

***MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP***

TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO

AUDIT REPORT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015







# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees  
Mesopotamia Township  
P. O. Box 199  
Mesopotamia, Ohio 44459

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., 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. Mesopotamia 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

July 28, 2017

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**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP**  
**TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**  
**Audit Report**  
**For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015**

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Rockefeller Building  
614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242  
Cleveland OH 44113-1306  
Office phone - (216) 575-1630  
Fax - (216) 436-2411

***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
*Certified Public Accountants*

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Mesopotamia Township  
Trumbull County  
P.O. Box 199  
Mesopotamia, OH 44439

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 Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull 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.

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

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

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

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

***Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles***

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 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 Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull 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 2.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 22, 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.



***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
May 22, 2017

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP  
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 72,363	\$ 191,434	\$ -	\$ 263,797
Charges for Services	-	2,700	-	2,700
Licenses, Permits and Fees	-	1,050	-	1,050
Fines and Forfeitures	560	-	-	560
Intergovernmental	65,654	96,882	-	162,536
Earnings on Investments	51	8	-	59
Miscellaneous	1,870	15,969	-	17,839
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>140,498</u>	<u>308,043</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>448,541</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	79,697	-	-	79,697
Public Safety	-	63,740	-	63,740
Public Works	-	229,484	-	229,484
Conservation-Recreation	3,213	-	-	3,213
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>82,910</u>	<u>293,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>376,134</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	57,588	14,819	-	72,407
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>109,281</u>	<u>132,644</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>241,935</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>				
Restricted	-	147,463	10	147,473
Unassigned	166,869	-	-	166,869
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 166,869</u>	<u>\$ 147,463</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 314,342</u>

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

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP  
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 78,375	\$ 190,039	\$ -	\$ 268,414
Licenses, Permits and Fees	925	850	-	1,775
Intergovernmental	63,072	101,786	-	164,858
Earnings on Investments	44	3	-	47
Miscellaneous	4,066	8,890	-	12,956
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>146,482</u>	<u>301,568</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>448,050</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	97,289	-	-	97,289
Public Safety	100	67,123	-	67,223
Public Works	1,763	230,259	-	232,022
Health	3,031	1,980	-	5,011
Conservation-Recreation	3,446	-	-	3,446
Capital Outlay	1,072	-	-	1,072
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>106,701</u>	<u>299,362</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>406,063</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	39,781	2,206	-	41,987
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>69,500</u>	<u>130,330</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>199,840</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>				
Restricted	-	132,536	10	132,546
Assigned	631	-	-	631
Unassigned	108,650	-	-	108,650
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 109,281</u>	<u>\$ 132,536</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 241,827</u>

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

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Farmington Township and Bristol Township to provide Paramedic / EMS ambulance services.

***Public Entity Risk Pools***

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool, an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program. 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.

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***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.

***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:

***General Fund*** The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported 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.

***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:

***Gas Tax Fund*** The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

***Road and Bridge Fund*** The road and bridge fund receives property tax money restricted for maintenance and repair of roads and bridges within the Township.

***Fire Fund*** The fire fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection to residents of the Township.

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Fund Accounting (continued)***

***Debt Service Funds*** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

***General Obligation Bond Retirement Fund*** This fund is used to account for all general obligation bond retirement, including bond principal, interest and related costs.

***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 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.

***Budgetary Process***

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

***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.

***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.

***Encumbrances*** The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

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

***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.

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***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.

***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.

***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:

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

***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.

***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.

***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. The Township may also assign fund balances as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget.

***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.

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

**Note 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	\$118,718	\$140,498	\$21,780
Special Revenue	315,802	308,043	(7,759)
Debt Service	0	0	0
2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$228,630	\$82,910	\$145,720
Special Revenue	448,335	293,224	155,111
Debt Service	10	0	10
2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$121,067	\$146,482	\$25,415
Special Revenue	311,952	301,568	(10,384)
Debt Service	0	0	0
2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$190,567	\$107,332	\$83,235
Special Revenue	442,282	300,507	141,775
Debt Service	10	0	10

**Note 4 – 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:

	2016	2015
Demand deposits	\$314,342	\$241,827

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

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

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**Note 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.

**Note 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), 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 (the latest information available):

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

**Note 6 - Risk Management (continued)**

	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
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 \$8,000.

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.

<b><u>Contributions to OTARMA</u></b>	
<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
\$15,282	\$15,118

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.

**Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

All 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 postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. 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, 2016.

**Mesopotamia Township**  
*Trumbull County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015*

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**Note 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.

**Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities**

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

**Note 10 – Prior Period Adjustment**

Voided checks caused the following restatement to the prior year fund balance:

	Special Revenue Fund
Fund cash balance, December 31, 2015	\$132,536
Adjustments	108
Fund Cash Balance January 1, 2016	<u>\$132,644</u>

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Rockefeller Building  
614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242  
Cleveland OH 44113-1306  
Office phone - (216) 575-1630  
Fax - (216) 436-2411

***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***

*Certified Public Accountants*

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

Mesopotamia Township  
Trumbull County  
P.O. Box 199  
Mesopotamia, OH 44439

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 Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull 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 May 22, 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 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 2016-001 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be a material weakness.

***Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

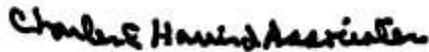
We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 22, 2017.

***Entity's Response to Finding***

The Township's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying corrective action plan. We did not audit the Township'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 Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
May 22, 2017

MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP  
TRUMBULL COUNTY

SCCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
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**

**Audit Adjustments and Reclassifications:**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54 definition of five fund balance classifications is stated in Note 2 of the report. However the Township did not properly classify its fund balances in accordance with GASB 54.

- Various Special Revenue Funds had fund balances incorrectly classified as Assigned instead of Restricted as required by GASB 54.
- The General Fund had a reserve for encumbrance outstanding for road work at the end of 2015. These were classified as unassigned versus assigned.

Also, management erroneously recorded several transactions during 2016 and 2015. The more significant adjustments are as follow:

- Recorded refunds and reimbursement receipts as other financing sources instead of miscellaneous receipts.
- Recorded grave opening and closing as miscellaneous receipts instead of charges for services .
- Recorded township hall rental receipts as miscellaneous receipts instead of licenses, permits and fees.
- Recorded grant money as miscellaneous instead of intergovernmental receipts.
- Recorded clean up expenditures as other financing uses instead of general government .
- Recorded tax collection fee expenditure as health instead of general government.

Various other immaterial posting errors were also noted and brought to the attention of management. The accompanying financial statements and the Township's records have been adjusted to properly reflect these transactions.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Township and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements is complete and accurate. We recommend the Township adopt policies and procedures to identify and correct errors and omissions in a timely manner. Management can use the Ohio Township Handbook, the Uniform Accounting Network Manual, and other Auditor of State guidance to aid in properly identifying account classifications and preparing annual financial statements.

**Management Response:**

See Corrective Action Plan

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP  
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
2014-001	Improper recording of transactions	Not corrected	Due to oversight and change of Fiscal Officer, Repeated as finding 2016-001
2014-002	Ohio Revised Code 5705.41(D) noncompliance – Purchase orders	Fully corrected	Finding no longer valid

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP  
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Planned Corrective Action</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion Date</b>	<b>Responsible Contact Person</b>
2016-001	Transactions were miscoded and will be corrected going forward.	Immediately	Judith Sly, Fiscal Officer

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP**

**TRUMBULL 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  
AUGUST 15, 2017**