

ALGER & ASSOCIATES, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

CHESTER TOWNSHIP GEAUGA COUNTY, OHIO



FOR THE YEAR ENDED

DECEMBER 31, 2013



Board of Trustees Chester Township 12701 Chillicothe Road Chesterland, Ohio 44026

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Chester Township, Geauga County, prepared by Alger & Associates, LLC, for the audit period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. 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. Chester Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Dave Yost Auditor of State

July 7, 2014

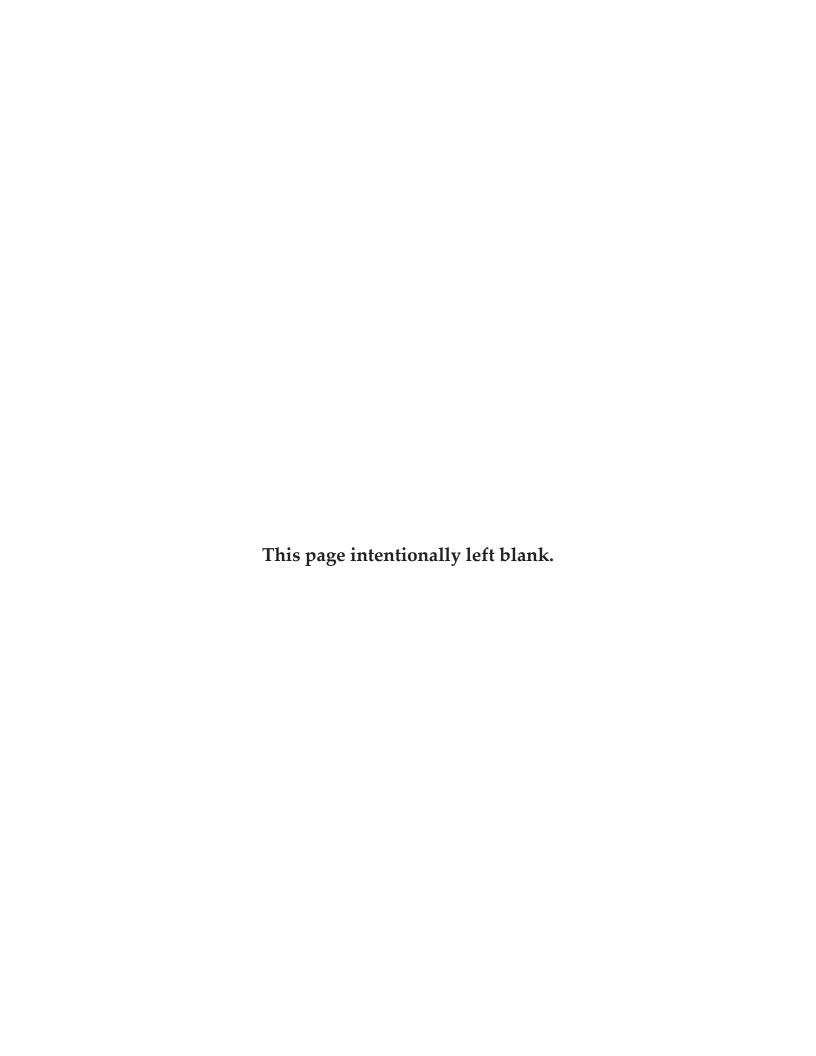
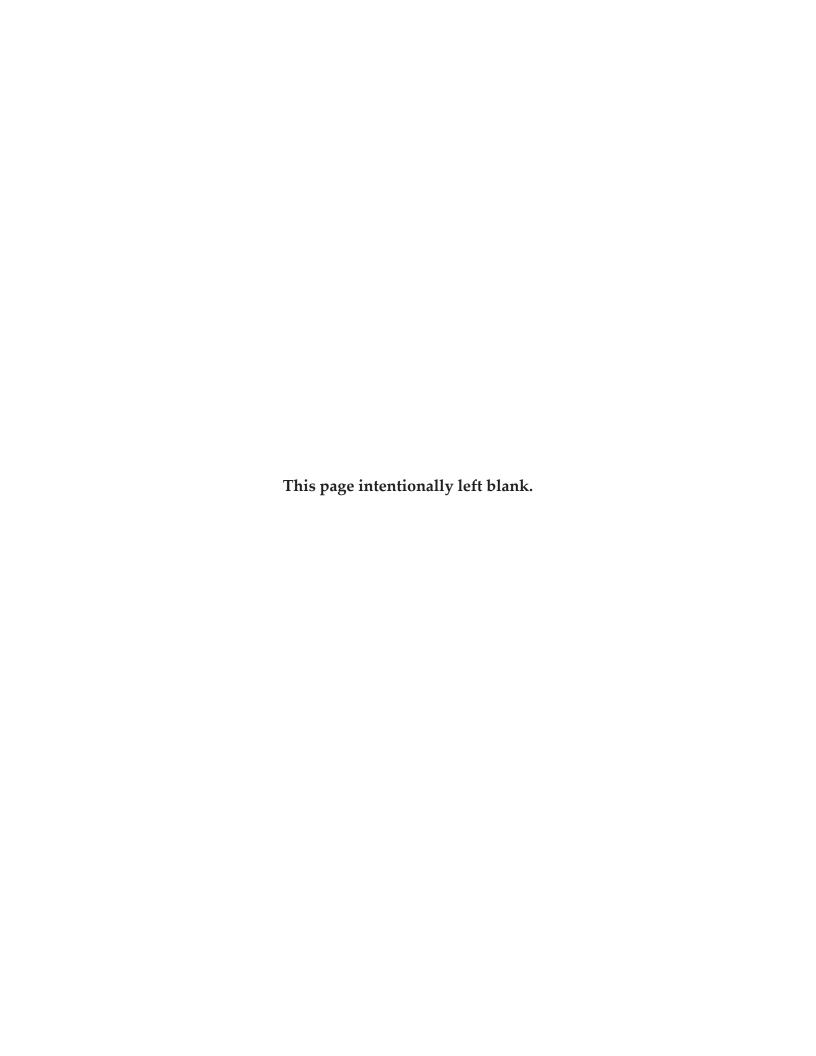


TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in	
Fund Cash Balances (Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types -	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2013	3
Notes to the Financial Statement	5
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over	
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters	
Required by Government Auditing Standards	15
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	17





ALGER & ASSOCIATES, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Chester Township Geauga County 12701 Chillicothe Road Chesterland, Ohio 44026

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statement and related notes of Chester Township, Geauga County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting the 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 financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on the 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 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 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 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 opinion.

Chester Township Geauga County Independent Auditor's report Page 2

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

As described in Note 1B of the financial statement, the Township prepared the 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, to satisfy requirements.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1B and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

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 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, 2013, or 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 present fairly, in all material respects, the combined cash balances of Chester Township, Geauga County as of December 31, 2013, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements 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 1B.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 25, 2014, 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.

Alger & Associates, Inc.

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Alger & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants North Canton, OH May 25, 2014

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

	Governmental Fund Types		Totals	
_	Special		Capital	– (Memorandum
	General	Revenue	Projects	Only)
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$321,112	\$3,641,468	\$0	\$3,962,580
Charges for Services	0	297,054	0	297,054
Licenses, Permits and Fees	15,516	6,245	0	21,761
Fines and Forfeitures	22,503	0	0	22,503
Intergovernmental	242,062	414,051	0	656,113
Special Assessments	0	77,444	0	77,444
Earnings on Investments	10,692	166	0	10,858
Miscellaneous	59,260	44,607	0	103,867
Total Cash Receipts	671,145	4,481,035	0	5,152,180
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	572,974	0	0	572,974
Public Safety	0	2,665,258	0	2,665,258
Public Works	22,757	1,963,739	0	1,986,496
Health	0	20,496	0	20,496
Human Services	0	0	0	0
Conservation-Recreation	13,782	0	0	13,782
Capital Outlay	548,540	296,758	0	845,298
Debt Service:	0 10,0 10	2,0,100	Ü	010,250
Principal Retirement	0	65,943	0	65,943
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	16,063	0	16,063
		10,000		10,000
Total Cash Disbursements	1,158,053	5,028,257	0	6,186,310
Total Receipts Under Disbursements	(486,908)	(547,222)	0	(1,034,130)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Transfers In	0	352,000	0	352,000
Transfers Out	(352,000)	0	0	(352,000)
Advances In	20,000	0	0	20,000
Advances Out	0	(20,000)	0	(20,000)
Other Financing Sources	0	22,659	0	22,659
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	(332,000)	354,659	0	22,659
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(818,908)	(192,563)	0	(1,011,471)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	2,814,517	2,803,984	5,031	5,623,532
Fund Cash Balance, December 31				
	1.6	2 462 920	E 021	2 460 076
Restricted	16	2,463,829	5,031	2,468,876
Committed	70.119	11,000	0	11,000
Assigned	79,118	136,592	0	215,710
Unassigned	1,916,475	0	0	1,916,475
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$1,995,609	\$2,611,421	\$5,031	\$4,612,061

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

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 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 the Chester Township, Geauga County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township also has a publicly elected Fiscal Officer. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, police, fire protection and emergency medical services.

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statement provides additional information for this entity. This organization is: Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA). This is a risk sharing pool available to all Townships for property and casualty insurance coverage.

The Township's management believes the financial statement present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

This financial statement follows the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township 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 Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

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.

The Township invests in STAR Ohio (State Treasure's Investment Pool) are recorded at share vales reported by the State Treasurer.

