



Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Accounting, Auditing and Consulting Services for Federal, State and Local Governments

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ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2013 and 2012
Fiscal Years Audited Under GAGAS: 2013 and 2012



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Trustees
Ross Township
3133 Hamilton Cleves Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Ross Township, Butler County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2012 through December 21, 2013. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Ross Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

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

Dave Yost
Auditor of State

September 4, 2014

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Ross Township
Butler County
Table of Contents

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditor’s Report	1
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes In Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2013.....	3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes In Fund Cash Balances – All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2012.....	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	13



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Accounting, Auditing and Consulting Services for Federal, State and Local Governments

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Independent Auditor's Report

Ross Township
Butler County
3133 Hamilton Cleves Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and related notes of Ross Township, Butler County, (the Township) 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 Township's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinion.

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the Township prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, to satisfy requirements.

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

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial 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, 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 Ross Township, Butler County, 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 July 17, 2014, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs
Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.
Piketon, Ohio
July 17, 2014

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property Taxes	\$ 159,561	\$ 996,295	\$ -	\$ 1,155,856
Charges for Services	-	228,193	-	228,193
Licenses, Permits and Fees	79,324	5,978	-	85,302
Fines and Forfeitures	9,621	1,898	-	11,519
Intergovernmental	153,831	278,572	-	432,403
Earnings on Investments	3,169	187	-	3,356
Miscellaneous	20,655	27,177	-	47,832
Total Cash Receipts	<u>426,161</u>	<u>1,538,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,964,461</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	313,769	-	-	313,769
Public Safety	4,061	1,125,592	-	1,129,653
Public Works	6,556	542,184	-	548,740
Conservation/Recreation	390	-	-	390
Capital Outlay	-	11,669	-	11,669
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal	-	-	100,000	100,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	32,483	32,483
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>324,776</u>	<u>1,679,445</u>	<u>132,483</u>	<u>2,136,704</u>
Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	101,385	(141,145)	(132,483)	(172,243)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Sale of Fixed Assets	6	77,246	-	77,252
Transfers-In	-	130,960	133,733	264,693
Transfers-Out	(264,693)	-	-	(264,693)
Advances-In	21,240	18,240	-	39,480
Advances-Out	(18,240)	(21,240)	-	(39,480)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>(261,687)</u>	<u>205,206</u>	<u>133,733</u>	<u>77,252</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(160,302)	64,061	1,250	(94,991)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>2,392,902</u>	<u>958,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,351,204</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted	-	796,850	-	796,850
Committed	132,533	225,513	-	358,046
Assigned	48,468	-	1,250	49,718
Unassigned	2,051,599	-	-	2,051,599
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 2,232,600</u>	<u>\$ 1,022,363</u>	<u>\$ 1,250</u>	<u>\$ 3,256,213</u>

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

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property Taxes	\$ 159,456	\$ 995,083	\$ -	\$ 1,154,539
Charges for Services	-	205,887	-	205,887
Licenses, Permits and Fees	45,602	3,967	-	49,569
Fines and Forfeitures	11,636	1,962	-	13,598
Intergovernmental	254,232	326,482	-	580,714
Earnings on Investments	5,024	154	-	5,178
Miscellaneous	10,270	15,156	-	25,426
Total Cash Receipts	<u>486,220</u>	<u>1,548,691</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,034,911</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	330,762	-	-	330,762
Public Safety	620	1,205,337	-	1,205,957
Public Works	6,280	558,227	-	564,507
Health	5,299	-	-	5,299
Conservation/Recreation	3,195	-	-	3,195
Capital Outlay	-	13,762	-	13,762
Debt Service:				
Redemption of Principal	-	-	95,000	95,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	-	35,903	35,903
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>346,156</u>	<u>1,777,326</u>	<u>130,903</u>	<u>2,254,385</u>
Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements	140,064	(228,635)	(130,903)	(219,474)
Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements):				
Sale of Fixed Assets	115	48,862	-	48,977
Transfers-In	-	420,000	130,903	550,903
Transfers-Out	(550,903)	-	-	(550,903)
Advances-In	40,209	4,000	-	44,209
Advances-Out	(4,000)	(40,209)	-	(44,209)
Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)	<u>(514,579)</u>	<u>432,653</u>	<u>130,903</u>	<u>48,977</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(374,515)	204,018	-	(170,497)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>2,767,417</u>	<u>754,284</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,521,701</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted	-	765,387	-	765,387
Committed	133,733	192,915	-	326,648
Assigned	5,026	-	-	5,026
Unassigned	<u>2,254,143</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,254,143</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 2,392,902</u>	<u>\$ 958,302</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,351,204</u>

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

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

**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 Ross Township, Butler County (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, fire protection, police services, and emergency medical services.

The Township participates in the OTARMA public entity risk pool. Note 7 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.

B. Accounting Basis

These financial statements follow the accounting basis the Auditor of State prescribes or permits. The basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

C. Cash and Deposits

The township deposits all available funds in an interest earning checking account at a local commercial bank. 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 accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

2. Special Revenue Funds

These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

D. Fund Accounting (Continued)

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

Fire Levy Fund – This fund receives property tax and intergovernmental revenue for the operation of the Township Fire Department.

