

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT EXAMINATION REPORT

OF

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP

CASS COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011



FILED

05/01/2012

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OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	Marilyn Liming	01-01-07 to 12-31-14
Chairman of the Township Board	Timothy Cowell Dale Skinner Alan Liming	01-01-10 to 12-31-10 01-01-11 to 12-31-11 01-01-12 to 12-31-12



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, INDIANA

We have examined the financial statements of Bethlehem Township (Township) for the period of January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2011. The Township's management is responsible for the financial statements. 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 statements 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 statements 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 statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and results of operations of the Township for the years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

The Combining Schedules of Receipts, Disbursements, and Cash and Investment Balances – Regulatory Basis, as listed in the Table of Contents, are presented for additional analysis and are not required parts of the financial statements. 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, Township Board, and others within the entity, 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

April 16, 2012

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-10	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-10
Township	\$ 11,195	\$ 13,153	\$ 10,171	\$ 14,177
Township Assistance	8,553	3,429	1,153	10,829
Fire Fighting	46,686	18,021	12,503	52,204
Cumulative Fire	21,007	8,093	16,000	13,100
Levy Excess	-	81	-	81
Rainy Day	485	609	-	1,094
Totals	<u>\$ 87,926</u>	<u>\$ 43,386</u>	<u>\$ 39,827</u>	<u>\$ 91,485</u>

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

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
REGULATORY BASIS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2011

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-11	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-11
Township	\$ 14,177	\$ 11,924	\$ 10,097	\$ 16,004
Township Assistance	10,829	2,949	2,306	11,472
Fire Fighting	52,204	18,200	13,075	57,329
Rainy Day	1,094	-	-	1,094
Levy Excess	81	-	80	1
Cumulative Fire	13,100	8,348	-	21,448
Totals	<u>\$ 91,485</u>	<u>\$ 41,421</u>	<u>\$ 25,558</u>	<u>\$ 107,348</u>

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

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 statements present the financial information for the Township.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are 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 statements. The aggregate receipts may include 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.

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.

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

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 statements. The aggregate disbursements may include 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.

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

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.

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

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.

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 2010 Annual Report information can be found on the Indiana Transparency Portal website: www.in.gov/itp/annual_reports/.

For additional financial information, the Township's 2011 Annual Report information can be found on the Gateway website: <https://gateway.ifionline.org/>.

Differences may be noted between the financial information presented in the financial statements contained in this report and the financial information presented in the Annual Reports of the Township which are 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 approved by management of the Township. It is presented as intended by the Township.

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS 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	Levy Excess	Rainy Day	Totals
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ 11,195	\$ 8,553	\$ 46,686	\$ 21,007	\$ -	\$ 485	\$ 87,926
Receipts:							
Taxes	13,127	3,429	18,021	8,093	81	-	42,751
Other receipts	26	-	-	-	-	609	635
Total receipts	13,153	3,429	18,021	8,093	81	609	43,386
Disbursements:							
Personal services	7,524	-	-	-	-	-	7,524
Supplies	243	-	-	-	-	-	243
Other services and charges	2,404	1,153	12,503	-	-	-	16,060
Capital outlay	-	-	-	16,000	-	-	16,000
Total disbursements	10,171	1,153	12,503	16,000	-	-	39,827
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	2,982	2,276	5,518	(7,907)	81	609	3,559
Cash and investments - ending	\$ 14,177	\$ 10,829	\$ 52,204	\$ 13,100	\$ 81	\$ 1,094	\$ 91,485

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
 COMBINING SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
 CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES - REGULATORY BASIS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2011

	Township	Township Assistance	Fire Fighting	Rainy Day	Levy Excess	Cumulative Fire	Totals
Cash and investments - beginning	\$ 14,177	\$ 10,829	\$ 52,204	\$ 1,094	\$ 81	\$ 13,100	\$ 91,485
Receipts:							
Taxes	4,224	2,725	17,034	-	-	7,813	31,796
Intergovernmental	7,620	224	1,166	-	-	535	9,545
Other receipts	80	-	-	-	-	-	80
Total receipts	11,924	2,949	18,200	-	-	8,348	41,421
Disbursements:							
Personal services	7,524	-	-	-	-	-	7,524
Supplies	177	-	-	-	-	-	177
Other services and charges	2,396	2,306	13,075	-	-	-	17,777
Other disbursements	-	-	-	-	80	-	80
Total disbursements	10,097	2,306	13,075	-	80	-	25,558
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements	1,827	643	5,125	-	(80)	8,348	15,863
Cash and investments - ending	\$ 16,004	\$ 11,472	\$ 57,329	\$ 1,094	\$ 1	\$ 21,448	\$ 107,348

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
EXAMINATION RESULT AND COMMENT

BANK ACCOUNT RECONCILIATIONS

Depository reconciliations of the fund balances to the bank account balances were not presented for examination. A similar comment appeared in the prior Report B36783.

Indiana Code 5-13-6-1(e) states: "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 statements provided by the respective depositories."

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)

BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on April 16, 2012, with Marilyn Liming, Trustee. The official concurred with our finding.