

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXAMINATION REPORT

OF

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP

MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



**FILED**

11/23/2011



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OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	Rita Barrow	01-01-10 to 12-31-14
Chairman of the Township Board	Rex Bruce Kenny Parrish	01-01-10 to 12-31-10 01-01-11 to 12-31-11



**STATE OF INDIANA**  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA

We have examined the financial statement of Van Buren Township (Township), for the period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010. The Township's management is responsible for the financial statement. 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 statement and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our examination provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As discussed in Note 1, the Township prepares its financial statement on the prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the reporting requirements established by the State Board of Accounts as allowed by state statute (IC 5-11-1-6), which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The basis noted above is a different basis than that used in the prior year.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and results of operations of the Township for the year ended December 31, 2010, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

The Combining Schedules of Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash and Investment Balances – Regulatory Basis, Schedule of Capital Assets, and Schedule of Long-Term Debt, as listed in the Table of Contents, are presented for additional analysis and are not required parts of the financial statement. They have not been subjected to the examination procedures applied to the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Township's management and the Township Board and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. In accordance with Indiana Code 5-11-5-1, this report is a part of the public records of the State Board of Accounts and of the office examined.

STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

September 14, 2011

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## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial statement and accompanying notes were prepared by management of the Township. The financial statement and notes are presented as intended by the Township.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -  
REGULATORY BASIS  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2010

	Cash and Investments 01-01-10	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-10
Township	\$ 86,041	\$ 261,256	\$ 220,484	\$ 126,813
Township Assistance	112,248	167,618	142,310	137,556
Fire Fighting	254,381	901,160	824,793	330,748
Cumulative Fire	94,604	111,044	119,759	85,889
Park And Recreation	2,078	3,110	1,452	3,736
Fire Debt	8,365	160,455	124,937	43,883
Rainy Day	120,923	47,827	18,696	150,054
Emergency Medical Services	115,972	368,893	293,023	191,842
Payroll Deductions	11,366	229,369	227,281	13,454
Totals	<u>\$ 805,978</u>	<u>\$ 2,250,732</u>	<u>\$ 1,972,735</u>	<u>\$ 1,083,975</u>

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

*A. Reporting Entity*

The Township was established under the laws of the State of Indiana. The Township operates under a township trustee/township board form of government and provides some or all of the following services: public safety (fire), health and social services (township assistance), culture and recreation (parks and/or community centers), and general administrative services (weed and dog control).

The accompanying financial statement presents the financial information for the Township (primary government), and does not include financial information for any of the Township's legally separate component units, which accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be reported with the financial information of the Township (primary government).

*B. Basis of Accounting*

The financial statement is reported on a regulatory basis of accounting prescribed by the State Board of Accounts in accordance with state statute (IC 5-11-1-6), which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Receipts are recorded when received and disbursements are recorded when paid.

The regulatory basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America in that receipts are recognized when received in cash, rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid, rather than when a liability is incurred.

*C. Cash and Investments*

Investments are stated at cost. Any changes in fair value of the investments are reported as receipts in the year of the sale of the investment.

*D. Receipts*

Receipts are presented in the aggregate on the face of the financial statement. The aggregate receipts may include, but are not limited to, the following sources:

Taxes which can include one or more of the following: property taxes, certified shares (local option tax), property tax replacement credit (local option tax), county option income tax, wheel tax, innkeepers tax, food and beverage tax, county economic development income tax, boat and trailer excise tax, county adjusted gross income tax, and other taxes that are set by the Township.

Licenses and permits which include amounts received from businesses, occupations, or nonbusinesses that must be licensed before doing business within the government's jurisdiction or permits levied according to the benefits presumably conferred by the permit. Examples of licenses and permits include: peddler licenses, dog tax licenses, auctioneer license, building and planning permits, demolition permits, electrical permits, sign permits, and gun permits.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
(Continued)

Intergovernmental receipts which include receipts from other governments in the form of operating grants, entitlements, or payments in lieu of taxes. Examples of this type of receipts include, but are not limited to: federal grants, state grants, cigarette tax distributions received from the state, motor vehicle highway distribution received from the state, local road and street distribution received from the state, financial institution tax received from the state, auto excise surtax received from the state, commercial vehicle excise tax received from the state, major moves distributions received from the state, and riverboat receipts received from the county.

Charges for services which can include, but are not limited to the following: planning commission charges, building department charges, copies of public records, copy machine charges, accident report copies, gun permit applications, 911 telephone services, recycling fees, dog pound fees, emergency medical service fees, park rental fees, swimming pool receipts, cable tv receipts, ordinance violations, fines and fees, bond forfeitures, court costs, and court receipts.

