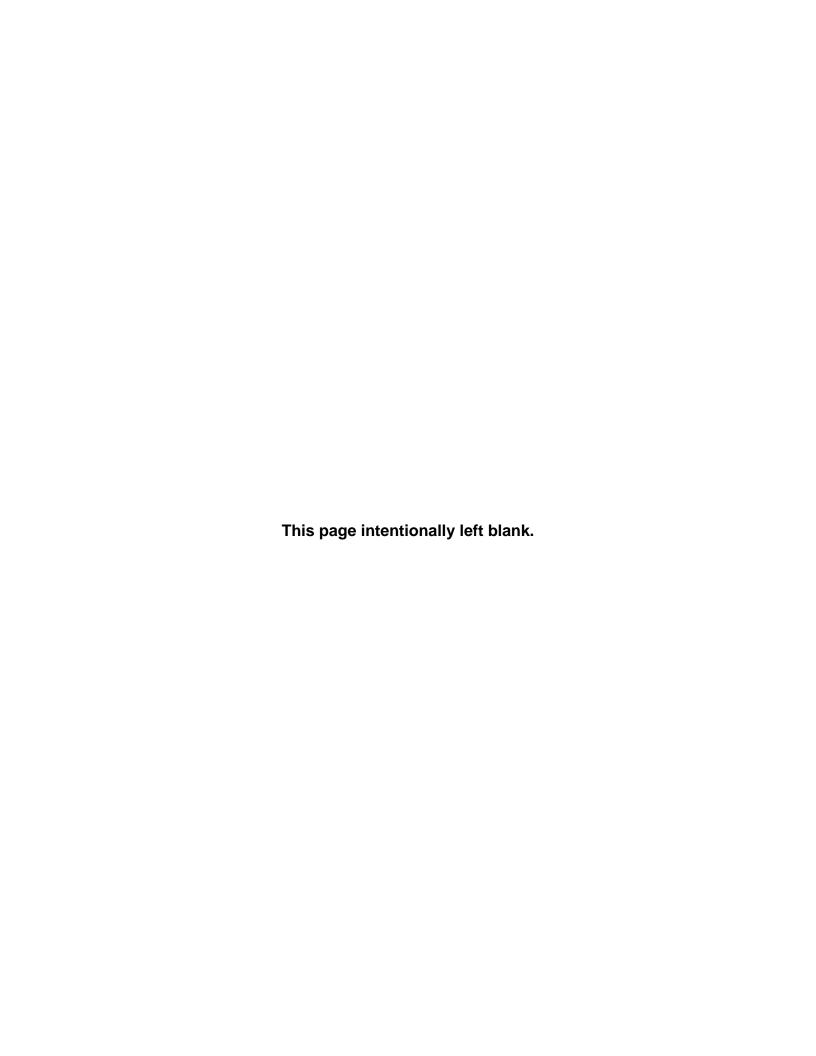




TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2013	3
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Cash Basis) - Proprietary Fund Type - For the Year Ended December 31, 2013	4
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2012	5
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Cash Basis) - Proprietary Fund Type - For the Year Ended December 31, 2012	6
Notes to the Financial Statements	7
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards	13
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	15



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Village of Higginsport Brown County 204 Jackson Street PO Box 121 Higginsport, Ohio 45131

To the Village Council:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of the Village of Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio, (the Village) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012.

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 Village'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 Village'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 Village 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.

Village of Higginsport Brown 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 Village 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 or cash flows of the Village as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, 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 the Village of Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, 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 11, 2015, on our consideration of the Village'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 Village's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Dave Yost Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 11, 2015

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	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$5,213	\$21,560	\$26,773
Intergovernmental	6,393	39,352	45,745
Charges for Services	4.407	31,140	31,140
Fines, Licenses and Permits	1,137	10 202	1,137
Miscellaneous	6,130	10,382	16,512
Total Cash Receipts	18,873	102,434	121,307
Cash Disbursements			
Current: Security of Persons and Property	3,546	32,949	36,495
Basic Utility Services	3,546 830	32,949	36,495 830
Transportation	030	16,848	16,848
General Government	5,618	10,010	5,618
Total Cash Disbursements	9,994	49,797	59,791
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	8,879	52,637	61,516
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers Out	(2,142)		(2,142)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	(2,142)	0	(2,142)
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	6,737	52,637	59,374
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	3,383	62,723	66,106
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	115,360	115,360
Unassigned (Deficit)	10,120	0	10,120
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$10,120	\$115,360	\$125,480

