

MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP

TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO

AUDIT REPORT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017





88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees
Mesopotamia Township
PO Box 199
Mesopotamia, Ohio 44439

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. 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. Mesopotamia Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 16, 2019

This page intentionally left blank.

MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
Audit Report
For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1-2
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2018	3
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2018	4-9
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2017	10
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2017	11-17
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	18-19
Schedule of Findings	20-22
Prepared by Management:	
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	23
Corrective Action Plan	24

This page intentionally left blank.

Rockefeller Building
614 W Superior Ave Ste 1242
Cleveland OH 44113-1306
Office phone - (216) 575-1630
Fax - (216) 436-2411

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
Certified Public Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
P.O. Box 199
Mesopotamia, OH 44439

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 Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017.

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 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 Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the Township does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

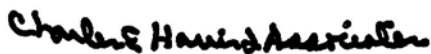
In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the respective 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 Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 14, 2019, 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.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
June 14, 2019

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 74,357	\$ 191,702	\$ -	\$ 266,059
Licenses, Permits and Fees	-	2,575	-	2,575
Intergovernmental	60,376	108,165	-	168,541
Earnings on Investments	66	22	-	88
Miscellaneous	7,839	13,164	-	21,003
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>142,638</u>	<u>315,628</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>458,266</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	91,057	-	-	91,057
Public Safety	-	56,213	-	56,213
Public Works	-	226,120	-	226,120
Conservation-Recreation	2,500	-	-	2,500
Capital Outlay	18,333	-	-	18,333
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	11,667	-	11,667
Interest & Fiscal Charges	-	732	-	732
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>111,890</u>	<u>294,732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>406,622</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	30,748	20,896	-	51,644
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>220,766</u>	<u>181,843</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>402,619</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted	-	202,739	10	202,749
Assigned	736	-	-	736
Unassigned	250,778	-	-	250,778
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 251,514</u>	<u>\$ 202,739</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 454,263</u>

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

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with Farmington Township and Bristol Township to provide Paramedic / EMS ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool, an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program. 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 which is 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:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax 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 The road and bridge fund receives property tax money restricted for maintenance and repair of roads and bridges within the Township.

Fire Fund The fire fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection to residents of the Township.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Accounting (continued)

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Obligation Bond Retirement Fund This fund is used to account for all general obligation bond retirement, including bond principal, interest and related costs.

Basis of Accounting

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

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund 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 Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end.

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

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 2018 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.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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.

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. The Township may also assign fund balances as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget in the General Fund.

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.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2018 is as follows:

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$160,815	\$142,638	(\$18,177)
Special Revenue	335,828	315,628	(20,200)
Debt Service	0	0	0

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$361,730	\$112,626	\$249,104
Special Revenue	492,279	295,953	196,326
Debt Service	10	0	10

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

Demand deposits	2018
	\$454,263

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 5 – Property Taxes (continued)

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 a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township’s policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official’s liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

2018	
Cash and investments	\$33,097,416
Actuarial liabilities	\$7,874,610

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All 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, 2018.

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. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 0% during calendar year 2018. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2018.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2018 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Cortland Savings & Banking Truck Loan # 3025195	\$ 14,583	3.5%

Note 9 – Debt (continued)

Loan

In March 2017, the Township received a loan from the Cortland Savings and Banking company totaling \$35,000 for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck. The agreement dictates that the loan be repaid over 36 months at 3.5% interest rate starting in April 2017. The Township intends to repay this loan from the Roads and Bridge fund.

Amortization

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

Year ending	Loan 3025195
December 31:	
2019	\$ 11,990
2020	2,934
Total	\$ 14,924

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matters will not materially adversely affect the Township’s financial condition.

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 72,598	\$ 189,204	-	\$ 261,802
Licenses, Permits and Fees	-	1,750	-	1,750
Intergovernmental	61,863	110,784	-	172,647
Earnings on Investments	64	18	-	82
Miscellaneous	5,520	10,389	-	15,909
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>140,045</u>	<u>312,145</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>452,190</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	80,402	2,080	-	82,482
Public Safety	-	43,135	-	43,135
Public Works	-	222,555	-	222,555
Health	-	427	-	427
Conservation-Recreation	5,746	-	-	5,746
Capital Outlay	-	35,000	-	35,000
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	8,750	-	8,750
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	818	-	818
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>86,148</u>	<u>312,765</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>398,913</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	53,897	(620)	-	53,277
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Notes	-	35,000	-	35,000
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,000</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	53,897	34,380	-	88,277
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>166,869</u>	<u>147,463</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>314,342</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31				
Restricted	-	181,843	10	181,853
Assigned	19,505	-	-	19,505
Unassigned	201,261	-	-	201,261
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 220,766</u>	<u>\$ 181,843</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 402,619</u>

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

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull 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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with Farmington Township and Bristol Township to provide Paramedic / EMS ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool, an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program. 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 which is 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:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax 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 The road and bridge fund receives property tax money restricted for maintenance and repair of roads and bridges within the Township.

Fire Fund The fire fund receives property tax money to provide fire protection to residents of the Township.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Accounting (continued)

Debt Service Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

General Obligation Bond Retirement Fund This fund is used to account for all general obligation bond retirement, including bond principal, interest and related costs.

Basis of Accounting

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

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund 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 Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year-end.

