	2,994
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Advances In	2,500	2,500	-	5,000
Advances Out	(2,500)	(2,500)	-	(5,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	245	2,749	-	2,994
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>28,865</u>	<u>41,353</u>	<u>2,569</u>	<u>72,787</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Nonspendable	-	-	2,569	2,569
Restricted	-	44,102	-	44,102
Unassigned	29,110	-	-	29,110
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 29,110</u>	<u>\$ 44,102</u>	<u>\$ 2,569</u>	<u>\$ 75,781</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 38,383	\$ 75,781	\$ -	\$ 114,164
Charges for Services	3,825	5,200	-	9,025
Intergovernmental	17,653	95,224	-	112,877
Earnings on Investments	8	-	-	8
Miscellaneous	9,979	4,275	-	14,254
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>69,848</u>	<u>180,480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>250,328</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	76,648	-	-	76,648
Public Works	-	151,089	-	151,089
Health	-	7,839	-	7,839
Capital Outlay	-	7,833	-	7,833
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>76,648</u>	<u>166,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,409</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(6,800)	13,719	-	6,919
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated - See Note 8)</i>	<u>35,665</u>	<u>27,634</u>	<u>2,569</u>	<u>65,868</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Nonspendable	-	-	2,569	2,569
Restricted	-	41,353	-	41,353
Unassigned	28,865	-	-	28,865
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 28,865</u>	<u>\$ 41,353</u>	<u>\$ 2,569</u>	<u>\$ 72,787</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the Financial Statements.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED 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 Clear Creek Township, Ashland 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, and cemetery maintenance.

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for that entity.

Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) is 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 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 investments purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

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.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED 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.

3. Permanent Funds

This fund accounts for and reports resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the Township's programs (for the benefit of the Township or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant Permanent Fund:

Cemetery Bequest Fund – This fund received interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a donation. These earnings are used for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

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 cancelled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio Law.

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

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(CONTINUED)**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

F. Fund Balance (Continued)

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

1. Nonspendable

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

2. Restricted

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

3. Committed

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

4. Assigned

Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amount 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.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED 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.

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:

	2014	2013
Demand deposits	\$ 68,093	\$ 65,102
Total deposits	68,093	65,102
STAR Ohio	7,688	7,685
Total investments	7,688	7,685
Total deposits and investments	\$ 75,781	\$ 72,787

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

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

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

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

Fund Type	2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		Variance
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	
General	\$ 64,022	\$ 74,296	\$ 10,274
Special Revenue	180,631	189,203	8,572
Total	\$ 244,653	\$ 263,499	\$ 18,846

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(CONTINUED)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY (Continued)

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 83,737	\$ 74,051	\$ 9,686
Special Revenue	204,210	186,454	17,756
Total	\$ 287,947	\$ 260,505	\$ 27,442

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 63,576	\$ 69,848	\$ 6,272
Special Revenue	180,402	180,480	78
Total	\$ 243,978	\$ 250,328	\$ 6,350

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 87,237	\$ 76,648	\$ 10,589
Special Revenue	200,250	166,761	33,489
Total	\$ 287,487	\$ 243,409	\$ 44,078

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.

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multi-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which includes 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.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(CONTINUED)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
(CONTINUED)**

8. PRIOR PERIOD FUND BALANCE ADJUSTMENTS

The Township restated its January 1, 2013 fund balance to properly account for checks returned due to insufficient funds for townhall rentals and penalties carried forward for several years. The impact of the adjustments on the beginning fund balance was as follows:

	<u>General</u>
Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$ 36,295
NSF Townhall Rentals and penalties	<u>(630)</u>
Adjusted January 1, 2013 Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 35,665</u></u>



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

August 31, 2015

Clear Creek Township
Ashland County
PO Box 82
Savannah, OH 44874

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 **Clear Creek Township**, Ashland 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 August 31, 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) 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings we identified a certain deficiency in internal control over financial reporting, that we consider a material weakness.

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. We consider finding 2014-001 described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings to be a material weakness.

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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 instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as items 2014-001 and 2014-002.

We also noted a certain matter not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated August 31, 2015.

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.



Perry and Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2014-001

Material Weakness/Noncompliance

Fund Type Classification

Fund types should be properly classified based on Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54.

Fund types classifications were not always posted or classified correctly. The following error was noted:

- Fund activity for the Cemetery Bequest Fund was recorded as a Special Revenue Fund instead of as a Permanent Fund.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such a review should include procedures to ensure that all fund balances are properly identified and classified on the financial statements. The financial statements reflect all fund type reclassifications.

We recommend the Fiscal Officer refer to the Auditor of State Technical Bulletin 2011-004 to determine proper classification of fund types.

Officials' Response: Officials did not provide a response to this finding.

FINDING NUMBER 2014-002

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code §5705.41(D)(1) states that no subdivision shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money 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 encumbrance. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certification shall 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 the sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

**CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP
ASHLAND COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013
CONTINUED**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2014-002 (Continued)

A. "Then and Now" Certificate - If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time 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 ordinance or resolution. Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without resolution or ordinance 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.

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

C. Super Blanket Certificate - The Township may also make expenditures and contract 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. The certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any one line item appropriation.

The Township did not properly encumber six of twelve (50%) and six of thirteen (46%) expenditures tested for 2014 and 2013, respectively. The failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

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 funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Township's Fiscal Officer should certify that funds are or will be available prior to the obligation. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification may be used, if appropriate.

The Township should implement procedures to provide that all purchases that require prior certification are properly encumbered or meet one of the exceptions noted above. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time a commitment is incurred and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied.

Officials' Response: Officials did not provide a response to this finding.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

CLEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP

ASHLAND 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
DECEMBER 15, 2015**