



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Berlin Township  
Erie County  
12101 State Route 61 East, P.O. Box 52  
Berlin Heights, Ohio 44814

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 Berlin Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015.

### ***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.

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

As described in Note 2 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.

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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, 2016 and 2015, 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 Berlin Township, Erie County, Ohio as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, 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 2.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 7, 2017, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 7, 2017

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016**

	<b>General</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>	<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$123,018	\$261,056		\$384,074
Charges for Services	9,650	1,030		10,680
Licenses, Permits and Fees	39,394			39,394
Intergovernmental	54,777	146,778	\$145,000	346,555
Earnings on Investments	463	40		503
Miscellaneous	7,774	7,075		14,849
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>235,076</u>	<u>415,979</u>	<u>145,000</u>	<u>796,055</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	153,289	2,919		156,208
Public Safety	22,356	49,611		71,967
Public Works	2,594	196,619		199,213
Health	23,254	2,647		25,901
Capital Outlay		150,511	145,000	295,511
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>201,493</u>	<u>402,307</u>	<u>\$145,000</u>	<u>748,800</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	33,583	13,672		47,255
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>265,514</u>	<u>313,381</u>		<u>578,895</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>				
Restricted		327,053		327,053
Assigned	299,097			299,097
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$299,097</u>	<u>\$327,053</u>		<u>\$626,150</u>

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

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016**

**1. REPORTING ENTITY**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Berlin Township, Erie County, Ohio (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 services, and general government services. The Township contracts with North Central EMS to provide ambulance services.

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. Note 8 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

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

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types.

**B. Fund Accounting**

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

**1. General Fund**

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

**2. Special Revenue Funds**

These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted to expenditure for specified purposes other than 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.

Special Levy Fire Fund - This fund receives property tax money for the purpose of providing and maintaining land, buildings, and apparatus for providing fire protection services.

**3. Capital Project Funds**

These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted 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:



**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(Continued)**

Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund – This fund received proceeds from the Ohio Department of Transportation for the turnpike mitigation project.

**C. 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 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 financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

**D. Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires each fund be budgeted annually.

**1. Appropriations**

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

**2. Estimated Resources**

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

**3. Encumbrances**

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2016 budgetary activity appears in Note 3

**E. Capital Assets**

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

**F. 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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(Continued)**

**G. 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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(Continued)**

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2016 follows:

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 207,877	\$ 235,076	\$ 27,199
Special Revenue	402,138	415,979	13,841
Capital Projects	145,000	145,000	
Total	\$ 755,015	\$ 796,055	\$ 41,040

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 473,391	\$ 201,493	\$ 271,898
Special Revenue	612,264	402,307	209,957
Capital Projects	145,000	145,000	
Total	\$ 1,230,655	\$ 748,800	\$ 481,855

**4. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS**

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

	2016
Demand Deposits	\$ 626,150

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

**5. 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.

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

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

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(Continued)**

**6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

**A. Ohio Public Employee 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 2016 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, 2016.

**B. Social Security**

One Township employee contributed to social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

The employee contributed 6.2 percent of his gross salary. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of the participant's gross salary. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2016.

**7. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**A. Risk Pool Membership**

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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(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, 2016, 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, 2016.

	<b>2016</b>
Assets	\$38,473,283
Liabilities	8,244,140
Net Position	\$30,229,143

At December 31, 2016 the liabilities above include approximately \$7.4 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$6.9 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 1,010 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2016. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2016, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$5,000.

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.

<b><u>Contributions to OTARMA</u></b>
<b><u>2016</u></b>
\$12,445

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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016  
(Continued)**

**B. Commercial Insurance**

The Township has purchased commercial insurance for the fire department for the following risks:

- Equipment;
- Vehicles; and
- General Liability.

**9. 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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS  
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015**

	<b>General</b>	<b>Special Revenue</b>	<b>Capital Projects</b>	<b>Totals (Memorandum Only)</b>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$117,980	\$259,512		\$377,492
Charges for Services	9,550	4,120		13,670
Licenses, Permits and Fees	38,508			38,508
Intergovernmental	59,176	148,718	\$158,752	366,646
Earnings on Investments	277	12		289
Miscellaneous	5,688	7,578		13,266
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>231,179</u>	<u>419,940</u>	<u>158,752</u>	<u>809,871</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	159,211	1,411		160,622
Public Safety	29,256	48,150		77,406
Public Works	2,639	198,720		201,359
Health	21,076	4,175		25,251
Capital Outlay		371,980	158,752	530,732
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>212,182</u>	<u>624,436</u>	<u>\$158,752</u>	<u>995,370</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>18,997</u>	<u>(204,496)</u>		<u>(185,499)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>				
Transfers In		23,300		23,300
Transfers Out	(23,300)			(23,300)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(23,300)</u>	<u>23,300</u>		
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(4,303)	(181,196)		(185,499)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>269,817</u>	<u>494,577</u>		<u>764,394</u>
<b>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</b>				
Restricted		313,381		313,381
Assigned	265,514			265,514
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$265,514</u>	<u>\$313,381</u>		<u>\$578,895</u>

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

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015**

**1. REPORTING ENTITY**

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**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(Continued)**

**C. Accounting Basis**

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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.