Fines and forfeits which include receipts derived from fines and penalties imposed for the commission of statutory offenses, violation of lawful administrative rules and regulations (fines), and for the neglect of official duty and monies derived from confiscating deposits held as performance guarantees (forfeitures).

Utility fees which are comprised mostly of charges for current services.

Other receipts which include amounts received from various sources which can include, but are not limited to the following: net proceeds from borrowings; interfund loan activity; transfers authorized by statute, ordinance, resolution, or court order; internal service receipts; and fiduciary receipts.

*E. Disbursements*

Disbursements are presented in the aggregate on the face of the financial statement. The aggregate disbursements may include, but are not limited to, the following uses:

Personal services include outflows for salaries, wages, and related employee benefits provided for all persons employed. In those units where sick leave, vacation leave, overtime compensation, and other such benefits are appropriated separately, such payments would also be included.

Supplies which include articles and commodities that are entirely consumed and materially altered when used and/or show rapid depreciation after use for a short period of time. Examples of supplies include office supplies, operating supplies, and repair and maintenance supplies.

Other services and charges which include, but are not limited to: professional services, communication and transportation, printing and advertising, insurance, utility services, repairs and maintenance, and rental charges.

Debt service principal and interest which include fixed obligations resulting from financial transactions previously entered into by the Township. It includes all expenditures for the reduction of the principal and interest of the Township's general obligation indebtedness.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
(Continued)

Capital outlay which include all outflows for land, infrastructure, buildings, improvements, and machinery and equipment having an appreciable and calculable period of usefulness.

Utility operating expenses which include all outflows for operating the utilities.

Other disbursements which include, but are not limited to the following: interfund loan payments, loans made to other funds, internal service disbursements, and transfers out that are authorized by statute, ordinance, resolution, or court order.

*F. Interfund Transfers*

The Township may, from time to time, transfer money from one fund to another. These transfers, if any, are included as a part of the receipts and disbursements of the affected funds and as a part of total receipts and disbursements. The transfers are used for cash flow purposes as provided by various statutory provisions.

*G. Fund Accounting*

Separate funds are established, maintained, and reported by the Township. Each fund is used to account for money received from and used for specific sources and uses as determined by various regulations. Restrictions on some funds are set by statute while other funds are internally restricted by the Township. The money accounted for in a specific fund may only be available for use for certain, legally restricted purposes. Additionally, some funds are used to account for assets held by the Township in a trustee capacity as an agent of individuals, private organizations, other funds, or other governmental units and therefore the funds cannot be used for any expenditures of the unit itself.

**Note 2. Budgets**

The operating budget is initially prepared and approved at the local level. The fiscal officer of the Township submits a proposed operating budget to the governing board for the following calendar year. The budget is advertised as required by law. Prior to adopting the budget, the governing board conducts public hearings and obtains taxpayer comments. Prior to November 1, the governing board approves the budget for the next year. The budget for funds for which property taxes are levied or highway use taxes are received is subject to final approval by the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance.

**Note 3. Property Taxes**

Property taxes levied are collected by the County Treasurer and are scheduled to be distributed to the Township in June and December; however, situations can arise which would delay the distributions. 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 percent 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 normally become delinquent if not paid by May 10 and November 10, respectively.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
(Continued)

**Note 4. Deposits and Investments**

Deposits, made in accordance with state statute (IC 5-13), with financial institutions in the State of Indiana at year end should be 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 statutes authorize 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.

**Note 5. Risk Management**

The Township may be exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; job related illnesses or injuries to employees; medical benefits to employees, retirees, and dependents; and natural disasters.

These risks can be mitigated through the purchase of insurance, establishment of a self-insurance fund, and/or participation in a risk pool. The purchase of insurance transfers the risk to an independent third party. The establishment of a self-insurance fund allows the Township to set aside money for claim settlements. The self-insurance fund would be included in the financial statements. The purpose of participation in a risk pool is to provide a medium for the funding and administration of the risks. These risks may also be mitigated by the Township by recording as a disbursement and replacement items purchased.

**Note 6. Pension Plans**

*A. Public Employees' Retirement Fund*

*Plan Description*

The Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund (PERF) is 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 percent 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:

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
(Continued)

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.

*B. 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund*

*Plan Description*

The 1977 Police Officers' and Firefighters' Pension and Disability Fund is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Plan (PERF) for all police officers and firefighters hired after April 30, 1977.

State statute (IC 36-8-8) regulates the operations of the system, including benefits, vesting, and requirements for contributions by employers and by employees. Covered employees may retire at age 52 with 20 years of service. An employee with 20 years of service may leave service, but will not receive benefits until reaching age 52. The plan also provides for death and disability benefits.

PERF 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*

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

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### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – UNAUDITED

For additional financial information, the Township's Annual Report can be found on the Indiana Transparency Portal website: [www.in.gov/itp/annual\\_reports/](http://www.in.gov/itp/annual_reports/).

