

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REVIEW REPORT

OF

GERMAN TOWNSHIP

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018



**FILED**  
05/12/2020



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SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
Trustee	Thomas O. McClanahan	01-01-16 to 12-31-20
Chairman of the Township Board	James W. Pepple Leta Johnson	01-01-16 to 12-31-18 01-01-19 to 12-31-20



## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of German Township (Township), for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the Township's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the reporting requirements established by the Indiana 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. This includes determining that the basis of accounting the Township uses is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Accountant's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with *Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services* promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with the prescribed basis of accounting described in Note 1. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT  
(Continued)

**Accountant's Conclusion**

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the prescribed basis of accounting described in Note 1.

**Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the reporting requirements established by the Indiana 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. Our conclusion is not modified with respect to this matter.

  
Paul D. Joyce, CPA  
State Examiner

April 23, 2020

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACCOMPANYING NOTES

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.

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,  
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -  
 REGULATORY BASIS  
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2017

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-16	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-16	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-17
GENERAL FUND	\$ 264,927	\$ 146,466	\$ 200,483	\$ 210,910	\$ 102,227	\$ 66,392	\$ 246,745
RECREATION FUND	228,266	36,229	26,213	238,282	32,107	22,405	247,984
TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE	42,097	29,371	32,187	39,281	31,384	27,274	43,391
FIRE FIGHTING FUND	749	-	-	749	-	749	-
RAINY DAY FUND	86,395	36,649	-	123,044	189	41,410	81,823
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	4,829	9,724	14,486	67	12,617	12,684	-
FIRE DEBT SERVICE FUND	122,484	185,912	180,673	127,723	111,349	121,508	117,564
CEMETERY	-	-	200	(200)	200	-	-
Totals	\$ 749,747	\$ 444,351	\$ 454,242	\$ 739,856	\$ 290,073	\$ 292,422	\$ 737,507

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

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,  
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -  
 REGULATORY BASIS  
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Fund	Cash and Investments 01-01-18	Receipts	Disbursements	Cash and Investments 12-31-18
GENERAL FUND	\$ 246,745	\$ 116,287	\$ 62,961	\$ 300,071
RECREATION FUND	247,984	34,487	27,427	255,044
TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE	43,391	33,968	25,308	52,051
FIRE FIGHTING FUND	-	-	-	-
RAINY DAY FUND	81,823	43	19,750	62,116
FIRE DEBT SERVICE FUND	117,564	-	61,280	56,284
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	-	11,598	11,598	-
CEMETERY	-	-	-	-
Totals	\$ 737,507	\$ 196,383	\$ 208,324	\$ 725,566

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

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH 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 Indiana 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. The basis of accounting involves the reporting of only cash and investments and the changes therein resulting from cash inflows (receipts) and cash outflows (disbursements) reported in the period in which they occurred.

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 include the following sources:

*Taxes.* Amounts received from one or more of the following: property tax, certified shares (local option tax), property tax replacement credit (local option tax), county option income tax, wheel tax, innkeeper's 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.* Amounts received from other governments in the form of operating grants, entitlements, or payments in lieu of taxes. Examples of intergovernmental receipts include, but are not limited to, the following: federal grants, state grants, cigarette tax distributions received from the state, motor vehicle highway distributions received from the state, local road and street distributions 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.

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

*Charges for services.* Amounts received for services including, but not limited to, the following: planning commission charges, building department charges, copies of public records, copy machines 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.

*Other receipts.* Amounts received from various sources, including, but 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 include the following uses:

*Personal services.* Amounts disbursed 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.* Amounts disbursed for 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, but are not limited to, the following: office supplies, operating supplies, and repair and maintenance supplies.

*Other services and charges.* Amounts disbursed for services including, but not limited to, the following: professional services, communication and transportation, printing and advertising, insurance, utility services, repairs and maintenance, and rental charges.

*Capital outlay.* Amounts disbursed for land, infrastructure, buildings, improvements, and machinery and equipment having an appreciable and calculable period of usefulness.

*Other disbursements.* Amounts disbursed for various other purposes including, but 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, make transfers 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.

