



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Hopewell Township
Muskingum County
1705 County Line Road
Hopewell, Ohio 43746

To the Board of Township 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 Hopewell Township, Muskingum County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013.

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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 1 of the financial statements, the Township prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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, 2014 and 2013, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined cash balances of Hopewell Township, Muskingum County, Ohio as of December 31, 2014 and 2013, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 3, 2015, 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.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 3, 2015

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014**

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$50,291	\$160,089	\$9,843	\$0	\$220,223
Intergovernmental	18,727	124,750	0	0	143,477
Earnings on Investments	19	6	0	14	39
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>69,037</u>	<u>284,845</u>	<u>9,843</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>363,739</u>
Cash Disbursements					
Current:					
General Government	56,282	1,642	0	0	57,924
Public Safety	0	75,000	0	0	75,000
Public Works	15,398	170,139	0	0	185,537
Health	3,250	0	0	0	3,250
Capital Outlay	0	77,560	0	0	77,560
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	7,639	10,000	8,800	0	26,439
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	0	1,062	0	1,062
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>82,569</u>	<u>334,341</u>	<u>9,862</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>426,772</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(13,532)</u>	<u>(49,496)</u>	<u>(19)</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>(63,033)</u>
Other Financing Receipts					
Sale of Bonds	0	67,560	0	0	67,560
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>67,560</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>67,560</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(13,532)	18,064	(19)	14	4,527
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>109,999</u>	<u>73,302</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>5,202</u>	<u>188,556</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31					
Nonspendable	0	0	0	3,871	3,871
Restricted	0	91,366	34	1,345	92,745
Unassigned	96,467	0	0	0	96,467
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$96,467</u>	<u>\$91,366</u>	<u>\$34</u>	<u>\$5,216</u>	<u>\$193,083</u>

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

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2013**

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$49,728	\$146,254	\$20,535	\$0	\$216,517
Intergovernmental	22,579	134,090	0	0	156,669
Earnings on Investments	22	4	0	15	41
Miscellaneous	2,859	0	0	0	2,859
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>75,188</u>	<u>280,348</u>	<u>20,535</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>376,086</u>
Cash Disbursements					
Current:					
General Government	66,467	8,259	0	0	74,726
Public Safety	0	75,000	0	0	75,000
Public Works	46,278	183,820	0	0	230,098
Health	3,100	0	0	0	3,100
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	0	0	18,800	0	18,800
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	0	1,781	0	1,781
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>115,845</u>	<u>267,079</u>	<u>20,581</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>403,505</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(40,657)	13,269	(46)	15	(27,419)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>150,656</u>	<u>60,033</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>5,187</u>	<u>215,975</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31					
Nonspendable	0	0	0	3,871	3,871
Restricted	0	73,302	53	1,331	74,686
Unassigned	109,999	0	0	0	109,999
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$109,999</u>	<u>\$73,302</u>	<u>\$53</u>	<u>\$5,202</u>	<u>\$188,556</u>

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

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2013**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Hopewell Township, Muskingum 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 National Trails Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services and ambulance services.

The Township participates in the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc., a public entity risk pool. Note 7 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.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

C. Deposits

The Township values the certificate of deposit at cost.

D. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

1. General Fund

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

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

2. Special Revenue Funds (Continued)

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

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

Fire Fund - This fund receives property tax money for provide fire and ambulance services to the Township.

3. 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:

Bond Retirement Fund- This fund is used to accumulate resources for the payment of debt related to the purchase of road equipment.

4. Permanent Funds

These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant Permanent Fund:

Cemetery Endowment Fund – This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings are used for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

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

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.

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY

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

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)**

E. **Budgetary Process (Continued)**

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 2014 and 2013 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. **Fund Balance**

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

1. **Nonspendable**

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

2. **Restricted**

Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

3. **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 (unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

G. **Property, Plant, and Equipment**

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

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

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

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits

The Township maintains a deposit pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2014	2013
Demand deposits	\$189,212	\$184,685
Certificates of deposit	3,871	3,871
Total deposits	\$193,083	\$188,556

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

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending 2014 and 2013 follows:

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$64,500	\$69,037	\$4,537
Special Revenue	346,788	352,405	5,617
Debt Service	10,538	9,843	(695)
Permanent	0	14	14
Total	\$421,826	\$431,299	\$9,473

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$174,498	\$82,569	\$91,929
Special Revenue	414,637	334,341	80,296
Debt Service	10,591	9,862	729
Total	\$599,726	\$426,772	\$172,954

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$63,057	\$75,188	\$12,131
Special Revenue	265,858	280,348	14,490
Debt Service	20,535	20,535	0
Permanent	15	15	0
Total	\$349,465	\$376,086	\$26,621

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

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

3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$213,713	\$115,845	\$97,868
Special Revenue	321,189	267,079	54,110
Debt Service	20,634	20,581	53
Total	\$555,536	\$403,505	\$152,031

4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

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

5. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
2014 General Obligation Bond - Township Equipment	\$67,560	3.15%

The Township issued a general obligation bond during 2014 to finance the purchase of a new tractor and mower for Township road maintenance. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year ending December 31:	Township Equipment Bond
2015	\$14,835
2016	14,835
2017	14,835
2018	14,835
2019	14,835
Total	\$74,175

**HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY**

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

6. Retirement System

The Township's employees and officials 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. For 2014 and 2013, 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, 2014.

7. Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) - formerly known as the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan, (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss, except OPRM retains 41.5% (effective November 1, 2011) of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 10% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2012 (and through October 2014) the plan increased its retention to 50% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. The Plan's property retention remained unchanged from prior years. This change was made to balance the reinsurance market conditions. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 774 and 783 members as of December 31, 2013 and 2014 respectively.

Plan members are responsible to notify the Plan of their intent to renew coverage by their renewal date. If a member chooses not to renew with the Plan, they have no other financial obligation to the Plan, but still need to promptly notify the Plan of any potential claims occurring during their membership period. The former member's covered claims, which occurred during their membership period, remain the responsibility of the Plan.

Settlement amounts did not exceed insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2013 and 2014.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Assets	\$13,774,304	\$14,830,185
Liabilities	(7,968,395)	(8,942,504)
Members' Equity	<u>\$5,805,909</u>	<u>\$5,887,681</u>

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP
MUSKINGUM COUNTY

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

7. Risk Pool Membership (Continued)

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

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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

Hopewell Township
Muskingum County
1705 County Line Road
Hopewell, Ohio 43746

To the Board of Township 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 Hopewell Township, Muskingum County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated December 3, 2015, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

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*.

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.

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Dave Yost
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 3, 2015



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP

MUSKINGUM 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
DECEMBER 15, 2015**