



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Palmer Township
Washington County
351 Derby Road
Waterford, Ohio 45786

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 the Palmer Township, Washington County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016.

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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 such 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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. 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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, 2017 and 2016, 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 cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of the Palmer Township, Washington County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 May 2, 2018, 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

May 2, 2018

Palmer Township
Washington County

*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017*

	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$37,986	\$17,266	\$0	\$55,252
Charges for Services	1,650	0	0	1,650
Licenses, Permits and Fees	0	650	0	650
Intergovernmental	26,765	170,543	0	197,308
Earnings on Investments	274	509	15	798
Miscellaneous	855	2,995	0	3,850
	<u>67,530</u>	<u>191,963</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>259,508</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	25,645	7,907	0	33,552
Public Safety	650	0	0	650
Public Works	0	124,497	0	124,497
Health	3,076	0	0	3,076
Human Services	31	0	0	31
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	0	20,026	0	20,026
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	2,738	0	2,738
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>29,402</u>	<u>155,168</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>184,570</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	38,128	36,795	15	74,938
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>56,980</u>	<u>275,834</u>	<u>5,971</u>	<u>338,785</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Nonspendable	0	0	4,150	4,150
Restricted	0	268,330	1,836	270,166
Committed	0	44,299	0	44,299
Assigned	38,550	0	0	38,550
Unassigned (Deficit)	<u>56,558</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>56,558</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$95,108</u></u>	<u><u>\$312,629</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,986</u></u>	<u><u>\$413,723</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

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**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Note 1 - Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Palmer Township, Washington County (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general governmental services, including zoning, and road and bridge maintenance.

Joint Ventures, Jointly Governed Organizations, Public Entity Risk Pools and Related Organizations

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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, and a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary and fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

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:

Gasoline Tax Fund This fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Road and Bridge Fund This fund accounts for and reports that portion of property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Permanent Funds These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant Permanent Fund:

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017
(Continued)**

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Dale/Gard Cemetery Endowment Fund This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings are used for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) be budgeted annually.

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 Township Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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.

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 2017 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

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.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017
(Continued)**

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2017 follows:

2017 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$45,650	\$67,530	\$21,880
Special Revenue	176,106	191,963	15,857
Permanent	13	15	2
Total	\$221,769	\$259,508	\$37,739

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017
(Continued)**

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2017 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$73,150	\$29,402	\$43,748
Special Revenue	298,164	155,168	142,996
Permanent	3,000	0	3,000
Total	\$374,314	\$184,570	\$189,744

Note 4 - 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:

	2017
Demand deposits	\$409,573
Certificates of deposit	4,150
Total deposits	\$413,723

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

Note 5 - Taxes

Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

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

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

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. York Risk Pooling Services, Inc. (formally known as American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc.) (York or Management), functions as the administrator of the Pool and provides underwriting claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for the Pool.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017
(Continued)**

Note 6 - Risk Management (Continued)

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, 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 (the latest information available).

	<u>2016</u>
Assets	\$38,473,283
Liabilities	<u>8,244,140</u>
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 \$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.

2017 Contributions to OTARMA
\$4,892

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.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2017
(Continued)**

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Township 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. 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, 2017.

Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include 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.

Note 9 - Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2017 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
2016 Capital Lease - John Deere Tractor and Equipment	\$85,326	2.65%

In 2016, the Township entered into a 5 year capital lease of a new John Deere tractor and related equipment through the Ohio Township Association Leasing, LLC in the amount \$105,352 and at an interest rate of 2.65% for township road maintenance. Annual payments of \$22,764 will be made from the Permissive Sales Tax Fund.

Amortization

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

Year ending December 31:	Capital Lease
2018	\$22,764
2019	22,764
2020	22,764
2021	22,764
Total	\$91,056

Palmer Township
Washington 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*

	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$17,160	\$7,800	\$0	\$24,960
Intergovernmental	25,065	162,643	0	187,708
Earnings on Investments	195	418	15	628
Miscellaneous	1,909	3,796	0	5,705
	<u>44,329</u>	<u>174,657</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>219,001</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	24,647	7,487	0	32,134
Public Safety	1,150	0	0	1,150
Public Works	0	116,520	0	116,520
Health	4,163	18	0	4,181
Conservation-Recreation	1,200	0	0	1,200
Capital Outlay	0	105,352	0	105,352
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>31,160</u>	<u>229,377</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>260,537</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>13,169</u>	<u>(54,720)</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>(41,536)</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Other Debt Proceeds	0	105,352	0	105,352
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>105,352</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>105,352</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	13,169	50,632	15	63,816
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>43,811</u>	<u>225,202</u>	<u>5,956</u>	<u>274,969</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Nonspendable	0	0	4,150	4,150
Restricted	0	242,088	1,821	243,909
Committed	0	33,746	0	33,746
Assigned	31,500	0	0	31,500
Unassigned (Deficit)	25,480	0	0	25,480
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$56,980</u>	<u>\$275,834</u>	<u>\$5,971</u>	<u>\$338,785</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

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**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

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**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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Budgetary Process

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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 Township Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

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.

