

B36277

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

EXAMINATION REPORT  
OF  
ROSS TOWNSHIP  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA  
January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009



**FILED**  
04/22/2010



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OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	John W. Rooda	01-01-07 to 12-31-10
Chairman of the Township Board	Pat Widing	01-01-07 to 12-31-07
	Rich Kendera	01-01-08 to 12-31-08
	Robert Hamady	01-01-09 to 12-31-09
	Rich Kendera	01-01-10 to 12-31-10



**STATE OF INDIANA**  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF ROSS TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

We have examined the financial information presented herein of Ross Township (Township), for the period of January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2009. 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, 2007, 2008, and 2009, based on the criteria set forth in the uniform compliance guidelines established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

The Schedule of Capital Assets, as listed in the Table of Contents, is presented for additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial information. It has not been subjected to the examination procedures applied to the basic financial information and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

March 25, 2010

ROSS TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY  
SCHEDULES OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES  
ALL GOVERNMENTAL AND FIDUCIARY FUND TYPES  
As Of And For The Years Ended December 31, 2007, 2008, And 2009

	Cash and Investments 01-01-07	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-07
Governmental Funds:				
Township	\$ 211,013	\$ 233,813	\$ 309,196	\$ 135,630
Township Assistance	483,418	97,727	97,970	483,175
Firefighting	459,048	17,888	11,154	465,782
Park and Recreation	510,764	397,381	547,252	360,893
Emergency Medical Service	126,860	11,836	12,768	125,928
Property Maintenance	410,959	232,833	352,287	291,505
Cumulative Fire	31,685	-	-	31,685
Donations	8,871	19,614	10,095	18,390
Fiduciary Fund:				
Payroll Withholdings	4,324	164,524	166,569	2,279
Totals	<u>\$ 2,246,942</u>	<u>\$ 1,175,616</u>	<u>\$ 1,507,291</u>	<u>\$ 1,915,267</u>

	Cash and Investments 01-01-08	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-08
Governmental Funds:				
Township	\$ 135,630	\$ 415,884	\$ 357,316	\$ 194,198
Township Assistance	483,175	250,261	125,419	608,017
Firefighting	465,782	13,926	6,780	472,928
Park and Recreation	360,893	695,744	482,852	573,785
Emergency Medical Service	125,928	9,530	6,823	128,635
Property Maintenance	291,505	464,103	287,187	468,421
Cumulative Fire	31,685	-	-	31,685
Donations	18,390	17,614	8,344	27,660
Fiduciary Fund:				
Payroll Withholdings	2,279	175,006	171,529	5,756
Totals	<u>\$ 1,915,267</u>	<u>\$ 2,042,068</u>	<u>\$ 1,446,250</u>	<u>\$ 2,511,085</u>

	Cash and Investments 01-01-09	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-09
Governmental Funds:				
Township	\$ 194,198	\$ 346,942	\$ 338,419	\$ 202,721
Township Assistance	608,017	182,153	151,517	638,653
Firefighting	472,928	33,000	7,443	498,485
Park and Recreation	573,785	523,229	641,042	455,972
Emergency Medical Service	128,635	8,703	1,800	135,538
Property Maintenance	468,421	387,363	503,324	352,460
Cumulative Fire	31,685	-	-	31,685
HLP Construction Escrow	-	24,765	24,765	-
Donations	27,660	15,600	13,499	29,761
Fiduciary Fund:				
Payroll Withholdings	5,756	170,689	175,860	585
Totals	<u>\$ 2,511,085</u>	<u>\$ 1,692,444</u>	<u>\$ 1,857,669</u>	<u>\$ 2,345,860</u>

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

ROSS TOWNSHIP, LAKE 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.

However, due to the continued delay in the completion of the reassessment of Lake County, property tax rates and levies were not established by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance as of February 15, 2007, 2008, or 2009, as required by state statute. The Township received advances on taxes collected, however, the final settlement of taxes due in 2007, 2008, and 2009 were not received until March 20, 2008, March 27, 2009, and January 20, 2010, 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.

ROSS TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION  
(Continued)

Note 6. Pension Plan

Public Employees' Retirement Fund

Plan Description

The Township contributes to the Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF), a defined benefit pension plan. PERF is an agent multiple-employer public employee retirement system, which provides retirement benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. All full-time employees are eligible to participate in this defined benefit plan. State statutes (IC 5-10.2 and 5-10.3) govern, through the PERF Board, most requirements of the system, and give the Township authority to contribute to the plan. The PERF retirement benefit consists of the pension provided by employer contributions plus an annuity provided by the member's annuity savings account. The annuity savings account consists of members' contributions, set by state statute at 3% of compensation, plus the interest credited to the member's account. The employer may elect to make the contributions on behalf of the member.

PERF administers the plan and issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the plan as a whole and for its participants. That report may be obtained by contacting:

Public Employees' Retirement Fund  
Harrison Building, Room 800  
143 West Market Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Ph. (317) 233-4162

Funding Policy and Annual Pension Cost

The contribution requirements of the plan members for PERF are established by the Board of Trustees of PERF.

Note 7. Contingent Liability

On July 4, 2009, the Township's pedestrian bridge at Hidden Lake Park collapsed. Litigation against the Township has been certified as a class action suit. The Township's insurance carrier is handling the class action suit and is in the initial discovery phase.

ROSS TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS  
 December 31, 2009

Capital assets are reported at actual or estimated historical cost based on appraisals or deflated current replacement cost. Contributed or donated assets are reported at estimated fair value at the time received.

<u>Primary Government</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental activities:	
Capital assets, not being depreciated:	
Land	\$ 485,018
Buildings	1,361,439
Major fixed equipment	549,489
Vehicles	174,406
Tractors and mowers	89,670
Fire apparatus	538,851
Light displays	<u>20,568</u>
Total governmental activities, capital assets not being depreciated	<u>\$ 3,219,441</u>

ROSS TOWNSHIP, LAKE COUNTY  
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on March 25, 2010, with John W. Rooda, Trustee; and Donna Stath, Chief Deputy. Our examination disclosed no material items that warrant comment at this time.