



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**NORTHWEST HANCOCK JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District
Hancock County
P.O. Box 28
139 West Main Street
McComb, Ohio 45858

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying financial statement of the cash balance, receipts and disbursements, and related notes of Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District, Hancock County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016.

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 a financial statement 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 such 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 2 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, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year 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, receipts and disbursements, and related notes of Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District, Hancock County, Ohio (the District) as of December 31, 2016, for the year 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 January 4, 2018 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 4, 2018

**NORTHWEST HANCOCK JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE (CASH BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	General
Cash Receipts:	
Charges for Services	\$59,499
Miscellaneous	100
	59,599
Total Cash Receipts	59,599
Cash Disbursements:	
Public Safety	50,317
	9,282
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	9,282
Other Financing Receipts:	
Other Financing Sources	16,683
	25,965
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	25,965
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	
Assigned	25,935
Unassigned	30
	\$25,965
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$25,965

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

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District

Hancock County

Notes to the Financial Statement

For the Year Ended December 31, 2016

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District, Hancock County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A nine-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision with the District appoints three members who are residents of said subdivision. Those subdivisions are (Pleasant Township, Portage Township, and the Village of McComb). The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The District belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. Note 5 to the financial statement provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District's financial statement consists of a statement of receipts, disbursements and change in fund balance (regulatory cash basis) for the general fund.

Fund Accounting

The District uses a fund 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 fund of the District 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 District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Basis of Accounting

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 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).

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.

Budgetary Process

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

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District
Hancock County
Notes to the Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the District 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 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The District'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.

Capital Assets

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

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:

Nonspendable The District 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 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.

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 District Trustees or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District
Hancock County
Notes to the Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

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.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2016 follows:

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$76,183	\$76,282	\$99

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$76,183	\$50,317	\$25,866

Note 4 – Deposits

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

	2016
Demand deposits	\$25,965

Deposits

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

Note 5 – Risk Management

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

The District insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker’s Compensation.

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District
Hancock County
Notes to the Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

The District belongs to the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (PEP), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. PEP provides property and casualty coverage for its members. York Insurance Services Group, Inc. (York) functions as the administrator of PEP and provides underwriting, claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for PEP. PEP is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by York. Member governments pay annual contributions to fund PEP. PEP pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty and Property Coverage

APEEP provides PEP with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, PEP retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2016, PEP retained \$350,000 for casualty claims and \$100,000 for property claims.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreement does not discharge PEP's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

PEP's financial statements (audited by other auditor's) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and net position at December 31, 2016.

	<u>2016</u>
Assets	\$42,182,281
Liabilities	<u>(13,396,700)</u>
Net Position	<u>\$28,785,581</u>

At December 31, 2016 the liabilities above include approximately 12.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$11.5 million of unpaid claims to be billed. The Pool's membership increased to 520 members in 2016. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2016, the District's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$10,000.

Based on discussions with PEP, the expected rates PEP 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 PEP for each year of membership.

<u>2016 Contributions to PEP</u>
<u>\$10,755</u>

After one year of membership, a member may withdraw on the anniversary of the date of joining PEP, if the member notifies PEP 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 PEP. Also upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claim expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District
Hancock County
Notes to the Financial Statement
For the Year Ended December 31, 2016
(Continued)

of whether a claim occurred or was reported prior to the withdrawal.

Note 6 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some 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 District contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2016.

Social Security

Some of the District's employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2016.

Note 7 - 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.



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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*

Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District
Hancock County
P.O. Box 28
139 West Main Street
McComb, Ohio 45858

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 Northwest Hancock Joint Fire District, Hancock County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statement and have issued our report thereon dated January 4, 2018 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 2016-001 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*.

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 report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "Y".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

January 4, 2018

**NORTHWEST HANCOCK JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2016-001

Material Weakness

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions

GASB 54 introduces five fund balance classifications and clarifies the existing governmental fund type definitions. The fund balance classifications relate to constraints placed upon the use of resources reported in governmental funds. The five classifications are nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned.

Assigned fund balance classification includes amounts that are constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. When the appropriation measure is adopted for the subsequent year, if a portion of existing fund balance is included as a budgetary resource, then that portion of fund balance should be classified as assigned. This would be applicable to the general fund.

The 2017 permanent appropriation measures for the General Fund exceeded estimated receipts as follows:

	<u>2017</u>
Estimated Receipts	\$58,000
Appropriations	<u>83,935</u>
Deficit	<u><u>\$25,935</u></u>

Due to an insufficiency of monitoring by management the amounts of the deficit noted above were classified as unassigned rather than recognized as assigned for the excess of the subsequent year's appropriations over estimated receipts.

An adjustment was recorded to the 2016 financial statement to change the above difference in fund balance classification.

To help ensure the District's fund balances are reported in accordance with GASB 54, we recommend the Officials review and follow Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the finding reported above.

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NORTHWEST HANCOCK JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

HANCOCK 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
JANUARY 23, 2018**