

## Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Accounting, Auditing and Consulting Services for Federal, State and Local Governments <u>www.bhscpas.com</u>

### FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP HIGHLAND COUNTY

**REGULAR AUDIT** 

For the Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013 Fiscal Years Audited Under GAGAS: 2014 and 2013



Board of Trustees Fairfield Township 200 South Street Leesburg, Ohio 45135

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Fairfield Township, Highland County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. 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. Fairfield Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Dave Yost Auditor of State

June 5, 2015



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### Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Fairfield Township Highland County 200 South Street Leesburg, Ohio 45135

To the Board of Trustees:

bhs

#### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Fairfield Township, Highland County, (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 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 opinion.

#### 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.

Circleville Piketon Worthington

Fairfield Township **Highland County** Independent Auditors' Report Page 2

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, 2014 and 2013, or changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

#### 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 Fairfield Township, Highland County 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 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 April 24, 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.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Balestra, Ham & Scherer, CPAs

Piketon, Ohio

April 24, 2015

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

	Governmental Fund Types							_		
	General			Special Revenue	Capital Projects		Permanent		(Me	Totals morandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Property and Local Taxes Intergovernmental Fines, Licenses, and Permits Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous	\$	33,616 13,587 8,600 343 1,842	\$	27,189 108,413 - 397 6,200	\$	- - - -	\$	- - - 5	\$	60,805 122,000 8,600 745 8,042
Total Cash Receipts		57,988		142,199		_		5		200,192
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Works Health		65,183		877 123,167		- - -		- - -		66,060 123,167
Total Cash Disbursements		65,183		124,044						189,227
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements Fund Cash Balances, January 1		(7,195) 108,747		18,155 225,097		10,147		2,301		10,965 346,292
Fund Cash Balances, December 31 Nonspendable Restricted Committed Unassigned		101,552		243,252		10,147		1,806 500		1,806 243,752 10,147 101,552
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	101,552	\$	243,252	\$	10,147	\$	2,306	\$	357,257

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

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

	Governmental Fund Types							_		
	G	General		Special Revenue		Capital Projects	Permanent		(N	Totals Iemorandum Only)
Cash Receipts: Property and Local Taxes Intergovernmental Fines, Licenses, and Permits Earnings on Investments Miscellaneous		33,291 57,616 10,350 398 1,515	\$	26,586 104,283 - 498 3,850	\$	- - - - 18	\$	- - 7 -	\$	59,877 161,899 10,350 903 5,383
Total Cash Receipts		103,170		135,217		18		7		238,412
Cash Disbursements: Current: General Government Public Works Conservation/Recreation Total Cash Disbursements		73,864		860 168,238 - 169,098		- 1,131 1,131		- - -		74,724 168,238 1,131 244,093
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements		29,306		(33,881)		(1,113)		7		(5,681)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1  Fund Cash Balances, December 31		79,441		258,978		11,260		2,294		351,973
Nonspendable Restricted Committed Unassigned		108,747		225,097 - -		10,147		1,806 495 - -		1,806 225,592 10,147 108,747
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	108,747	\$	225,097	\$	10,147	\$	2,301	\$	346,292

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

#### 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 the Fairfield Township, Highland County, Ohio (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general governmental services, road maintenance, and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Highland County North Joint Fire and Ambulance District to provide fire protection services.

The Township participates in the Highland County Joint Township Hospital District, a jointly governed organization established for the public purpose of better providing for the health and welfare of the people primarily of Highland County. Trustees from each of the 17 townships of Highland County constitute the Highland County Joint Township Hospital Board of Trustees who appoints the Hospital Board of Governors which is composed of one member from each township and three at-large members

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 the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. The 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).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the Auditor of State prescribes or permits.

#### C. Deposits and Investments

The Township deposits all available funds in an interest earning checking account and money market mutual funds at local commercial banks.

#### 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 reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

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

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### **D.** Fund Accounting (continued)

#### 2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for the proceeds from specific sources (other than from private-purpose trusts or for capital projects) that are restricted to expenditure for specific purposes. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

<u>Gasoline Tax Fund</u> – This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing township roads.

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

#### 3. Capital Project Funds

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects (except those financed through enterprise or trust funds). The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

<u>Miscellaneous Capital Projects Funds</u> – This fund receives the Natureworks grant monies from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for establishment of an outdoor recreation park.

#### 4. Permanent Funds

These funds account for assets held under a trust agreement that are legally restricted to the extent that only earnings, not principal, are available to support the Township's programs. The Township had the following significant permanent fund:

<u>Cemetery Endowment Fund</u> – The 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. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### E. Budgetary Process (continued)

#### 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 also 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 canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2014 and 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.

