CLARIDON TOWNSHIP

GEAUGA COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2014





Board of Trustees Claridon Township P.O. Box 66 East Claridon, Ohio 44039

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditors' Report* of Claridon Township, Geauga County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2015. 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. Claridon Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Dave Yost Auditor of State

June 10, 2016



CLARIDON TOWNSHIP GEAUGA COUNTY For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

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Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Claridon Township Geauga County P.O. Box 66 East Claridon, Ohio 44039

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 Claridon Township, Geauga County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014.

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.

Claridon Township Geauga County Independent Auditors' Report Page 2

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 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

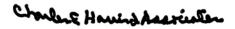
In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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 Claridon Township, Geauga County as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, 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 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 3, 2016, 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 3, 2016

CLARIDON TOWNSHIP GEAUGA COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	General		Special Revenue		(Me	Totals (Memorandum Only)	
Cash Receipts:							
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	107,524	\$	423,615	\$	531,139	
Intergovernmental	•	61,468	•	162,854		224,322	
Charges for Services		•		10,500		10,500	
Licenses, Permits and Fees		8,896		14,261		23,157	
Earnings on Investments		1,424		146		1,570	
Miscellaneous		8,732		54,124		62,856	
Total Cash Receipts		188,044		665,500		853,544	
Cash Disbursements:							
Current Disbursements:							
General Government		134,533		5,917		140,450	
Public Safety				333,644		333,644	
Public Works		12,951		188,415		201,366	
Health		13,165		16,478		29,643	
Conservation-Recreation		13,628				13,628	
Capital Outlay		250				250	
Total Cash Disbursements		174,527		544,454		718,981	
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		13,517		121,046		134,563	
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		384,400		477,365		861,765	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31							
Restricted				598,411		598,411	
Assigned		550				550	
Unassigned		397,367				397,367	
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$</u>	397,917	\$	598,411	\$	996,328	

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

CLARIDON TOWNSHIP GEAUGA COUNTY

COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 104,966	\$ 418,404		\$ 523,370
Intergovernmental	50,050	152,566	\$ 92,252	294,868
Charges for Services		10,250		10,250
Licenses, Permits and Fees	8,713	15,949		24,662
Earnings on Investments	1,466	117		1,583
Miscellaneous	12,944	45,686		58,630
Total Cash Receipts	178,139	642,972	92,252	913,363
Cash Disbursements:				
Current Disbursements:				
General Government	127,104	1,512		128,616
Public Safety		316,032		316,032
Public Works	13,202	197,568		210,770
Health	8,064	10,633		18,697
Conservation-Recreation	31,875	;		31,875
Capital Outlay	10,319	177,995	92,252	280,566
Total Cash Disbursements	190,564	703,740	92,252	986,556
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(12,425	(60,768)	-	(73,193)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	396,825	538,133		934,958
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted		477,365		477,365
Assigned	700)		700
Unassigned	383,700	<u> </u>		383,700
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 384,400	\$ 477,365	\$ -	\$ 861,765

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

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 Claridon Township, Geauga 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 City of Chardon and the Village of Burton to provide fire services and emergency medical services.

The Township participates in the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (a public entity risk pool), a risk sharing pool available to Ohio townships. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

The Township participates in the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council jointly governed organization. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this organization.

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 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.

Money market mutual funds (including STAR Ohio) are recorded at share values the mutual funds report.

D. Fund Accounting

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

1. General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

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:

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

Fire Levy Fund - This fund receives property tax money to provide fire and rescue protection for the Township residents.

3. Capital Project Funds

These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.. The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

Ohio Public Works Commission - The Township received a grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission to repave Spencer Street.

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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the 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 2015 and 2014 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

F. 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 classifies assets as nonspendable when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

2. Restricted

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

3. Committed

Trustees can commit amounts via formal action (resolution). The 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 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.

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.

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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.

H. 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.

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits

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

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Demand deposits	\$ 597,187	\$ 463,047
STAR Ohio	<u>399,141</u>	<u>398,718</u>
	<u>\$ 996,328</u>	\$ 861,765

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

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2014 follows:

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts						
Funds		Budgeted Receipts		Actual Receipts	Variance	
General Special Revenue	\$	177,154 608,639	\$	188,044 665,500	\$	10,890 56,861
Total	\$	785,793	\$	853,544	\$	67,751

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements						
Funds	Appropriation Authority			udgetary oursements	Variance	
General Special Revenue	\$	213,395 672,020	\$	175,077 544,454	\$	38,318 127,566
Total	\$	885,415	\$	719,531	\$	165,884

3. Budgetary Activity (continued)

2014 Budgeted vs Actual Receipts						
Funds		Budgeted Actual Receipts Receipts		Variance		
General	\$	172,817	\$	178,139	\$	5,322
Special Revenue Capital Projects		600,004 96,644		642,972 92,252		42,968 (4,392)
Total	\$	869,465	\$	913,363	\$	43,898

2014 Budgeted vs Actual	Budgetary	y Basis Dis	bursements
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	Ap	Appropriation		udgetary			
Funds	•	Authority		Disbursements		Variance	
General Special Revenue Capital Projects	\$	267,971 726,145 96,644	\$	191,264 703,740 92,252	\$	76,707 22,405 4,392	
Total	\$	1,090,760	\$	987,256	\$	103,504	

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 Equilization 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. Retirement System

The Township's employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost sharing, multiple employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2015 and 2014, 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, 2015.

6. Risk Management

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 (the latest information available).

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 (the latest information available).

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

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

7. Jointly Governed Organization

The Township is a member of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC). NOPEC is a regional council of governments formed under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code NOPEC was formed to serve as a vehicle for communities wishing to proceed jointly with an aggregation program for the purchase of electricity. NOPEC is currently comprised of over 200 communities who have been authorized by ballot to purchase electricity on behalf of their citizens. The intent of NOPEC is to provide electricity at the lowest possible rates while at the same time insuring stability in prices by entering into long-term contracts with suppliers to provide electricity to the citizens of its member communities.

NOPEC is governed by a General Assembly made up of one representative from each member community. The representatives on the governing board from each county then elect one person to serve on the thirteen-member NOPEC Board of Directors. The Board oversees and manages the operation of the aggregation program. The degree of control exercised by any participating government is limited to its representation in the General Assembly and on the Board. The Township did not contribute to NOPEC during 2015 or 2014. Financial information can be obtained by contracting Ronald McVoy, Board Chairman, 31360 Solon Road, Suite 33, Solon, Ohio 44139.

8. Contingent Liabilities

The Township is currently not party to any claims or lawsuits.

Rockefeller Building 614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242 Cleveland, OH 44113-1306

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

Office phone - (216) 575-1630 Fax - (216) 436-2411

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

Claridon Township Geauga County P.O. Box 66 East Claridon, Ohio 44039

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 cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type of Claridon Township, Geauga County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 3, 2016, 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 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*.

Claridon Township
Geauga County
Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial
Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by
Government Auditing Standards
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We did note certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 3, 2016.

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 Having Association

CHARLES E. HARRIS & ASSOCIATES, INC.

May 3, 2016



CLARIDON TOWNSHIP

GEAUGA 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED JUNE 23, 2016