

Management Letter

Credit River Township
Scott County, Minnesota

For the Year Ended
December 31, 2017



**People
+ Process.**
Going
Beyond the
Numbers

Management and Board of Supervisors
Credit River Township
Scott County, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the remaining fund information of Credit River Township, Minnesota (the Township) for the year ended December 31, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated October 30, 2017. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control over financial reporting (internal control) of the Township. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

Significant Audit Findings

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. However, as described below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be a material weakness and other deficiencies that we consider to be significant deficiencies

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiency described below as finding 2017-001 to be a material weakness.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

2017-001 Material Audit Adjustments

Condition: During our audit, a material adjustment was needed to correct the year-end account payables for unrecorded liabilities.

Criteria: Such adjustments were needed to correct year end balances. Amounts reported in the Township's accounting system need to agree to the underlying supporting documentation.

Cause: Township staff did not prepare a year end trial balance reflecting all necessary accounting entries in the areas noted above. Township staff provided preliminary 2017 general ledger information electronically that were used to generate a trial balance. Additional entries for unpaid liabilities of \$65,790 noted above were added to the audit entries during the onsite visit.

Effect: This indicates that misstatements may occur and not be detected by the Township's system of internal control.

Recommendation: We recommend management review the related journal entries, obtain an understanding of why the entries were necessary and modify current procedure to ensure that future corrections are not needed.

Management Response:

The treasurer will review each journal entry in an effort to better understand the reason the modification as necessary in an effort to limit future corrections.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit. While our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion, it does not provide a legal determination on the Township's compliance with those requirements. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported in Government Auditing Standards or statutes set forth by the State of Minnesota.

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Township are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies were not changed during the year ended December 31, 2017. We noted no transactions entered into by the Township during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most significant estimate affecting the financial statements was depreciation on capital assets, allocation of payroll, and estimate of pension liability.

- Management's estimate of depreciation is based on estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method.
- Allocations of gross wages and payroll benefits are approved by the Board within the Township's budget and are derived from each employee's estimated time to be spent servicing the respective functions of the Township.
- Management's estimate of its pension liability is based on several factors including, but not limited to, anticipated investment return rate, retirement age for active employees, life expectancy, salary increases, and form of annuity payment upon retirement. The allocation of the pension liability is based on the Township's proportionate share of employer contributions to the pension plans.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. The disclosures in the financial statements are neutral, consistent, and clear. Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

We proposed no journal entries that we consider to be audit entries or corrections of management decisions; however, we assisted in preparing a number of year-end accounting entries. These were necessary to adjust the Township's records at year end to correct ending balances. The Township should establish more detailed processes and procedures to reduce the total number of entries in each category. The Township will receive better and timelier information if the preparation of year-end entries is completed internally.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representations letter dated February 27, 2018.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Township's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) (Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Schedule of Employer's Share of the Net Pension Liability and the Schedule of Employer's PERA Contributions), which is information that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information (combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules), which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section, which accompany the financial statements but is not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Township's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Financial Position and Results of Operations

Our principal observations and recommendations are summarized on the following pages. These recommendations resulted from our observations made in connection with our audit of the Township's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Minnesota townships must maintain substantial amounts of fund balance in order to meet their liquidity and working capital needs as an operating entity. That is because a substantial portion of your revenue sources (taxes and intergovernmental revenues) are received in the last two months of each six-month cycle.

The local government may assign and report some or all of the fund balance as assigned or committed. The Township has approved a policy to maintain an unassigned fund balance in the General fund of an amount not less than 50 percent. This helps address citizen concerns as to the use of fund balance and tax levels.

General Fund

The General fund is used to account for resources traditionally associated with government, which are not required legally or by sound principal management to be accounted for in another fund. The total General fund balance increased \$57,463 in 2017. The total ending fund balance is \$609,243 of which \$2,675 is nonspendable for prepaid items with the remaining fund balance being unassigned. The fund balance represents 106.6 percent of the 2018 budgeted expenditures. At the current level, the Township has over one year worth of available resources for general operations.

