



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Change in Fund Balance (Cash Basis) – General Fund - For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013	3
Notes to the Financial Statement.....	5
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	9
Schedule of Findings	11

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Tri-Community Joint Fire District
Huron County
49 Main Street
Greenwich, Ohio 44837-1145

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting this financial statement 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 this financial statement 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 statement is 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 District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

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

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the District prepared this financial statement 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 statement of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the District does not intend this statement 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 statement referred to above does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District 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 statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances of Tri- Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, Ohio as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and its cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 28, 2016, on our consideration of the District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

January 28, 2016

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE (CASH BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

	2014	2013
Cash Receipts:		
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$118,673	\$116,234
Intergovernmental	26,868	17,831
Earnings on Investments	157	157
Miscellaneous	4,484	100
	<u>150,182</u>	<u>134,322</u>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>		
Cash Disbursements:		
Current Disbursements:		
General Government	72,939	80,139
Capital Outlay	59,745	21,838
Debt Service:		
Principal Retirement		26,593
Interest and Fiscal Charges		903
	<u>132,684</u>	<u>129,473</u>
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>		
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balance</i>	17,498	4,849
<i>Fund Cash Balance, January 1</i>	<u>177,250</u>	<u>172,401</u>
Fund Cash Balance, December 31		
Assigned	138,307	66,776
Unassigned	56,441	110,474
	<u>194,748</u>	<u>177,250</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balance, December 31</i>	<u>\$194,748</u>	<u>\$177,250</u>

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

This page intentionally left blank.

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
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 Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are the Village of Greenwich, Greenwich Township, and Ripley Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

The District's management believes this financial statement presents all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

This financial statement follows 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 District 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).

This statement includes 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. Fund Accounting

The District uses one fund and classifies it as the General Fund. It presents all financial resources of the District.

D. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to budget its fund 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. Unencumbered 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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

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.

E. Fund Balance

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

1. Nonspendable

The District 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 District 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 the Board of Trustees or a District 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 District 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.

F. Property, Plant, and Equipment

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

The District records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does not report these items as assets.

2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS

The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2014	2013
Demand deposits	\$194,748	\$177,250

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	\$131,786	\$150,182	\$18,396

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$196,281	\$133,754	\$62,527

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$131,094	\$134,322	\$3,228

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$300,144	\$131,754	\$168,390

4. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statement includes 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 District.

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

A. Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The District's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include 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 District contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2014.

B. Social Security System

Effective May 4, 1992, all volunteer Fire Fighters hired after this date contribute to Social Security. The District's liability is 6.2% of wages paid.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Tri-Community Joint Fire District
Huron County
49 Main Street
Greenwich, Ohio 44837-1145

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 statement of the cash balance, receipts, and disbursements of Tri-Community Joint Fire District, Huron County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated January 28, 2016 wherein we noted the District 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 District'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 statement, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the District'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 District's financial statement. 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. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2014-001 to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statement is 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*.

Entity's Response to Findings

The District's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

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



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

January 28, 2016

**TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HURON COUNTY**

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

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

FINDING NUMBER 2014-001

Material Weakness – Financial Reporting

We identified the following errors requiring adjustment to the financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2014:

- Intergovernmental receipts in the amount of \$8,361 were reclassified from property and other local taxes in order to properly account for commercial activity tax receipts; and
- Fund Balance in the amount of \$194,748 was reclassified from restricted to assigned (\$138,307) and unassigned (\$56,441) in accordance with GASB 54.

We identified the following errors requiring adjustment to the financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2013:

- Intergovernmental receipts in the amount of \$8,361 were reclassified from property and other local taxes in order to properly account for commercial activity tax receipts;
- Principal (\$12,845) and Interest (\$903) payments were incorrectly classified as capital outlay disbursements; and
- Fund Balance in the amount of \$177,250 was reclassified from restricted to assigned (\$66,776) and unassigned (\$110,474) in accordance with GASB 54.

These errors were not identified and corrected prior to the audit due to deficiencies in the District's internal controls over financial statement monitoring. The accompanying financial statement, and where applicable, the District's accounting records have been adjusted to reflect these changes. Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Fiscal Officer and the Board of Trustees and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statement and accompanying notes is complete and accurate.

To ensure the District's financial statement and notes to the statement are complete and accurate, the District should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the statement and notes by the Fiscal Officer, to identify and correct errors and omissions.

Officials' Response:

The Fiscal Officer will ensure proper recording and classification of transactions.

This page intentionally left blank.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

TRI-COMMUNITY JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

HURON 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
MARCH 1, 2016**