

NOBLE TOWNSHIP
NOBLE COUNTY

Audit Report

Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013





Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Noble Township
14453 County Road 12
Ava, Ohio 43711

We have reviewed the *Report of Independent Accountants* of Noble 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. Noble 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 9, 2015

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

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Noble Township
Noble County
14453 County Road 12
Ava, Ohio 43711

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Noble 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 of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D); 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, to satisfy requirements.

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

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 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 Noble Township, Noble 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) permits, 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 24, 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 24, 2015

NOBLE 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)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 30,547	\$ 42,324	\$ 72,871
Charges for Services	-	2,750	2,750
Intergovernmental	11,213	127,536	138,749
Earnings on Investments	30	11	41
Miscellaneous	1,171	493	1,664
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>42,961</u>	<u>173,114</u>	<u>216,075</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	33,650	4,335	37,985
Public Safety	2,843	24,552	27,395
Public Works	7,500	112,164	119,664
Health	-	16,395	16,395
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	5,384	5,384
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	329	329
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>43,993</u>	<u>163,159</u>	<u>207,152</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(1,032)	9,955	8,923
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>26,667</u>	<u>48,226</u>	<u>74,893</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	-	58,181	58,181
Unassigned	25,635	-	25,635
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 25,635</u>	<u>\$ 58,181</u>	<u>\$ 83,816</u>

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

NOBLE 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)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 31,083	\$ 43,064	\$ 74,147
Charges for Services	-	5,450	5,450
Intergovernmental	13,707	112,254	125,961
Earnings on Investments	32	10	42
Miscellaneous	1,744	1,992	3,736
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>46,566</u>	<u>162,770</u>	<u>209,336</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	44,318	1,928	46,246
Public Safety	2,843	10,520	13,363
Public Works	10,000	117,152	127,152
Health	-	13,913	13,913
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	5,370	5,370
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	672	672
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>57,161</u>	<u>149,555</u>	<u>206,716</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(10,595)	13,215	2,620
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>37,262</u>	<u>35,011</u>	<u>72,273</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	-	48,226	48,226
Unassigned	26,667	-	26,667
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 26,667</u>	<u>\$ 48,226</u>	<u>\$ 74,893</u>

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

**NOBLE 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 the Noble 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 Belle Valley and Caldwell Volunteer fire departments to provide fire protection 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.

**NOBLE TOWNSHIP
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**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:

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – (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.

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.

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

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	\$83,816	\$74,893

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	\$38,620	\$42,961	\$4,341
Special Revenue	172,901	173,114	213

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$51,913	\$43,993	\$7,920
Special Revenue	176,874	163,159	13,715

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$35,930	\$46,566	\$10,636
Special Revenue	151,198	162,770	11,572

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$62,737	\$57,161	\$5,576
Special Revenue	151,590	149,555	2,035

**NOBLE TOWNSHIP
NOBLE COUNTY**

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

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

There is no debt outstanding at December 31, 2014.

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. (formerly 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.

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

7. Risk Management – (Continued)

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.

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

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

7. Risk Management – (Continued)

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.

8. Contingent Liabilities/Subsequent Events

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits.

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

Noble Township
Noble County
14453 County Road 12
Ava, Ohio 43711

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 Noble 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 24, 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.

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.

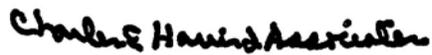
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies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



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
July 24, 2015

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

NOBLE 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 19, 2015**