



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Sterling Township
Brown County
2484 Greenbush West Road
Mt. Orab, Ohio 45154

To the Board of Trustees:

As you are aware, the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) must modify the *Independent Accountants' Report* we provide on your financial statements due to an interpretation from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). While AOS does not legally require your government to prepare financial statements pursuant to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), the AICPA interpretation requires auditors to formally acknowledge that you did not prepare your financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Our Report includes an adverse opinion relating to GAAP presentation and measurement requirements, but does not imply the amounts the statements present are misstated under the non-GAAP basis you follow. The AOS report also includes an opinion on the financial statements you prepared using the cash basis and financial statement format the AOS permits.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

May 30, 2012

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Sterling Township
Brown County
2484 Greenbush West Road
Mt. Orab, Ohio 45154

To the Board of Trustee:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Sterling Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Township's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. The Township processes its financial transactions with the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN). *Government Auditing Standards* considers this service to impair the independence of the Auditor of State to audit the Township because the Auditor of State designed, developed, implemented, and as requested, operates UAN. However, *Government Auditing Standards* permits the Auditor of State to audit and opine on this entity, because Ohio Revised Code § 117.101 requires the Auditor of State to provide UAN services, and Ohio Revised Code § 117.11(A) mandates the Auditor of State to audit Ohio governments. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described more fully in Note 1, the Township has prepared these financial statements using accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. These practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Although we cannot reasonably determine the effects on the financial statements of the variances between these regulatory accounting practices and GAAP, we presume they are material.

Instead of the combined funds the accompanying financial statements present, GAAP require presenting entity wide statements and also presenting the Township's larger (i.e. major) funds separately. While the Township does not follow GAAP, generally accepted auditing standards requires us to include the following paragraph if the statements do not substantially conform to GAAP presentation requirements. The Auditor of State permits, but does not require Townships to reformat their statements. The Township has elected not to follow GAAP statement formatting requirements. The following paragraph does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis the Auditor of State permits. Our opinion on the fair presentation of the amounts reported pursuant to its non-GAAP basis is in the second following paragraph.

In our opinion, because of the effects of the matter discussed in the preceding two paragraphs, the financial statements referred to above for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010 do not present fairly, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, or its changes in financial position for the years then ended.

Also, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the combined fund cash balances of Sterling Township, Brown County, Ohio as of December 31, 2011 and 2010, and its combined cash receipts and disbursements for the years then ended on the accounting basis Note 1 describes.

As described in Note 1, during 2011 the Sterling Township adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 30, 2012, 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. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State

May 30, 2012

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$51,886	\$183,159	\$235,045
Charges for Services		23,399	23,399
Licenses, Permits and Fees	13,543	3,550	17,093
Intergovernmental	64,667	127,361	192,028
Earnings on Investments	1,779	398	2,177
Miscellaneous	946	2,600	3,546
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>132,821</u>	<u>340,467</u>	<u>473,288</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	86,375	6,657	93,032
Public Safety		123,399	123,399
Public Works		155,566	155,566
Health	13,185	3,450	16,635
Capital Outlay	100		100
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>99,660</u>	<u>289,072</u>	<u>388,732</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>33,161</u>	<u>51,395</u>	<u>84,556</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	33,161	51,395	84,556
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>522,341</u>	<u>751,400</u>	<u>1,273,741</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	802,795	802,795
Unassigned (Deficit)	555,502	0	555,502
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$555,502</u></u>	<u><u>\$802,795</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,358,297</u></u>

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

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Totals (Memorandum Only)</u>
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$49,423	\$183,571	\$232,994
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	12,316	3,300	15,616
Intergovernmental	50,303	130,161	180,464
Earnings on Investments	2,950	682	3,632
Miscellaneous	883	1,200	2,083
	<u>115,875</u>	<u>318,914</u>	<u>434,789</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	93,231	6,064	99,295
Public Safety		100,000	100,000
Public Works		177,411	177,411
Health	16,467	3,220	19,687
Capital Outlay	1,625		1,625
	<u>111,323</u>	<u>286,695</u>	<u>398,018</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>111,323</u>	<u>286,695</u>	<u>398,018</u>
Total Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	<u>4,552</u>	<u>32,219</u>	<u>36,771</u>
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>517,789</u>	<u>719,181</u>	<u>1,236,970</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$522,341</u></u>	<u><u>\$751,400</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,273,741</u></u>

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

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

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 Sterling Township, Brown 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 and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Mt.Orab and Williamsburg Township to provide the Township fire and emergency medical services.