**D. Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires 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 budgetary activity appears in Note 3

**E. Capital Assets**

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

**F. 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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(Continued)**

**G. 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.

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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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(Continued)**

**3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY**

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2015 follows:

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 206,052	\$ 231,179	\$ 25,127
Special Revenue	391,965	443,240	51,275
Capital Projects	165,626	158,752	(6,874)
Total	\$ 763,643	\$ 833,171	\$ 69,528

2015 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 475,870	\$ 235,482	\$ 240,388
Special Revenue	885,542	727,690	157,852
Capital Projects	165,626	158,752	6,874
Total	\$ 1,527,038	\$ 1,121,924	\$ 405,114

**4. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS**

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

	2015
Demand Deposits	\$ 578,895

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

**5. 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.

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

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

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(Continued)**

**6. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

**A. Ohio Public Employee 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 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.

**B. Social Security**

One Township employee contributed to social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

The employee contributed 6.2 percent of his gross salary. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of the participant's gross salary. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2015.

**7. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

**8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**A. Risk Pool Membership**

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.

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(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, 2015, 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, 2015:

	<b><u>2015</u></b>
Assets	\$37,313,311
Liabilities	8,418,518
Net Position	\$28,894,793

At December 31, 2015 the liabilities above include approximately \$7.8 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.7 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 989 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2015. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2015, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$6,000.

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.

<b><u>Contributions to OTARMA</u></b>
<b><u>2015</u></b>
\$11,917

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2015  
(Continued)**

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.

**B. Commercial Insurance**

The Township has purchased commercial insurance for the fire department for the following risks:

- Equipment;
- Vehicles; and
- General Liability.

**9. 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.



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Berlin Township  
Erie County  
12101 State Route 61 East, P.O. Box 52  
Berlin Heights, Ohio 44814

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 the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type of Berlin Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 7, 2017 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. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2016-001 to be a material weakness.

***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*.

***Entity's Response to Finding***

The Township's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the Township's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

***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.



**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State

Columbus, Ohio

August 7, 2017



**BERLIN TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2016 AND 2015**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

**FINDING NUMBER 2016-001**

**Material Weakness – Financial Reporting**

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Fiscal Officer and the Board of Trustees and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements is complete and accurate.

We identified the following errors requiring adjustment to the financial statements and/or notes to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2016:

- The notes to the financial statements omitted budgetary activity for all fund types;
- Special Revenue Fund Type miscellaneous receipts and public works disbursements were both overstated in the amount of \$16,814 due to the improper accounting for an overpayment; and
- Special Revenue Fund type public safety disbursements in the amount of \$49,611 were improperly classified as general government disbursements.

We identified the following errors requiring adjustment to the financial statements and/or notes to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015:

- The notes to the financial statements omitted budgetary activity for all fund types; and
- Special Revenue Fund type public safety disbursements in the amount of \$48,150 were improperly classified as general government disbursements.

These errors were not identified and corrected prior to the Township preparing its financial statements due to deficiencies in the Township's internal controls over financial statement monitoring. The accompanying financial statements, and where applicable, the Township's accounting records have been adjusted to reflect these changes. Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Fiscal Officer and the Board of Trustees and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements and accompanying notes is complete and accurate.

To help ensure the Township's financial statements and notes to the statements are complete and accurate, the Township should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the statements and notes by the Fiscal Officer, to identify and correct errors and omissions. The Fiscal Officer can refer to the Ohio Township Handbook at the following web site address for guidance on the recording of transactions: <http://www.ohioauditor.gov/publications/FINALTownshipHandbook%203-22-17.pdf>.

**Officials' Response:**

The Fiscal Officer will ensure proper classification and recording of financial activity in the future.

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**BERLIN TOWNSHIP**

**ERIE COUNTY**

## **CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

**This is a true and correct copy of the report which is required to be filed in the Office of the Auditor of State pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in Columbus, Ohio.**

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
AUGUST 29, 2017**