Police Levy Fund – This fund receives property tax and intergovernmental revenue for the operation of the Township Police Department.

Fire & Rescue, Ambulance & EMS Services Fund – This fund receives charges for services for fire, rescue and emergency medical services.

3. Deb Service Funds

These funds account for resources the Township accumulates to pay bond and note debt. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

OTA Lease Fund – This fund is used to account for debt service requirements for the Ohio Township Association lease-purchase agreement.

E. Budgetary Process

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

1. Appropriations

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

2. Estimated Resources

Estimated Resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered 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 2013 and 2012 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

F. Fund Balance

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

1. Nonspendable

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

2. Restricted

Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

3. Committed

Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

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.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

G. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

H. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

2. Equity in Pooled Cash

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

	2013	2012
Demand deposits	\$3,256,213	\$3,351,204

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 year ending December 31, 2013 and 2012 as follows:

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 345,407	\$ 447,407	\$ 102,000
Special Revenue	1,593,550	1,764,746	171,196
Debt Service	132,483	133,733	1,250
Total	\$ 2,071,440	\$ 2,345,886	\$ 274,446

2013 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures *	Variance
General	\$ 2,738,309	\$ 656,177	\$ 2,082,132
Special Revenue	2,551,852	1,728,098	823,754
Debt Service	132,483	132,483	-
Total	\$ 5,422,644	\$ 2,516,758	\$ 2,905,886

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

3. Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 443,878	\$ 526,544	\$ 82,666
Special Revenue	1,923,298	2,021,553	98,255
Debt Service	130,903	130,903	-
Total	\$ 2,498,079	\$ 2,679,000	\$ 180,921

2012 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures *	Variance
General	\$ 3,211,295	\$ 906,085	\$ 2,305,210
Special Revenue	2,677,582	1,841,743	835,839
Debt Service	130,903	130,903	-
Total	\$ 6,019,780	\$ 2,878,731	\$ 3,141,049

*Budgetary Expenditures includes encumbrances

4. Property Tax

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

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

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

5. Lease and Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2013 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
OTA Lease Purchase Agreement	\$ 700,000	2.65%

On November 1, 2004 the Township entered into a financing agreement with the Ohio Township Association (OTA) for the construction of its Fire Station. Under the financing agreement, the Township is obligated to make payments to Ohio Township Association Leasing through 2019 in amounts required to retire \$1.5 million in Certificates of Participation issued by the Bank of New York. These Certificates of Participation mature through 2019 and carry interest rates ranging from 2.10% to 4.3%.

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

Year Ending December 31:	Fire Station- OTA Lease Purchase
2014	\$ 135,032
2015	136,043
2016	136,753
2017	136,980
2018	132,000
2019	136,840
Total	\$ 813,648

Note: The above fire station lease payments also include administrative fees.

6. Retirement Systems

The Township's Fire Chief belongs to the Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). The Township's Police Chief belongs to the OPERS- Law Enforcement. The Township's elected officials and other employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes the plan's benefits, which include postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2013 and 2012, OP&F participants contributed 10% of their wages through June 30, 2013 and 10.75% of their wages for July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. For 2013 and 2012, the Township contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24% of full-time fire fighters' wages. For 2013 and 2012, OPERS- Law Enforcement members contributed 12.6% and 12.1% , respectively, of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 18.10% of the participants' gross salaries. For 2013 and 2012, OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of the participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2013.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

7. Risk Management

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

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

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

Casualty and Property Coverage

The Pool is a member of American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP), which is also administered by York. APEEP provides the Pool with an excess risk-sharing program. Under this arrangement, OTARMA retains insured risks up to an amount specified in the contracts. At December 31, 2013, OTARMA retained \$350,000 for casualty claims and \$250,000 for property claims.

The aforementioned casualty and property reinsurance agreement does not discharge OTARMA's primary liability for claims payments on covered losses. Claims exceeding coverage limits are the obligation of the respective government.

Financial Position

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

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

At December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively, the liabilities above include approximately \$7.9 and \$8.7 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$7.4 and \$7.8 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 948 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2013 and 2012, respectively. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2013, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$28,000.

**ROSS TOWNSHIP
BUTLER COUNTY**

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

7. Risk Management (Continued)

Based on discussions with OTARMA, the expected rates OTARMA charges to compute member contributions, which are used to pay claims as they become due, are not expected to change significantly from those used to determine the historical contributions detailed below. By contract, the annual liability of each member is limited to the amount of financial contributions required to be made to OTARMA for each year of membership.

<u>Township Contributions to OTARMA</u>		
2013	\$	50,254
2012		43,598

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.



Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Accounting, Auditing and Consulting Services for Federal, State and Local Governments

www.bhscpas.com

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

Ross Township
Butler County
3133 Hamilton Cleves Road
Hamilton, Ohio 45013

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 Ross Township, Butler County, (the Township) 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 July 17, 2014 wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 permit.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. *A material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. *A significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs
Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.
Piketon, Ohio
July 17, 2014

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

ROSS TOWNSHIP

BUTLER 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
SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**