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

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 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.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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.

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. The Township may also assign fund balances as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget in the General Fund.

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.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2017 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$136,234	\$140,045	\$3,811
Special Revenue	334,456	347,145	12,689
Debt Service	0	0	0

2017 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$302,809	\$105,653	\$197,156
Special Revenue	495,712	339,784	155,928
Debt Service	10	0	10

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

Demand deposits	2017
	\$402,619

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 5 – Property Taxes (continued)

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), 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, 2017, 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, 2017.

	2017
Assets	\$40,010,732
Liabilities	8,675,465
Net Position	\$31,335,267

At December 31, 2017, the liabilities above include approximately \$8.0 million of estimated incurred claims payable. The assets above also include approximately \$6.9 million of unpaid claims to be billed to approximately 1,016 member governments in the future, as of December 31, 2017. These amounts will be included in future contributions from members when the related claims are due for payment. As of December 31, 2017, the Township's share of these unpaid claims collectible in future years is approximately \$6,000.

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 6 - 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.

2017 Contributions to OTARMA
\$ 14,474

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.

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All 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. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 1% during calendar year 2017. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2017.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2017 was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Cortland Savings & Banking Truck Loan # 3025195	\$ 26,250	3.5%

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Note 9 – Debt (continued)

Loan

In March 2017, the Township received a loan from the Cortland Savings and Banking company totaling \$35,000 for the purpose of purchasing a dump truck. The agreement dictates that the loan be repaid over 36 months at 3.5% interest rate starting in April 2017. The Township intends to repay this loan from the Road and Bridge fund.

Amortization

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

Year ending	
December 31:	<u>Loan 3025195</u>
2018	\$ 12,398
2019	11,990
2020	<u>2,934</u>
Total	<u>\$ 27,322</u>

Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

This page intentionally left blank.

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

Mesopotamia Township
Trumbull County
P.O. Box 199
Mesopotamia, OH 44439

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 Mesopotamia Township, Trumbull County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 14, 2019, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a 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 2018-001 described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2018-002.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 14, 2019.

Entity's Responses to Findings

The Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. We did not subject the Township's responses to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
June 14, 2019

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
December 31, 2018 and 2017**

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

Finding Number: 2018-001 – Material Weakness

Audit Adjustments and Reclassifications:

The Fiscal Officer erroneously recorded several transactions during 2018 and 2017. The more significant adjustments are as follow:

- Recorded homestead and rollbacks as property and other local taxes instead of intergovernmental receipts.
- Recorded refunds and reimbursement receipts as other financing sources instead of miscellaneous receipts.
- Recorded payments of audit services as public safety and public works instead of general government.
- Recorded grant money as miscellaneous instead of intergovernmental receipts.
- Recorded debt payment as public works instead of principal and interest.
- Recorded tax collection fee expenditure as health instead of general government.
- Did not properly classify fund balances in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 54.
- Footnotes were modified to address inconsistencies with Auditor of State mandated requirements

Various other immaterial posting errors were also noted and brought to the attention of management. The accompanying financial statements and the Township’s records have been adjusted to properly reflect these transactions.

Failure to report transactions correctly results in the financial statements not being accurately presented. We recommend that the Fiscal Officer follow GASB 54 fund balance classifications and refer to the Ohio Township Handbook, UAN manual and Auditor of State guidance to properly classify its transactions. In addition, we recommend the Fiscal Officer review all financial reports compiled by UAN to ensure their accuracy, including the budgetary information.

Management Response:

See Corrective Action Plan.

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS - continued
December 31, 2018 and 2017**

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

Finding Number 2018-002 - Ohio Revised Code Non-Compliance

Certification of Expenditures

Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705.41 (D) (1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making a contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by a fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer’s certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: “then and now” certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in sections 5705.41 (D)(1) and 5705.41 (D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. “Then and Now Certificates” – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that contract or order was made (“then”) and at the time that the fiscal officer was completing the certification (“now”), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from the receipt of the “then and now” certificate to approve payment by resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution upon completion of the “then and now” certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

2. Blanket Certificates - Fiscal officers may prepare “blanket” certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution adopted by a majority of members of the legislative authority against any specific line item amount over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
3. Super Blanket Certificates – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount for a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most profession services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS - continued
December 31, 2018 and 2017**

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

Finding Number 2018-002 - Ohio Revised Code Non-Compliance (continued)

Certification of Expenditures (continued)

During 2018 and 2017, 45% and 27%, respectively of purchase orders tested were not certified by the Township Fiscal Officer prior to incurring the obligation respectively. The transactions had no evidence of the above mentioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balance.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's expenditures exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Township certify expenditures prior to incurring the liability.

This page intentionally left blank.

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017
Prepared by Management**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2016-001	Improper recording of transactions	Not corrected	Due to oversight, Repeated as finding 2018-001

This page intentionally left blank.

**MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP
TRUMBULL COUNTY**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2017
Prepared by Management**

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2018-001	Aware of the issue. Will try my best to correct in the future.	Immediately	Judith Sly, Fiscal Officer
2018-002	Aware of the issue. Will do my best to correct in the future.	Immediately	Judith Sly, Fiscal Officer

This page intentionally left blank.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



MESOPOTAMIA TOWNSHIP

TRUMBULL 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 3, 2019**