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1035 Murdoch Ave.
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104 South Sugar St.
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Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY
Regular Audit**

For the Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Liberty Township
7277 N. State Route 134
Wilmington, OH 45177

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Liberty Township, Clinton County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. 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. Liberty 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

August 24, 2016

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LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

June 24, 2016

Liberty Township
Clinton County
7277 N State Route 134
Wilmington, OH 45177

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of **Liberty Township**, Clinton County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

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 controls 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.



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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 Liberty Township, Clinton County as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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 Liberty Township, Clinton County as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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 June 24, 2016, 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

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

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

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 97,000	\$ 113,058	\$ -	\$ 210,058
Charges for Services	-	1,400	-	1,400
Licenses, Permits and Fees	-	7,124	-	7,124
Intergovernmental	18,717	121,084	-	139,801
Special Assessments	-	995	-	995
Earnings on Investments	354	140	-	494
Miscellaneous	440	3,900	-	4,340
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>116,511</u>	<u>247,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>364,212</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	89,399	-	-	89,399
Public Safety	-	11,668	-	11,668
Public Works	-	177,595	-	177,595
Health	-	1,725	-	1,725
Capital Outlay	1,950	7,568	5,367	14,885
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>91,349</u>	<u>198,556</u>	<u>5,367</u>	<u>295,272</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	25,162	49,145	(5,367)	68,940
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>103,677</u>	<u>237,613</u>	<u>5,367</u>	<u>346,657</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted	-	286,758	-	286,758
Assigned	209	-	-	209
Unassigned	128,630	-	-	128,630
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 128,839</u>	<u>\$ 286,758</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 415,597</u>

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

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY

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

	Fiduciary Fund Type
	Private Purpose Trust
Operating Cash Receipts	
Earnings on Investments	\$ 3
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	3
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Other	-
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	3
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	1,745
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	\$ 1,748

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

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON 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	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 94,376	\$ 100,740	\$ -	\$ 195,116
Charges for Services	-	3,300	-	3,300
Licenses, Permits and Fees	-	6,580	-	6,580
Intergovernmental	7,814	110,580	-	118,394
Special Assessments	-	1,307	-	1,307
Earnings on Investments	203	88	-	291
Miscellaneous	1,944	2,300	-	4,244
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>104,337</u>	<u>224,895</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>329,232</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	93,722	-	-	93,722
Public Safety	-	3,609	-	3,609
Public Works	16,958	171,363	-	188,321
Health	-	4,661	-	4,661
Capital Outlay	258	32,601	-	32,859
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>110,938</u>	<u>212,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>323,172</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(6,601)	12,661	-	6,060
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>110,278</u>	<u>224,952</u>	<u>5,367</u>	<u>340,597</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted	-	237,613	5,367	242,980
Unassigned	103,677	-	-	103,677
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 103,677</u>	<u>\$ 237,613</u>	<u>\$ 5,367</u>	<u>\$ 346,657</u>

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

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	<u>Fiduciary Fund Type</u>
	<u>Private Purpose Trust</u>
Operating Cash Receipts	
Earnings on Investments	<u>\$ -</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>-</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Other	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	-
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,745</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,745</u></u>

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

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

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 Liberty Township, Clinton 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 contracts with the Village of Port William to provide fire and emergency medical services.

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool and is associated with a related organization. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. This organization is:

Public Entity Risk Pool:

OTARMA – 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 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.

The Township values Certificates of Deposit at cost. Money market mutual funds 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:

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

1. General Fund

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

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. Capital Project Funds

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

Permanent Improvement Fund – This fund holds the proceeds from the sale of their Township building in 2004.

4. Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds and agency funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments which are not available to support the Township's own programs.

The Township's private purpose trust fund is to be expended for the maintenance and upkeep of the Elisha Perrin lot in the Port William 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.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process (Continued)

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

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

A summary of 2015 and 2014 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:

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.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

F. Fund Balance (Continued)

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.

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:

	2015	2014
Demand deposits	\$ 415,945	\$ 347,002
Certificates of deposit	1,400	1,400
Total deposits	<u>\$ 417,345</u>	<u>\$ 348,402</u>

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

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2014 follows:

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 92,900	\$ 116,511	\$ 23,611
Special Revenue	212,309	247,701	35,392
Total	\$ 305,209	\$ 364,212	\$ 59,003

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 118,753	\$ 91,349	\$ 27,404
Special Revenue	315,507	198,556	116,951
Capital Projects	5,367	5,367	-
Total	\$ 439,627	\$ 295,272	\$ 144,355

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 78,900	\$ 104,337	\$ 25,437
Special Revenue	192,900	224,895	31,995
Total	\$ 271,800	\$ 329,232	\$ 57,432

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 132,719	\$ 110,938	\$ 21,781
Special Revenue	339,062	212,234	126,828
Total	\$ 471,781	\$ 323,172	\$ 148,609

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.

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's elected officials and 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 2015 and 2014, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2015.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

Casualty and Property Coverage

The Pool is a member of American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by York. APEEP provides the Pool with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2015, 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, 2015 and 2014:

**LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets	\$37,313,311	\$35,970,263
Liabilities	8,418,518	8,912,432
Net Position	\$28,894,793	\$27,057,831

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$7.8 and \$8.2 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.7 and \$7.2 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 989 members and 957 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2015 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, 2015, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$3,000.

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

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>	
<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
\$5,326	\$5,176

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



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

June 24, 2016

Liberty Township
Clinton County
7277 N State Route 134
Wilmington, OH 45177

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type of **Liberty Township**, Clinton County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 24, 2016, 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 opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

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

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



...“bringing more to the table”

Tax- Accounting – Audit – Review – Compilation – Agreed Upon Procedure – Consultation – Bookkeeping – Payroll
Litigation Support – Financial Investigations

Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

• Ohio Society of CPAs • West Virginia Society of CPAs • Association of Certified Fraud Examiners •

• Association of Certified Anti - Money Laundering Specialists •



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 matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2015-001.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 24, 2016.

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

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

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

FINDING NUMBER 2015-001

Noncompliance

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the Fiscal Officer is attached thereto. The Fiscal Officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

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 taxing authority (Township Trustees) can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The taxing authority has thirty days from the 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 a 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.
2. Blanket Certificate – The Fiscal Officer may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of 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 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.

56% of the disbursements tested in 2015 and 32% of disbursements tested in 2014 were not certified by the Fiscal Officer at the time the commitment was incurred 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.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)

FINDING NUMBER 2015-001 (Continued)

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

Management's Response – We did not receive a response from management to the finding above.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP

CLINTON 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
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**