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

*G. Fund Accounting*

Separate funds are established, maintained, and reported by the Township. Each fund is used to account for amounts 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 amounts 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 December 31 of the year preceding the budget year or January 15 of the budget year if the Township is issuing debt after December 1 or intends on filing a shortfall appeal. These rates were based upon the assessed valuations adjusted for various tax credits from the preceding year's lien date of January 1. 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, the following: federal government securities, repurchase agreements, and certain money market mutual funds. Certain other statutory restrictions apply to all investments made by local governmental units.

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(Continued)

**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.

**Note 6. Cash Balance Deficits**

The financial statements contain some funds with deficits in cash. This is a result of a posting error to the wrong fund.

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
REVIEW RESULTS AND COMMENTS

**BANK TRANSFERS**

*Condition and Context*

The Township incorrectly reported bank transfers as receipts and disbursements. Adjustments of \$650,000, to both receipts and disbursements in 2018, were proposed and approved by the Trustee.

*Criteria*

The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) is required under Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e) to define the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards. To provide clarifying guidance, the State Examiner compiled the standards contained in the manual, *Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions*. All political subdivisions subject to audit by SBOA are expected to adhere to these standards. The standards include adequate control activities. According to this manual:

"Control activities are the actions and tools established through policies and procedures that help to detect, prevent, or reduce the identified risks that interfere with the achievement of objectives. Detection activities are designed to identify unfavorable events in a timely manner whereas prevention activities are designed to deter the occurrence of an unfavorable event. Examples of these activities include reconciliations, authorizations, approval processes, performance reviews, and verification processes.

An integral part of the control activity component is segregation of duties. . . .

There is an expectation of segregation of duties. If compensating controls are necessary, documentation should exist to identify both the areas where segregation of duties are not feasible or practical and the compensating controls implemented to mitigate the risk. . . .

The Green Book identifies a list of control activity categories that are meant only to illustrate the range and variety of control activities; the list is by no means all inclusive, but is reproduced here for reference purposes: . . .

- Accurate and timely recording of transactions. . . ."

**TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION ON INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS**

*Condition and Context*

The Township failed to ensure that training was provided for all personnel over the internal control standards adopted as required by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(g).

The Township incorrectly certified on the Indiana Gateway for Government Units financial reporting system that training was provided to personnel as required by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e). However, personnel had not received the internal control training; therefore, the certification was incorrect.

*Criteria*

Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(g) states:

"After June 30, 2016, the legislative body of a political subdivision shall ensure that:

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
REVIEW RESULTS AND COMMENTS  
(Continued)

- (1) the internal control standards and procedures developed under subsection (e) are adopted by the political subdivision; and
- (2) personnel receive training concerning the internal control standards and procedures adopted by the political subdivision."

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4(a) 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 in the form and content prescribed by the state examiner and filed electronically in the manner prescribed under [IC 5-14-3.8-7](#)."

### **CONTRACTS**

The same comment also appeared in prior Report B48439.

#### *Condition and Context*

Payments made for mowing and snow plowing were not supported by written contracts.

#### *Criteria*

Payments made or received for contractual services should be supported by a written contract. Each unit is responsible for complying with the provisions of its contracts. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

### **RECORD OF HOURS WORKED**

#### *Condition and Context*

The Township did not have employee time cards/records to support hours worked.

#### *Criteria*

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) requires that records of wages paid, daily and weekly hours of work, and the time of day and day of week on which the employee's work week begins be kept for all employees. These requirements can be met by use of the following prescribed general forms:

General Form 99A, Employee's Service Record  
General Form 99B, Employee's Earnings Record  
General Form 99C, Employee's Weekly Earnings Record

General Form 99C is required only for employees who are not exempt from FLSA, are not on a fixed work schedule, and are not paid weekly.

Additional information regarding FLSA rules and regulations may be obtained from the Department of Labor. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
REVIEW RESULTS AND COMMENTS  
(Continued)

**NEPOTISM**

*Condition and Context*

The Township did not have a Nepotism policy for 2016, 2017, or 2018.

*Criteria*

Effective July 1, 2012, all units are required to have a Nepotism policy. This policy must discuss the employment of relatives. This statute provides requirements, but the unit can adopt more stringent requirements. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

GERMAN TOWNSHIP, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY  
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed via telephone on April 23, 2020, with Thomas O. McClanahan, Trustee, and Leta Johnson, Chairman of the Township Board.