#### 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.

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

#### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

#### F. Fund Balance (continued)

#### 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 acquisition of property, plant and equipments when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

#### 2. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The Township maintains a cash deposit 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:

	2014	 2013
Demand Deposits	\$ 156,414	\$ 145,950
Money Market Deposit	 200,843	\$ 200,342
Total	\$ 357,257	\$ 346,292

**Deposits:** Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; or collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

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

#### 3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2014 and 2013 follows:

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	201: Budgetta (s. 110taul 110001pts							
	В	Budgeted		Actual				
Fund Type	F	Receipts		Receipts	Variance			
General	\$	61,510	\$	57,988	\$	(3,522)		
Special Revenue		136,155		142,199		6,044		
Capital Projects		20		-		(20)		
Permanent		12		5		(7)		
Total	\$	197,697	\$	200,192	\$	2,495		

2014 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	App	Appropriation		ıdgetary			
Fund Type	A	uthority	Exp	enditures	Variance		
General	\$	170,257	\$	65,183	\$	105,074	
Special Revenue		361,252		124,044		237,208	
Capital Projects		10,167		-		10,167	
Permanent				<u>-</u>		-	
Total	\$	541,676	\$	189,227	\$	352,449	

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

В	udgeted		Actual		
F	Receipts		Receipts	V	ariance
\$	57,805	\$	103,170	\$	45,365
	134,441		135,217		776
	-		18		18
	12		7		(5)
\$	192,258	\$	238,412	\$	46,154
	\$	\$ 57,805 134,441 - 12	Receipts F \$ 57,805 \$ 134,441	Receipts         Receipts           \$ 57,805         \$ 103,170           134,441         135,217           -         18           12         7	Receipts         Receipts         V           \$ 57,805         \$ 103,170         \$           134,441         135,217         -           -         18         -           12         7

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	App	Appropriation		udgetary			
Fund Type	A	Authority		enditures	Variance		
General	\$	137,246	\$	73,864	\$	63,382	
Special Revenue		393,420		169,098		224,322	
Capital Projects		11,260		1,131		10,129	
Permanent		-				-	
Total	\$	541,926	\$	244,093	\$	297,833	

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 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 property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due to the following June 20.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

Tangible personal property tax is assessed by the property owners, who must file a list of such property to the County by each April 30.

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 elected officials and employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. This plan provides retirement benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits as prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

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.

#### 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

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

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. York Risk Pooling Services, Inc. (formally known as American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc.) (York 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.

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

#### **6.** RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

#### 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.

#### **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):

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
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, 2014, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$1,000.

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

#### 6. RISK MANAGEMENT (Continued)

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								
<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>							
\$2,521	\$2,495							

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.

#### 7. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

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

#### 8. FUND BALANCES

The Township implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Township is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the government funds. The constraints placed on the fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances		General	Special Revenue Funds			Capital Projects		Permanent Funds		Total Governmental Funds	
12/31/2014											
Nonspendable	Ф		ф		Φ		Ф	1.006	ф	1.006	
Cemetery Endowment	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,806	\$	1,806	
Committed											
Recreation Program	\$	-	\$	-	\$	10,147	\$	-	\$	10,147	
Restricted for											
Road Maintenance	\$	-	\$	219,858	\$	_	\$	_	\$	219,858	
Cemetery Maintenance		-		23,394		-		500		23,894	
Total Restricted		_		243,252		-		500		243,752	
Unassigned (Deficit)	\$	101,552	\$	_	\$		\$	_	\$	101,552	
Total Fund Balances	\$	101,552	\$	243,252	\$	10,147	\$	2,306	\$	357,257	
10/01/0010											
12/31/2013 Nonspendable											
Cemetery	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,806	\$	1,806	
Committed											
Recreation Program	\$	-	\$	-	\$	10,147	\$	-	\$	10,147	
Restricted for											
Road Maintenance	\$	-	\$	207,903	\$	-	\$	-	\$	207,903	
Cemetery Maintenance		-		17,194		-		495		17,689	
Total Restricted		-		225,097		-		495		225,592	
Unassigned (Deficit)	\$	108,747	\$	<u>-</u>	\$		\$		\$	108,747	
Total Fund Balances	\$	108,747	\$	225,097	\$	10,147	\$	2,301	\$	346,292	



### Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Accounting, Auditing and Consulting Services for Federal, State and Local Governments <u>www.bhscpas.com</u>

## Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

Fairfield Township Highland County 200 South Street Leesburg, Ohio 45135

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of Fairfield Township, Highland County, (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 April 24, 2015, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting and financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), described in Note 1.

#### **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 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.

Fairfield Township 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 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.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Balestra, Ham & Schern, CPAs

Piketon, Ohio April 24, 2015



#### **FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP**

#### **HIGHLAND 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 18, 2015