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

	Enterprise
Operating Cash Receipts Charges for Services Miscellaneous	\$75,653 90
Total Operating Cash Receipts	75,743
Operating Cash Disbursements Personal Services Employee Fringe Benefits Contractual Services Supplies and Materials Other	14,641 2,427 5,689 29,425 18,825
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	71,007
Operating Income (Loss)	4,736
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements) Special Assessments Principal Retirement Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	9,425 (21,124) (2,728)
Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	(14,427)
Income (Loss) before Capital Contributions, Special Item, Extraordinary Item, Transfers and Advances	(9,691)
Transfers In	2,142
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(7,549)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	28,710
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$21,161

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS) ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$5,136	\$20,106	\$25,242
Intergovernmental	5,040	25,641	30,681
Charges for Services		31,071	31,071
Fines, Licenses and Permits	200	405	200
Miscellaneous	3,469	125	3,594
Total Cash Receipts	13,845	76,943	90,788
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property		32,985	32,985
Transportation		10,343	10,343
General Government	15,701		15,701
Total Cash Disbursements	15,701	43,328	59,029
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(1,856)	33,615	31,759
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	5,239	29,108	34,347
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	62,723	62,723
Unassigned (Deficit)	3,383	0	3,383
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$3,383	\$62,723	\$66,106

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS) PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

	Enterprise
Operating Cash Receipts Charges for Services Miscellaneous	\$70,849 117
Total Operating Cash Receipts	70,966
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Personal Services	14,990
Employee Fringe Benefits	2,777
Supplies and Materials	12,958
Other	20,882
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	51,607
Operating Income (Loss)	19,359
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
Special Assessments	12,481
Principal Retirement	(20,932)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	(2,825)
Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	(11,276)
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	8,083
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	20,627
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$28,710

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

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 Village of Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio as a body corporate and politic. A publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides fire protection and sewer service. The Village contracts with the Brown County Sheriff's department to provide police protection. The Village contracts with Brown County Rural Water to provide water for residents.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village is financially accountable.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Village 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 Village's accounting basis includes cash as assets.

D. Fund Accounting

The Village uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

<u>Fire Levy Fund</u> – This fund receives local taxes and contract for service monies used to pay for the cost associated with providing and maintaining fire apparatus, appliances, building or sites, and fire and emergency services to the Village residents.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012 (Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

3. Enterprise Funds

These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

<u>Sewer Fund</u> - This fund receives charges for services from residents to cover sewer service costs.

<u>Sewer Project Funds</u> – This fund receives loan proceeds and intergovernmental grants to finance a sewer project plant.

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) 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 Village Council must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. 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 also approve estimated resources.

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated. The Village did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio Law.

A summary of 2013 and 2012 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Fund Balance

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

1. Nonspendable

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012 (Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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

Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends 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 Village Council or a Village 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 Village 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 Village records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits and Investments

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

	2013	2012
Demand deposits	\$146,641	\$94,816

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012 (Continued)

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2013 and 2012 follows:

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$16,186	\$18,873	\$2,687
Special Revenue	102,704	102,434	(270)
Enterprise	84,054	87,310	3,256
Total	\$202,944	\$208,617	\$5,673

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Appropriation	Budgetary	
Authority	Expenditures	Variance
\$17,286	\$12,136	\$5,150
159,791	49,797	109,994
112,764	94,859	17,905
\$289,841	\$156,792	\$133,049
	Authority \$17,286 159,791 112,764	Authority Expenditures \$17,286 \$12,136 159,791 49,797 112,764 94,859

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

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	Budgeted	Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance		
General	\$13,707	\$13,845	\$138		
Special Revenue	76,174	76,943	769		
Enterprise	70,142	83,447	13,305		
Total	\$160,023	\$174,235	\$14,212		

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

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	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$19,160	\$15,701	\$3,459
Special Revenue	105,033	43,328	61,705
Enterprise	90,809	75,364	15,445
Total	\$215,002	\$134,393	\$80,609

4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Council 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.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012 (Continued)

4. Property Tax (Continued)

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 Village.

5. Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2013 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
OPWC Loan - Wastewater Planning	\$393,847	0%
OWDA Loan - Treatment Plant & Collection	\$177,581	1.5%
Total	\$571,428	

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loan is for the new wastewater collection system. The OPWC approved up to \$463,349 in loans to the Village. The Village has drawn down the full amount of the loan. The Village will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$7,722 over 30 years. The interest rate on this loan is 0%. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OPWC debt service requirements.

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loan relates to a new wastewater collection system. The OWDA approved up to \$200,000 in loans to the Village for this project, plus capitalized interest. The Village has drawn down \$199,090 of the principal, and \$3,389 has been added to the principal balance for capitalized interest making the total amount financed \$202,479. The Village will repay the loans in semiannual installment of \$4,203, including interest, over 30 years. The interest rate on this loan is 1.5%. Sewer receipts collateralize the loan. The Village has set the utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

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

Year ending		OWDA
December 31:	OPWC	Loan
2014	\$15,445	\$8,406
2015	15,445	8,406
2016	15,445	8,406
2017	15,445	8,406
2018	15,445	8,406
2019-2023	77,225	42,031
2024-2028	77,225	42,031
2029-2033	77,225	42,031
2034-2038	77,225	42,031
2039-2043	15,444	8,409
Total	\$401,569	\$218,563

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012 (Continued)

5. Debt (Continued)

The Village entered into a Commercial Insurance Loan Agreement with NCMIC Finance Corporation during the audit period. This Corporation paid the Village's Insurance Premium of \$4,749 and \$4,764 (amount financed is less than the total Insurance premium by the amount of the down payment made by the Village each year) during 2012 and 2013, respectively, for the insurance coverage 11/15/11 through 11/14/12 and 11/15/12 through 11/14/13. The Village then made nine monthly installment payments of \$558.36 to NCMIC Finance Corporation for a total amount paid to the Corporation of \$5,025.24 for 2012 and nine monthly installment payments of \$557.28 for a total amount paid to the corporation of \$5,015.52 for 2013. At December 31, 2013, the Village has seven monthly installment payments of \$559.65 totaling \$3,917.55 owed to NCMIC Finance Corporation with the final payment due on August 15, 2014.

6. Retirement Systems

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2012 and 2013, OPERS member contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the Village contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contribution required through December 31, 2013.

7. Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The Village has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- · Errors and omissions.

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

Village of Higginsport 204 Jackson Street Po Box 121 Higginsport, Ohio 45131

To the Village Council:

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 the Village of Higginsport, Brown County, Ohio, (the Village) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2013 and 2012, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 11, 2015, wherein we noted the Village 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 Village'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 Village'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 Village'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.

Village of Higginsport
Brown 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 Village'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 Village's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Village's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Dave Yost Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

May 11, 2015

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2011-001	ORC 733.28 and OAC 117-2-02(A) – Failure to Maintain a Receipt and Appropriation Ledgers, and Classify Receipt and Disbursement Transactions, Posting Errors	No	Partially Corrected, Issued as Management Letter Recommendation
2011-002	ORC 5705.41 (D)(1) – Failure to use the Encumbrance Method of Accounting	No	Partially Corrected, Issued as Management Letter Citation
2011-003	ORC 5705.39, Appropriations Exceeded Estimated Revenue	Yes	Corrected
2011-004	ORC 5705.41(B) – Expenditures Exceeded Appropriations	Yes	Corrected
2011-005	Failure to maintain a citation log and ticket jacket	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid, Village no longer has a Police Department





VILLAGE OF HIGGINSPORT

BROWN 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 MAY 28, 2015