

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REVIEW REPORT

OF

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP

WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021



FILED
12/27/2022

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SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

| <u>Office</u> | <u>Official</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Trustee | Michael Myers | 01-01-18 to 12-31-22 |
| Chair of the Township Board | Cristina Rider | 01-01-18 to 12-31-22 |



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY, INDIANA

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Columbia Township (Township), for the period of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2021. 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 Responsibilities 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 Responsibilities

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.

We are required to be independent of the Township and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our reviews.

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.



Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

December 7, 2022

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.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
 REGULATORY BASIS
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2018 and 2019

| Fund | Cash and Investments 01-01-18 | Receipts | Disbursements | Cash and Investments 12-31-18 | Receipts | Disbursements | Cash and Investments 12-31-19 |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| TOWNSHIP FUNDS | \$ 339,181 | \$ 117,856 | \$ 102,519 | \$ 354,518 | \$ 134,114 | \$ 106,064 | \$ 382,568 |
| RECREATION | 36,864 | 39,709 | 14,220 | 62,353 | 44,622 | 16,177 | 90,798 |
| POOR RELIEF FUND | 218,996 | 48,569 | 40,012 | 227,553 | 52,055 | 52,869 | 226,739 |
| FIRE FIGHTING FUND | 227,524 | 91,695 | 63,357 | 255,862 | 102,824 | 67,672 | 291,014 |
| RAINY DAY FUND | 157,318 | 980 | - | 158,298 | 2,895 | 89,300 | 71,893 |
| FIRE CUMULATIVE FUND | 289,390 | 17,921 | 3,831 | 303,480 | 23,804 | 75,615 | 251,669 |
| DONATIONS | 394 | - | - | 394 | - | - | 394 |
| PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS | (1,464) | 14,510 | 15,945 | (2,899) | 14,663 | 16,827 | (5,063) |
| Totals | <u>\$ 1,268,203</u> | <u>\$ 331,240</u> | <u>\$ 239,884</u> | <u>\$ 1,359,559</u> | <u>\$ 374,977</u> | <u>\$ 424,524</u> | <u>\$ 1,310,012</u> |

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

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS,
 AND CASH AND INVESTMENT BALANCES -
 REGULATORY BASIS
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2021

| Fund | Cash and Investments 01-01-20 | Receipts | Disbursements | Cash and Investments 12-31-20 | Receipts | Disbursements | Cash and Investments 12-31-21 |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| TOWNSHIP FUNDS | \$ 382,568 | \$ 157,928 | \$ 124,035 | \$ 416,461 | \$ 184,189 | \$ 199,323 | \$ 401,327 |
| RECREATION | 90,798 | 78,571 | 3,400 | 165,969 | 27 | 15,535 | 150,461 |
| POOR RELIEF FUND | 226,739 | 1,736 | 36,554 | 191,921 | 49,887 | 30,719 | 211,089 |
| FIRE FIGHTING FUND | 291,014 | 110,831 | 75,668 | 326,177 | 124,585 | 84,419 | 366,343 |
| RAINY DAY FUND | 71,893 | 834 | - | 72,727 | 81,500 | - | 154,227 |
| FIRE CUMULATIVE FUND | 251,669 | 13,206 | - | 264,875 | 19,459 | - | 284,334 |
| DONATIONS | 394 | - | - | 394 | - | - | 394 |
| PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS | (5,063) | 18,801 | 18,059 | (4,321) | 20,117 | 15,796 | - |
| Totals | <u>\$ 1,310,012</u> | <u>\$ 381,907</u> | <u>\$ 257,716</u> | <u>\$ 1,434,203</u> | <u>\$ 479,764</u> | <u>\$ 345,792</u> | <u>\$ 1,568,175</u> |

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

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY 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.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY 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.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY 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.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY 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. Pension Plan

Public Employees' Retirement Fund

Plan Description

The Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund Defined Benefit Plan (PERF DB) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit plan and provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits to plan members. PERF DB is administered through the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) Board in accordance with state statutes (IC 5-10.2 and IC 5-10.3) and administrative code (35 IAC 1.2), which govern most requirements of the system and give the Township authority to contribute to the plan.