Differences may be noted between the financial information presented in the financial statement contained in this report and the financial information presented in the Annual Report of the Township which is referenced above. These differences, if any, are due to adjustments made to the financial information during the course of the examination. This is a common occurrence in any financial statement examination. The financial information presented in this report is examined information, and the accuracy of such information can be determined by reading the opinion given in the Independent Accountant's Report.

The supplementary information presented was prepared by management of the Township. It is presented as intended by the Township.

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
 CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES - REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2010

	Township	Township Assistance	Fire Fighting	Cumulative Fire	Park And Recreation
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ 86,041	\$ 112,248	\$ 254,381	\$ 94,604	\$ 2,078
Receipts:					
Taxes	252,307	166,368	888,410	111,044	3,110
Charges for services	2,359	-	-	-	-
Other receipts	6,590	1,250	12,750	-	-
Total receipts	<u>261,256</u>	<u>167,618</u>	<u>901,160</u>	<u>111,044</u>	<u>3,110</u>
Disbursements:					
Personal services	139,119	60,336	673,140	-	15
Supplies	13,390	3,570	49,081	-	1,437
Other services and charges	39,488	7,839	95,158	-	-
Capital outlay	28,487	173	7,414	119,759	-
Other disbursements	-	70,392	-	-	-
Total disbursements	<u>220,484</u>	<u>142,310</u>	<u>824,793</u>	<u>119,759</u>	<u>1,452</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	<u>40,772</u>	<u>25,308</u>	<u>76,367</u>	<u>(8,715)</u>	<u>1,658</u>
Cash and investments - ending	<u>\$ 126,813</u>	<u>\$ 137,556</u>	<u>\$ 330,748</u>	<u>\$ 85,889</u>	<u>\$ 3,736</u>

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND  
 CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES - REGULATORY BASIS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2010  
 (Continued)

	Fire Debt	Rainy Day	Emergency Medical Services	Payroll Deductions	Totals
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ 8,365	\$ 120,923	\$ 115,972	\$ 11,366	\$ 805,978
Receipts:					
Taxes	160,455	36,330	368,893	-	1,986,917
Charges for services	-	-	-	-	2,359
Other receipts	-	11,497	-	229,369	261,456
Total receipts	<u>160,455</u>	<u>47,827</u>	<u>368,893</u>	<u>229,369</u>	<u>2,250,732</u>
Disbursements:					
Personal services	-	12,284	267,312	227,281	1,379,487
Supplies	-	-	16,054	-	83,532
Other services and charges	124,937	6,412	9,657	-	283,491
Capital outlay	-	-	-	-	155,833
Other disbursements	-	-	-	-	70,392
Total disbursements	<u>124,937</u>	<u>18,696</u>	<u>293,023</u>	<u>227,281</u>	<u>1,972,735</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	<u>35,518</u>	<u>29,131</u>	<u>75,870</u>	<u>2,088</u>	<u>277,997</u>
Cash and investments - ending	<u>\$ 43,883</u>	<u>\$ 150,054</u>	<u>\$ 191,842</u>	<u>\$ 13,454</u>	<u>\$ 1,083,975</u>

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS  
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2010

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	\$ 208,000
Buildings	895,000
Machinery and equipment	<u>1,867,982</u>
Total governmental activities, capital assets not being depreciated	<u>\$ 2,970,982</u>

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT  
 December 31, 2010

The Township has entered into the following debt:

Description of Debt	Ending Principal Balance	Principal and Interest Due Within One Year
Governmental activities:		
Note and loan payable:		
Fire Fighting Apparatus Loan	\$ 459,547	\$ 124,937

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

Township employees and firemen received a payment in December for \$250 or \$500 which was not included in the payroll system or on the salary ordinance or resolution. The payments were intended to reimburse non fire fighting employees for errands ran throughout the year and a meal allowance for fire fighters.

All compensation and benefits paid to officials and employees must be included in the labor contract, salary ordinance, resolution or salary schedule adopted by the governing body unless otherwise authorized by statute. Compensation should be made in a manner that will facilitate compliance with state and federal reporting requirements. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 17)

**PENALTIES, INTEREST, AND OTHER CHARGES**

Information presented for examination indicates that, in some cases, payments made on the balance of the Township VISA card contained small fees for cash advances and gift card loading fees. Cash advances and gift cards were given to fire fighting employees to use for meals.

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)

Disbursements, other than properly authorized petty cash disbursements, shall be by check or warrant, not by cash or other methods unless specifically authorized by statute, federal or state rule. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, MONROE COUNTY  
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on September 14, 2011, with Rita Barrow, Trustee. The official concurred with our findings.