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 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. Cash and Deposits

The Township's funds are deposited in interest bearing checking accounts. All deposits are valued at cost.

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.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Fire Levy Fund - This fund receives proceeds from a tax levy for providing Township residents with fire protection services.

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

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

1. Appropriations

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

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must 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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated

A summary of 2011 and 2010 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

F. Fund Balance

For December 31, 2011, 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.

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010
(Continued)**

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (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 acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

2. Equity in Pooled Deposits

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

	2011	2010
Total Demand deposits	\$1,358,297	\$1,273,741

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

3. Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2011 and 2010 follows:

2011 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$106,409	\$132,820	\$26,411
Special Revenue	310,500	340,466	29,966
Total	\$416,909	\$473,286	\$56,377

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010
(Continued)**

3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2011 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$212,300	\$99,661	\$112,639
Special Revenue	658,500	289,071	369,429
Total	\$870,800	\$388,732	\$482,068

2010 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$93,276	\$115,875	\$22,599
Special Revenue	286,277	318,914	32,637
Total	\$379,553	\$434,789	\$55,236

2010 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$220,400	\$111,323	\$109,077
Special Revenue	654,500	286,695	367,805
Total	\$874,900	\$398,018	\$476,882

4. Property Tax

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

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 Village.

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010
(Continued)**

5. Retirement Systems

The Township 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 2011 and 2010, OPERS participants contributed 10% of their wages. For 2011 and 2010, the Township contributed to OPERS an amount equal to 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2011.

6. Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and inquires 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. American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc. (ARPCO), a division of York Insurance Services Group, Inc. (York), functions as the administrator of OTARMA and provides underwriting, claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for OTARMA. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by ARPCO. Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the members' deductibles.

Casualty and Property Coverage

APEEP provides OTARMA with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2010, OTARMA retained \$350,000 for casualty claims and \$150,000 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, 2010 and 2009 (the latest information available):

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Assets	\$35,855,252	\$38,982,088
Liabilities	<u>(10,664,724)</u>	<u>(12,880,766)</u>
Net Assets	<u>\$25,190,528</u>	<u>\$26,101,322</u>

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010
(Continued)**

6. Risk Management (Continued)

At December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$9.9 and \$12.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$9.5 and \$11.5 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 940 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2011, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$2,000.

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.

<u>Contributions to OTARMA</u>		
<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
\$2,942	\$2,400	\$1,964

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.



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Sterling Township
Brown County
2484 Greenbush West Road
Mt. Orab, Ohio 45154

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited the financial statements Sterling Township, Brown County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, and have issued our report thereon dated May 30, 2012, wherein we noted the Township followed accounting practices the Auditor of State prescribes rather than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We noted for audit period ending December 31, 2011 the Township adopted the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*. We also noted the Township uses the Auditor of State's Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) to process its financial transactions. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of opining on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

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 more than a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and timely corrected.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be deficiencies, significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

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, providing an opinion 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*.

We did note certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 30, 2012.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Trustees and others within the Township. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

May 30, 2012

**STERLING TOWNSHIP
BROWN COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2011 AND 2010**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2009-001	OAC 17-2-02(A) – Township had misclassifications and error in financial accounting records	No	Partially Corrected - Reported in Management Letter.
2009-002	Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.44, Ohio Rev. Code Section 505.84, OAG 2003-017	Yes	

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

STERLING TOWNSHIP

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.

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
JUNE 19, 2012**