

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

EXAMINATION REPORT
OF
PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP
WHITE COUNTY, INDIANA
January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



FILED
09/16/2011

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OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	Jill Mears	01-01-07 to 12-31-14
Chairman of the Township Board	Willis Johnson Matthew Lunghuhn	01-01-10 to 12-31-10 01-01-11 to 12-31-11



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE COUNTY, INDIANA

We have examined the financial statement of Prairie 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

July 7, 2011

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FINANCIAL STATEMENT

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE 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	\$ 34,169	\$ 27,236	\$ 14,759	\$ 46,646
Township Assistance	24,303	879	816	24,366
Fire Fighting	65,123	65,926	39,200	91,849
Levy Excess	-	144	144	-
Rainy Day	13,088	9,349	-	22,437
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Totals	<u>\$ 136,683</u>	<u>\$ 103,534</u>	<u>\$ 54,919</u>	<u>\$ 185,298</u>

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE 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.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE 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.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE 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.

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE 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 any 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/.

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

	<u>Township</u>	<u>Township Assistance</u>	<u>Fire Fighting</u>	<u>Levy Excess</u>	<u>Rainy Day</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ 34,169	\$ 24,303	\$ 65,123	\$ -	\$ 13,088	\$ 136,683
Receipts:						
Taxes	26,525	879	65,926	144	1,475	94,949
Other receipts	<u>711</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,874</u>	<u>8,585</u>
Total receipts	<u>27,236</u>	<u>879</u>	<u>65,926</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>9,349</u>	<u>103,534</u>
Disbursements:						
Personal services	9,170	-	-	-	-	9,170
Supplies	71	-	-	-	-	71
Other services and charges	5,518	816	39,200	-	-	45,534
Other disbursements	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144</u>
Total disbursements	<u>14,759</u>	<u>816</u>	<u>39,200</u>	<u>144</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,919</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	<u>12,477</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>26,726</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,349</u>	<u>48,615</u>
Cash and investments - ending	<u>\$ 46,646</u>	<u>\$ 24,366</u>	<u>\$ 91,849</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 22,437</u>	<u>\$ 185,298</u>

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULTS AND COMMENTS

OFFICIAL BOND

The official bond recorded for Jill Mears, Trustee, was for \$15,000 for the period of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2011.

During the examination period Indiana Code 5-4-1-18 stated in part:

"(c) Except as provided in subsections (h) and (i), the fiscal bodies of the respective units shall fix the amount of . . . township trustees . . . as follows:

- (1) The amount must equal thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for each one million dollars (\$1,000,000) of receipts of the officer's office during the last complete fiscal year before the purchase of the bond, subject to subdivision (2).
- (2) The amount may not be less than thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) nor more than three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) unless the fiscal body approves a greater amount for the officer or employee."

DEPOSIT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

We noted instances where the Trustee made deposits anywhere from 22 days to 232 days after the receipt date. A similar comment appeared in prior Reports B32010 and B36603.

Indiana Code 5-13-6-1(c) states in part:

"The public funds collected by township trustees shall be deposited in the designated depository on or before the first and fifteenth day of each month."

PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP, WHITE COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on July 7, 2011, with Jill Mears, Trustee. The official concurred with our findings.