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:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

D. Fund Accounting (continued)

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:

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

<u>Police District Fund</u> – This fund receives tax levy money for the purpose of providing and maintaining police apparatus, equipment, or payment of permanent, part-time police officers.

<u>Fire District Fund</u> – This fund receives tax levy money for the purpose of providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, buildings, sources of water supply and materials, or the payment of permanent, part-time, or volunteer firemen or to provide ambulance or emergency medical services.

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 funds.

<u>Permanent Improvement Fund</u> - The Township assessed residents for road work done on Sperry Road.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 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 2013 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

F. Fund Balance (Continued)

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.

G. Property, Plant, and Equipment

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statement does 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 statement does not include a liability for unpaid leave.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

2. Equity in Pooled 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:

	2013
Demand deposits	\$405,837
Sweep Account	4,169,032
STAR Ohio	37,192
Total deposits and investments	\$4,612,061

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

Investments: Investments in STAR Ohio and Sweep Account are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2013 follows:

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$501,662	\$671,145	\$169,483
Special Revenue	4,727,810	4,855,694	127,884
Total	\$5,229,472	\$5,526,839	\$297,367
Total	\$5,229,472	\$5,526,839	

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	_
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$1,958,905	\$1,589,171	\$369,734
5,543,276	5,164,849	378,427
50	0	50
\$7,502,231	\$6,754,020	\$748,211
	Authority \$1,958,905 5,543,276 50	Authority Expenditures \$1,958,905 \$1,589,171 5,543,276 5,164,849 50 0

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

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, 2013 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Ohio Public Works Old Mill	\$55,992	0.00%
General Obligation Bonds for Cedar Rd	30,000	0.00%
General Obligation Bonds for Sherman	30,730	5.19%
General Obligation Bonds for Sperry	222,436	3.89%
Total	\$339,158	

The \$55,992 loan outstanding is an interest-free loan from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for the embankment stabilization projects on Old Mill Road in cooperation with the Village of Gates Mills and requires equal payments over twenty year.

Special assessment bonds will be paid from the proceeds of special assessments levied against benefited property owners. In the event that a property owner would fail to pay the assessment, payment would be made by the Township.

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

			Sherman		
Year ending	OPWC Loan	Cedar Road	Road SA	Sperry Road	
December 31:	Old Mill Rd	SA Bonds	Bonds	SA Bonds	Total
2014	\$3,499	\$31,200	\$16,372	\$29,768	\$80,839
2015	3,499		16,372	29,766	49,637
2016	3,499			29,766	33,265
2017	3,499			29,766	33,265
2018-2022	17,499			148,831	166,330
2023-2027	17,499				17,499
2028-2030	6,998				6,998
Total	\$55,992	\$31,200	\$32,744	\$267,897	\$387,833

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

6. Retirement Systems

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2013, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries, with the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2013.

7. Risk Management

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

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation.

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. York Risk Pooling Services, Inc. (formally known as American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc.) (York or Management), functions as the administrator of the Pool and provides underwriting claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for the Pool. Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty and Property Coverage

The Pool is a member of American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by York. APEEP provides the Pool with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2013, 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

7. Risk Management (continued)

Financial Position

OTARMA's financial statements (audited by other accountants) conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and retained earnings at December 31, 2013 and 2012 (the latest information available).

	2013	2012
Assets	\$34,954,286	\$34,771,270
Liabilities	8,486,363	9,355,082
Net Position	\$26,467,923	\$25,416,188

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$7.9 and \$8.7 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.4 and \$7.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 948 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2013, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$51,000.

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.

Contributions to OTARMA
2013
\$86,887

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

8. Contingent Liabilities

The Township is defendant in a lawsuit. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of this suit, management believes that the resolution of this matter will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

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Adv.A

ALGER & ASSOCIATES, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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

Chester Township Geauga County 12701 Chillicothe Road Chesterland, Ohio 44026

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 Chester Township, Geauga County, (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013, and the related notes to the financial statement, and have issued our report thereon dated May 25, 2014 wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 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 opinion on the financial statement, 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.

Chester Township
Geauga County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*Page 2

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statement 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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Alger & Associates, Inc. Certified Public Accountants North Canton, OH May 25, 2014

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT DECEMBER 31, 2013

CHESTER TOWNSHIP GEAUGA COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2013

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2012-001	ORC §5705.41(D) Certification of available funds	Yes	
2012-002	Ohio Admin Code §117-2-02(A).Maintain sufficient accounting records	Yes	
2012-003	ORC §5705.41(B) Expenditures exceed appropriations	Yes	
2012-004	Ohio Admin Code §117-2-02(A).Maintain sufficient accounting records	Yes	
2012-005	ORC §5705.14, Improper fund transfers	Yes	
2012-006	Material Cash Reconciliation	Yes	





CHESTER 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 JULY 17, 2014