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1310 Market Street, Suite 300
Wheeling, WV 26003
304.232.1358



Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

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ASHTABULA COUNTY
Regular Audit**

For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Dorset Township
2561 State Route 193
Dorset, Ohio 44032

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Dorset Township, Ashtabula County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016. 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. Dorset Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

June 5, 2017

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DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2016	3
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2015	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	12
Schedule of Audit Findings	14

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

April 26, 2017

Dorset Township
Ashtabula County
2561 State Route 193
Dorset, Ohio 44032

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 **Dorset Township**, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

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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 the 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, 2016 and 2015, 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 Dorset Township, Ashtabula County as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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 April 26, 2017, 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

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 44,380	\$ 55,189	\$ 99,569
Charges for Services	-	10,000	10,000
Licenses, Permits and Fees	377	-	377
Intergovernmental	16,139	111,394	127,533
Earnings on Investments	344	344	688
Miscellaneous	4,399	4,612	9,011
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	65,639	181,539	247,178
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	57,390	1,902	59,292
Public Safety	240	42,235	42,475
Public Works	-	19,971	19,971
Health	8,313	6,171	14,484
Human Services	-	8,211	8,211
Other	-	9,416	9,416
Capital Outlay	11,023	55,379	66,402
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	76,966	143,285	220,251
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	(11,327)	38,254	26,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In	-	4,600	4,600
Transfers Out	(4,600)	-	(4,600)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	(4,600)	4,600	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(15,927)	42,854	26,927
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	19,615	508,352	527,967
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	-	551,206	551,206
Assigned	3,538	-	3,538
Unassigned	150	-	150
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 3,688</u>	<u>\$ 551,206</u>	<u>\$ 554,894</u>

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

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA 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	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 44,389	\$ 55,920	\$ 100,309
Charges for Services	-	10,000	10,000
Licenses, Permits and Fees	297	-	297
Intergovernmental	19,202	121,179	140,381
Earnings on Investments	331	331	662
Miscellaneous	5,471	5,152	10,623
	<u>69,690</u>	<u>192,582</u>	<u>262,272</u>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>			
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	50,309	-	50,309
Public Safety	240	29,671	29,911
Public Works	-	34,263	34,263
Health	8,375	5,309	13,684
Human Services	-	7,443	7,443
Other	-	4,651	4,651
Capital Outlay	8,360	46,761	55,121
	<u>67,284</u>	<u>128,098</u>	<u>195,382</u>
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>			
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	2,406	64,484	66,890
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In	-	6,900	6,900
Transfers Out	(6,900)	-	(6,900)
	<u>(6,900)</u>	<u>6,900</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>			
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(4,494)	71,384	66,890
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>24,109</u>	<u>436,968</u>	<u>461,077</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	-	508,352	508,352
Assigned	18,114	-	18,114
Unassigned	1,501	-	1,501
	<u>19,615</u>	<u>508,352</u>	<u>527,967</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>			

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

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

1. REPORTING ENTITY

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Dorset Township, Ashtabula County, Ohio (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, and fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with Cherry Valley Township to provide fire services.

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

B. Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

1. General Fund

The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

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:

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

Fire Fund – This fund receives property tax money for maintenance and repair of buildings, utilities, trucks and emergency equipment within the Township.

C. Basis of Accounting

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

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015
(CONTINUED)**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Basis of Accounting (Continued)

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.

D. 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. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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 canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2016 and 2015 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

E. 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 invests all available funds in an interest-bearing checking account and money market bank account.

F. Capital Assets

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015
(CONTINUED)**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

G. 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 classified 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 funds 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.

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015
(CONTINUED)**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2016 and 2015 follows:

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 67,000	\$ 65,639	\$ (1,361)
Special Revenue	173,426	186,139	12,713
Total	\$ 240,426	\$ 251,778	\$ 11,352

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 85,114	\$ 81,566	\$ 3,548
Special Revenue	400,589	143,285	257,304
Total	\$ 485,703	\$ 224,851	\$ 260,852

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 68,887	\$ 69,690	\$ 803
Special Revenue	165,200	199,482	34,282
Total	\$ 234,087	\$ 269,172	\$ 35,085

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 92,077	\$ 74,184	\$ 17,893
Special Revenue	358,000	128,098	229,902
Total	\$ 450,077	\$ 202,282	\$ 247,795

4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Township maintains a deposit pool that 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:

	2016	2015
Demand Deposits	\$ 402,010	\$ 401,407
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	152,884	126,560
Total Deposits	\$ 554,894	\$ 527,967

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

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015
(CONTINUED)**

5. PROPERTY TAXES

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.

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.

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015
(CONTINUED)**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2015 and 2014 (the latest information available):

	<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, 2016, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$7,000.

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>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$ 13,854	\$ 13,868

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.

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015
(CONTINUED)**

7. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some elected officials and employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is 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 2016 and 2015, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equal to 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2016. The Fiscal Officer and all Trustees in 2015 and the Fiscal Officer and 2 Trustees in 2016 did not participate in either OPERS or Social Security.

8. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

9. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. 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.



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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**

April 26, 2017

Dorset Township
Ashtabula County
2561 State Route 193
Dorset, Ohio 44032

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 **Dorset Township**, Ashtabula County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 26, 2017, 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.

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 internal control deficiencies 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 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. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings that we consider material weaknesses. We consider findings 2016-001 through 2016-002 to be material weaknesses.

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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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2016-003.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated April 26, 2017.

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

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2016-001

Material Weakness

Posting Receipts, Disbursements and Fund Balance Classification

The Township should have procedures and controls in place to prevent and detect errors in financial reporting. Fund balances should be properly classified based on Governmental Accounting Standards Statement No. 54 – Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions.

During 2016 and 2015, receipts, disbursements and fund balances were not always posted or classified correctly. The following errors were noted:

- Homestead rollback receipts were recorded as Property and Other Local Taxes instead of Intergovernmental in the General, Road and Bridge, Fire I, Fire II, and Community Center Funds in 2016 and 2015;
- Township equipment sales were recorded as Miscellaneous receipts instead of Sale of Fixed Assets in the General Fund in 2016 and 2015;
- State Liquor Permit receipts were recorded as Licenses, Permits, and Fees instead of Intergovernmental in the General Fund in 2015;
- Ohio Department of Commerce grant was recorded as Miscellaneous receipts instead of Intergovernmental in the Fire I Fund in 2015;
- Fire Protection contract receipts were recorded as Miscellaneous receipts instead of Charges for Services in the Fire I Fund in 2016 and 2015;
- Reimbursement from Comp Dairy Farm was recorded as Intergovernmental instead of Miscellaneous receipts in the Gasoline Tax Fund in 2016;
- Transfers were recorded to General Government and offset by a posting to Transfers In in the General Fund in 2016 and 2015;
- Transfers were recorded to Miscellaneous receipts and offset by a posting to Transfers Out in the Cemetery and Street Lighting Funds in 2016;
- Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund expenditures were classified as Miscellaneous instead of Public Works in 2016 and 2015;
- Gasoline Tax Fund expenditures were classified as General Government and Miscellaneous instead of Public Works in 2016 and 2015;
- Road & Bridge Fund expenditures were classified as General Government and Miscellaneous instead of Public Works in 2016 and 2015;
- Cemetery Fund expenditures were classified as Human Services and Miscellaneous instead of Health in 2016 and 2015;
- Fire Fund expenditures were classified as Public Works instead of Public Safety in 2016 and 2015;
- Community Center Fund expenditures were classified as Miscellaneous instead of Human Services in 2016 and 2015;
- Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund expenditures were classified as Human Services instead of Public Works in 2015;
- General Fund balances were classified entirely as Unassigned when a portion should have been Assigned in 2016 and 2015;
- Special Revenue Fund balances were classified as Unassigned instead of Restricted in 2016 and 2015.

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2016-001 (Continued)

Material Weakness (Continued)

Not posting receipts and disbursements or classifying fund balances accurately resulted in the financial statements requiring adjustments and reclassifications. The Township has made all adjustments to its accounting system. The financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications.

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

We also recommend the Fiscal Officer refer to the Ohio Township Handbook for guidance to determine the proper establishment of receipt and disbursement accounts and posting of receipts and disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should refer to Auditor of State Technical Bulletin 2011-004 for assistance in properly classifying fund balances.

Management's Response – Officials did not provide a response to this finding.

FINDING NUMBER 2016-002

Material Weakness

Retirement Contributions

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) pension was not withheld from any Trustees or the Fiscal Officer's compensation during 2015 and was not withheld from two Trustees and the Fiscal Officer's compensation in 2016. Social security was not withheld from any Trustees or the Fiscal Officer's compensation during 2015 and 2016.

The Township should determine the eligibility of the Trustees and the Fiscal Officer to participate in the OPERS and begin withholding retirement contributions to the system. If it is determined that the above named individuals are exempt from participation in the OPERS, the Township should begin withholding Social Security from their pay checks. Failure to do so could result in assessment of penalties against the Township, and loss of credit towards retirement for the employees.

This matter will be referred to the IRS, State of Ohio and OPERS.

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

FINDING NUMBER 2016-003

Noncompliance

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required meeting 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.

**DORSET TOWNSHIP
ASHTABULA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2016-003 (Continued)

Noncompliance (Continued)

Only the subdivision's fiscal officer need sign the certificate. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

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 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 taxing authority.

2. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers 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 one particular line item appropriation.

3. Super Blanket Certificate – The entity 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. Only one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any one line-item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 11% (2 of 18) of the expenditures tested for 2016 and for 25% (4 of 16) of the expenditures tested for 2015.

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 an obligation being incurred 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 officials to this finding.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

DORSET TOWNSHIP

ASHTABULA 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
JUNE 20, 2017**