

B39960

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXAMINATION REPORT

OF

HOWARD TOWNSHIP

HOWARD COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



FILED
12/20/2011

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OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	Virginia Marnar Michael Lantz (Interim) Jocena Schafer	01-01-07 to 08-01-10 08-02-10 to 12-31-10 01-01-11 to 12-31-14
Chairman of the Township Board	Michael Lantz	01-01-10 to 12-31-11



STATE OF INDIANA
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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD COUNTY, INDIANA

We have examined the financial statement of Howard 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 Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash and Investment Balances – Regulatory Basis, as listed in the Table of Contents, is presented for additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statement. It has not been subjected to the examination procedures applied to the financial statement and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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 26, 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.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD 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	\$ 37,058	\$ 25,611	\$ 13,599	\$ 49,070
Township Assistance	13,134	10,047	11,774	11,407
Fire Fighting	84,239	13,947	34,500	63,686
Rainy Day	-	1,667	537	1,130
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Totals	<u>\$ 134,431</u>	<u>\$ 51,272</u>	<u>\$ 60,410</u>	<u>\$ 125,293</u>

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

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD 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.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD 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.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD 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.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD 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 statement. 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.

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/.

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.

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD 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	Rainy Day	Totals
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ 37,058	\$ 13,134	\$ 84,239	\$ -	\$ 134,431
Receipts:					
Taxes	24,940	10,047	12,842	1,667	49,496
Other receipts	671	-	1,105	-	1,776
Total receipts	<u>25,611</u>	<u>10,047</u>	<u>13,947</u>	<u>1,667</u>	<u>51,272</u>
Disbursements:					
Personal services	12,881	11,774	34,500	-	59,155
Supplies	718	-	-	-	718
Other services and charges	-	-	-	537	537
Total disbursements	<u>13,599</u>	<u>11,774</u>	<u>34,500</u>	<u>537</u>	<u>60,410</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	<u>12,012</u>	<u>(1,727)</u>	<u>(20,553)</u>	<u>1,130</u>	<u>(9,138)</u>
Cash and investments - ending	<u>\$ 49,070</u>	<u>\$ 11,407</u>	<u>\$ 63,686</u>	<u>\$ 1,130</u>	<u>\$ 125,293</u>

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS

APPROPRIATIONS

The records presented for examination indicated the following expenditures in excess of budgeted appropriations:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Excess Amount Expended</u>
Fire Fighting	2010	<u>\$ 8,869</u>

Indiana Code 6-1.1-18-4 states in part: ". . . the proper officers of a political subdivision shall appropriate funds in such a manner that the expenditures for a year do not exceed its budget for that year as finally determined under this article."

CONDITION OF RECORDS

The following deficiencies relating to recordkeeping were noted:

1. Financial records presented for examination were incomplete. The balances of several funds were not calculated and posted to the records and totals per page were not carried forward.
2. The financial records presented did not agree with the annual report filed by the Township. Even though the total of all funds agreed with the ledger balance in total, the individual funds beginning and ending balances did not agree with the ledger balances.

All documents and entries to records should be done in a timely manner to ensure that accurate financial information is available to allow the governmental unit to make informed management decisions and to help ensure compliance with IC 5-15-1-1 et seq., commonly referred to as the Public Records Law. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

At all times, the manual and/or computerized records, subsidiary ledgers, control ledger, and reconciled bank balance should agree. If the reconciled bank balance is less than the subsidiary or control ledgers, then the responsible official or employee may be held personally responsible for the amount needed to balance the fund. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

Officials and employees are required to use State Board of Accounts prescribed or approved forms in the manner prescribed. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS
(Continued)

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4 states:

"The state examiner shall require from every municipality and every state or local governmental unit, entity, or instrumentality financial reports covering the full period of each fiscal year. These reports shall be prepared, verified, and filed with the state examiner not later than sixty (60) days after the close of each fiscal year. The reports must be filed electronically, in a manner prescribed by the state examiner that is compatible with the technology employed by the political subdivision."

TRAVEL POLICY/MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Virginia Marner, former Trustee, received monthly mileage reimbursements, totaling \$389.76, without documentation of actual miles traveled. Mileage Claim, Form 101, was not presented for examination and documentation of a Township travel policy could not be located. A similar comment was noted in prior Report B37313.

Indiana Code 36-6-8-3(b) states: "The township executive is entitled to a sum for mileage in the performance of official duties equal to the sum per mile paid to state officers and employees. However, this subsection does not apply when the township executive uses a township vehicle in the performance of official duties."

Each governmental unit should adopt a written travel policy in conformity with applicable statutes. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

Officials and employees are required to use State Board of Accounts prescribed or approved forms in the manner prescribed. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

RENT OVERPAYMENT

An overpayment of \$80 related to office rent for the year 2010, was made to Virginia Marner, former Trustee. Virginia Marner resigned as Trustee effective August 1, 2010. The current Trustee, Jocena Schafer, was informed of the overpayment and requested to take appropriate steps to obtain reimbursement of the overpayment.

Governmental units should collect any overpayments made. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

BANK ACCOUNT RECONCILIATIONS

Depository reconciliations of the fund balances to the bank account balances were not presented for audit or were incorrect. A similar comment was noted in prior Report 37313.

Indiana Code 5-13-6-1(e) states in part: "All local investment officers shall reconcile at least monthly the balance of public funds, as disclosed by the records of the local officers, with the balance statement provided by the respective depositories."

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS
(Continued)

At all times, the manual and/or computerized records, subsidiary ledgers, control ledger, and reconciled bank balance should agree. If the reconciled bank balance is less than the subsidiary or control ledgers, then the responsible official or employee may be held personally responsible for the amount needed to balance the fund. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 13)

ANNUAL REPORT

An Annual Report for 2010 was not filed timely. The Annual Report was received on April 25, 2011, by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4 states:

"The state examiner shall require from every municipality and every state or local governmental unit, entity, or instrumentality financial reports covering the full period of each fiscal year. These reports shall be prepared, verified, and filed with the state examiner not later than sixty (60) days after the close of each fiscal year. The reports must be filed electronically, in a manner prescribed by the state examiner that is compatible with the technology employed by the political subdivision."

HOWARD TOWNSHIP, HOWARD COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on September 26, 2011, with Jocena Schafer, Trustee. The official concurred with our findings.

The contents of this report were discussed on September 27, 2011, with Virginia Marner, former Trustee. The official concurred with our findings.