

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769

EXAMINATION REPORT

OF

NEWTON TOWNSHIP

JASPER COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007



FILED

05/14/2008

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OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	Calvin E. Steinke	01-01-06 to 12-31-10
Chairman of the Township Board	Cecil Zacher	01-01-06 to 12-31-06
	Paul Dunlap	01-01-07 to 12-31-07
	Cecil Zacher	01-01-08 to 12-31-08



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF NEWTON TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY, INDIANA

We have examined the financial information presented herein of Newton Township (Township), for the period of January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007. The Township's management is responsible for the financial information presented herein. Our responsibility is to express an opinion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and, accordingly, included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the financial information presented herein and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial information referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial information of the Township for the years ended December 31, 2006 and 2007, based on the criteria set forth in the uniform compliance guidelines established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

February 27, 2008

NEWTON TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY
 SCHEDULES OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES
 ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
 As Of And For The Years Ended December 31, 2006 And 2007

	Cash and Investments 01-01-06	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-06
Governmental Funds:				
Township	\$ 13,559	\$ 20,251	\$ 21,785	\$ 12,025
Dog	400	76	476	-
Township Assistance	12,418	200	726	11,892
Firefighting	28,170	13,809	8,400	33,579
Rainy Day	453	-	-	453
	<u>55,000</u>	<u>34,336</u>	<u>31,387</u>	<u>57,949</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 55,000</u>	<u>\$ 34,336</u>	<u>\$ 31,387</u>	<u>\$ 57,949</u>

	Cash and Investments 01-01-07	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-07
Governmental Funds:				
Township	\$ 12,025	\$ 10,503	\$ 21,567	\$ 961
Township Assistance	11,892	-	231	11,661
Firefighting	33,579	-	8,400	25,179
Rainy Day	453	-	-	453
	<u>57,949</u>	<u>10,503</u>	<u>30,198</u>	<u>38,254</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 57,949</u>	<u>\$ 10,503</u>	<u>\$ 30,198</u>	<u>\$ 38,254</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial information.

NEWTON TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Note 1. Introduction

The Township was established under the laws of the State of Indiana. The Township provides the following services: public safety, health and social services, culture and recreation, and general administrative services.

Note 2. Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to report on its cash and investments and the results of its operations on a cash basis. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities.

Note 3. Budgets

The operating budget is initially prepared and approved at the local level. In addition, funds for which property taxes are levied are subject to final approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

Note 4. Property Taxes

Property taxes levied are collected by the County Treasurer and are distributed to the Township in June and December. State statute (IC 6-1.1-17-16) requires the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance to establish property tax rates and levies by February 15. These rates were based upon the preceding year's March 1 (lien date) assessed valuations adjusted for various tax credits. Taxable property is assessed at 100% of the true tax value (determined in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance). Taxes may be paid in two equal installments which become delinquent if not paid by May 10 and November 10, respectively.

Note 5. Deposits and Investments

Deposits, made in accordance with Indiana Code 5-13, with financial institutions in the State of Indiana at year end were entirely insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or by the Indiana Public Deposit Insurance Fund. This includes any deposit accounts issued or offered by a qualifying financial institution.

State statute (IC 5-13-9) authorizes the Township to invest in securities including, but not limited to, federal government securities, repurchase agreements, and certain money market mutual funds. Certain other statutory restrictions apply to all investments made by local governmental units.

NEWTON TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS

POSTING ERRORS

Jasper County disbursed tax distributions in 2007, to the Rainy Day Fund and Firefighting Fund which were not properly posted to the records. Records indicate that all monies received were posted in the Township Fund.

Controls over the receipting, disbursing, recording, and accounting for the financial activities are necessary to avoid substantial risk of invalid transactions, inaccurate records and financial statements and incorrect decision making. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

OPTICAL IMAGES OF CHECKS

The financial institution did not return the actual cancelled checks with the monthly bank statements, but instead returned an optical image of only the front side of the checks.

Indiana Code 5-15-6-3(a) concerning optical imaging of checks states in part:

" . . . 'original records' includes the optical image of a check or deposit document when:

- (1) the check or deposit document is recorded, copied, or reproduced by an optical imaging process . . . ; and
- (2) the drawer of the check receives an optical image of the check after the check is processed for payment . . . "

Furthermore, Indiana Code 26-2-8-111 states in part:

(a) "If a law requires that certain records be retained, that requirement is met by retaining an electronic record of the information in the record that:

- (1) accurately reflects the information set forth in the record after it was first generated in its final form as an electronic record or otherwise; and
- (2) remains accessible for later reference."

(e) "If a law requires retention of a check, that requirement is satisfied by retention of an electronic record of the information on the front and back of the check in accordance with subsection (a)."

NEWTON TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS
(Continued)

FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES – COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Township did not comply with the directives of the Internal Revenue Service by not issuing 1099 (Miscellaneous Income) for rent received in the amount of \$3,000 each year in 2006 and 2007.

Political subdivisions are required to comply with all grant agreements, rules, regulations, bulletins, directives, letters, letter rulings, and filing requirements concerning reports and other procedural matters of federal and state agencies, including opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Indiana, and court decisions. Governmental units should file accurate reports required by federal and state agencies. Noncompliance may require corrective action. (Accounting and Uniform compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

Each governmental unit is responsible for compliance with all rules, regulations, guidelines, and directives of the Internal Revenue Service and the Indiana Department of Revenue. All questions concerning taxes should be directed to these agencies. (Accounting and Uniform compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

Officials and employees have the duty to pay claims and remit taxes in a timely fashion. Failure to pay claims or remit taxes in a timely manner could be an indicator of serious financial problems which should be investigated by the governmental unit.

Additionally, officials and employees have a responsibility to perform duties in a manner which would not result in any unreasonable fees being assessed against the governmental unit.

Any penalties, interest or other charges paid by the governmental unit may be the personal obligation of the responsible official or employee. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

NEWTON TOWNSHIP, JASPER COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on February 27, 2008, with Calvin E. Steinke, Trustee. The official concurred with our findings.