The Public Employees' Hybrid Plan (PERF Hybrid) consists of two components: PERF DB, the employer-funded monthly defined benefit component, and the Public Employees' Hybrid Members Defined Contribution Account, the defined contribution component.

The Retirement Savings Plan for Public Employees (My Choice) is a multiple-employer defined contribution plan. It is administered through the INPRS Board in accordance with state statutes (IC 5-10.2 and IC 5-10.3) and administrative code (35 IAC 1.2), which govern most requirements of the system and give the Township authority to contribute to the plan.

New employees hired have a one-time election to join either the PERF Hybrid or the My Choice.

Financial Report

INPRS 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:

Indiana Public Retirement System
One North Capitol, Suite 001
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Ph. (844) 464-6777

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

Contributions

Members' contributions are set by state statute at 3 percent of compensation for both the defined contribution component of PERF Hybrid and My Choice. The employer may elect to make the contribution on behalf of the member of the defined contribution component of PERF Hybrid and My Choice members may receive additional employer contribution in lieu of the PERF DB. Contributions to the PERF DB are determined by INPRS Board based on actuarial valuation.

Note 7. Cash Balance Deficits

The financial statements contain deficits in cash in the Payroll Deductions fund at December 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020, in the amounts of \$2,899, \$5,063, and \$4,321, respectively. The deficit is a result of disbursements exceeding receipts.

Note 8. Subsequent Event

In August 2022, the Township purchased a 2009 Spartan Pumper for \$287,000.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY
REVIEW RESULTS AND COMMENTS

ADOPTION OF, AND TRAINING ON, INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

The same comment also appeared in prior Report B51964.

Condition and Context

While the Township had written internal controls stating they wished to be in compliance with Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(g), the Township had not formally adopted the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards and internal control procedures for internal control systems of political subdivisions.

Township employees whose official duties included receiving, processing, depositing, disbursing, or otherwise having access to funds that belonged to the Township, had not received training over internal control standards developed or approved by the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Criteria

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

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

- (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."

CERTIFICATION ON INTERNAL CONTROL STANDARDS

The same comment also appeared in prior Report B51964.

Condition and Context

The Township certified with the Annual Financial Report on the Indiana Gateway for Government Units financial reporting system that it had adopted the minimum internal control standards as required by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(c) and that all personnel defined by Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(c) had received training concerning the internal control standards adopted by the Township; however, the Township had not formally adopted the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards and all personnel had not received training concerning the internal control standards.

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY
REVIEW RESULTS AND COMMENTS
(Continued)

Criteria

Indiana Code 5-11-1-4(a) states:

"The state examiner shall require from every audited entity 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](#)."

CAPITAL ASSETS

Condition and Context

The Township did not have a capital asset policy that detailed the threshold at which an item is considered a capital asset. The Township did not maintain a detailed listing of its capital assets that reflected the acquisition value, nor did the Township take a complete physical inventory at least every two years. A physical inventory was completed for insurance purposes; however, the items were measured at replacement values based on insurance appraisals instead of acquisition value.

Criteria

Every unit must have a capital assets policy that details the threshold at which an item is considered a capital asset. Every unit must have a complete detail listing of all capital assets owned which reflects their acquisition value. Capital Asset Ledger (Form 369) has been prescribed for this purpose. A complete physical inventory must be taken at least every two years, unless more stringent requirements exist, to verify account balances carried in the accounting records. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Townships, Chapter 1)

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP, WHITLEY COUNTY
EXIT CONFERENCE

The contents of this report were discussed on December 7, 2022, with Michael Myers, Trustee, and Matthew Boyd, Township Board Secretary.