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.

Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

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.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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:

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

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

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$37,825	\$44,329	\$6,504
Special Revenue	274,877	280,009	5,132
Permanent	21	15	(6)
Total	\$312,723	\$324,353	\$11,630

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2016 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$46,750	\$31,160	\$15,590
Special Revenue	389,452	229,377	160,075
Permanent	4,700	0	4,700
Total	\$440,902	\$260,537	\$180,365

Note 4 - 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	\$334,635
Certificates of deposit	4,150
Total deposits	\$338,785

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

Note 5 - Taxes

Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

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

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

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio townships. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. York Risk Pooling Services, Inc. (formally known as American Risk Pooling Consultants, Inc.) (York or Management), functions as the administrator of the Pool and provides underwriting claims, loss control, risk management, and reinsurance services for the Pool.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

Note 6 - Risk Management (Continued)

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, 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 (the latest information available).

	<u>2016</u>
Assets	\$38,473,283
Liabilities	<u>8,244,140</u>
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 \$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.

2016 Contributions to OTARMA

\$4,867

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.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

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

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Township 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. 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.

Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include 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.

Note 9 - Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2016 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
2016 Capital Lease - John Deere Tractor and Equipment	\$105,352	2.65%

In 2016, the Township entered into a 5 year capital lease of a new John Deere tractor and related equipment through the Ohio Township Association Leasing, LLC in the amount \$105,352 and at an interest rate of 2.65% for township road maintenance. Annual payments of \$22,764 will be made from the Permissive Sales Tax Fund.

Amortization

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

Year ending December 31:	Capital Lease
2017	\$22,764
2018	22,764
2019	22,764
2020	22,764
2021	22,764
Total	\$113,820



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*

Palmer Township
Washington County
351 Derby Road
Waterford, Ohio 45786

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 Palmer Township, Washington County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 2, 2018, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 2017-001 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 the 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

May 2, 2018

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2017-001

Material Weakness

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C § 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; 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 as discussed in AU-C § 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Additionally, Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004 mandated Governmental Accounting Standard Board Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2010.

The Fiscal Officer made certain posting errors resulting in audit adjustments as follows:

- During 2017, homestead and rollback receipts from the state were improperly classified as property and other local tax receipts rather than as intergovernmental receipts. As a result, adjustments to reclassify \$1,605 and \$723 from property and other local taxes to intergovernmental receipts in the General Fund and Road and Bridge Fund, respectively, were proposed.
- During 2017, community center rental receipts were misposted as miscellaneous receipts. As a result, \$1,650 was reclassified as charges for services rather than as miscellaneous receipts.
- In 2016, the Township entered into a lease-purchase agreement for the acquisition of a John Deere tractor and related attachment. The debt proceeds and expenditure relating to the total cost of the equipment was not posted to the accounting system. As a result, adjustments to increase other debt proceeds and to increase capital outlay expenditures in the Road and Bridge Fund were proposed.
- During both 2016 and 2017, interest receipts attributable to the Murdock Cemetery Bequest Permanent Fund were incorrectly credited to the General Fund. Adjustments to report these receipts (\$1 for 2016 and \$2 for 2017) were proposed since these amount were considered material to the Permanent Funds.
- Contrary to the GASB 54 fund balance definitions listed in the Bulletin 2011-004, at December 31, the Fiscal Officer misclassified certain fund balances as follows:
 - A portion of the General Fund December 31, 2016 balance was included as part of the subsequent year's appropriations and, therefore, misclassified as unassigned rather than as assigned. As a result, \$31,500 of the December 31, 2016 total General Fund balance was reclassified as assigned.
 - Road and Bridge Fund balance was improperly classified as restricted rather than as committed at December 31, 2016. The tax levy funding the Road and Bridge Fund is within the ten mil limitation, which is an internal restriction. As a result, the Road and Bridge Fund balance of \$33,746 was reclassified as committed.
 - The portion of the Permanent Funds' December 31, 2016 and 2017 fund balance attributable to interest earned was misclassified as nonspendable rather than as restricted. As a result, the 2016 portion representing interest earned to date of \$1,796 was reclassified as restricted and the 2017 interest receipts of \$15 was also reclassified as restricted at December 31, 2017.

**PALMER TOWNSHIP
WASHINGTON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016
(Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2017-001 (Continued)

Material Weakness (Continued)

The Fiscal Officer should refer to the Ohio Township Handbook for guidance on the proper classification of receipts and on-behalf transactions and to Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004 for guidance on the proper classification of the fund balances. These reclassifications and adjustments, with which management agrees, are reflected in the audited financial statements

Official's Response: The Township management will try to correct the issues in the future



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PALMER TOWNSHIP

WASHINGTON 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
MAY 29, 2018**