A summary of the 2017 operations is as follows:

	Final Budgeted Amounts	Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget
Revenues	\$ 543,391	\$ 586,956	\$ 43,565
Expenditures	<u>523,381</u>	<u>529,493</u>	<u>(6,112)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	20,010	57,463	37,453
Fund Balances, January 1	<u>551,780</u>	<u>551,780</u>	-
Fund Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 571,790</u>	<u>\$ 609,243</u>	<u>\$ 37,453</u>

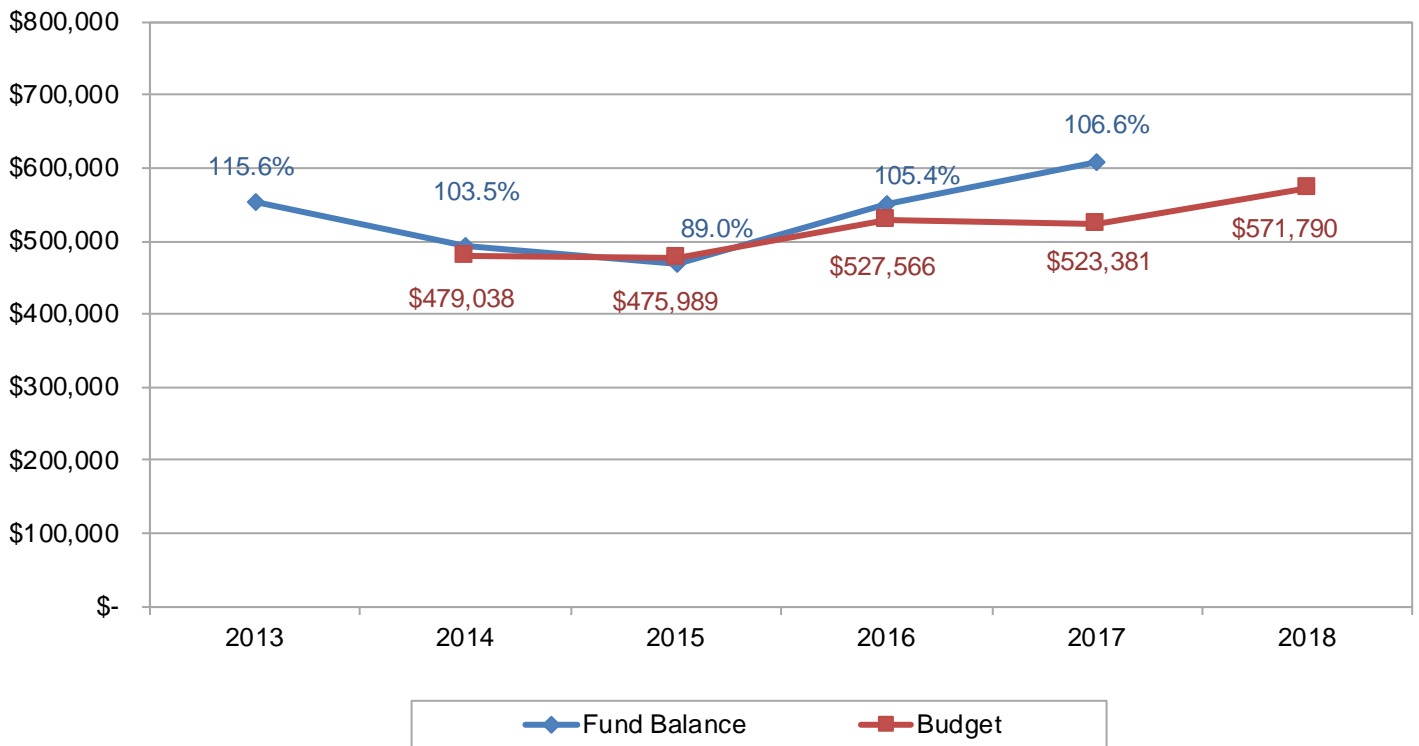
A short analysis of budget variances follows:

- Revenues had a positive budget variance of \$43,565 mainly due to receipt of tax forfeitures during the year.
- Total expenditures had a negative budget variance of \$6,112 over budget. The main reason for the variance was general government with a negative budget variance of \$37,607 due to increase legal fees and costs associated with incorporation. Positive budget variance of \$29,351 in public works due to decrease plowing and street patching offset the variance noted above.

A table summarizing the General fund balance in relation to budget follows:

Year	Fund Balance December 31	Budget Year	General Fund Budget	Percent of Fund Balance to Budget
2013	\$ 553,868	2014	\$ 479,038	115.6 %
2014	492,522	2015	475,989	103.5
2015	469,521	2016	527,566	89.0
2016	551,780	2017	523,381	105.4
2017	609,243	2018	571,790	106.6

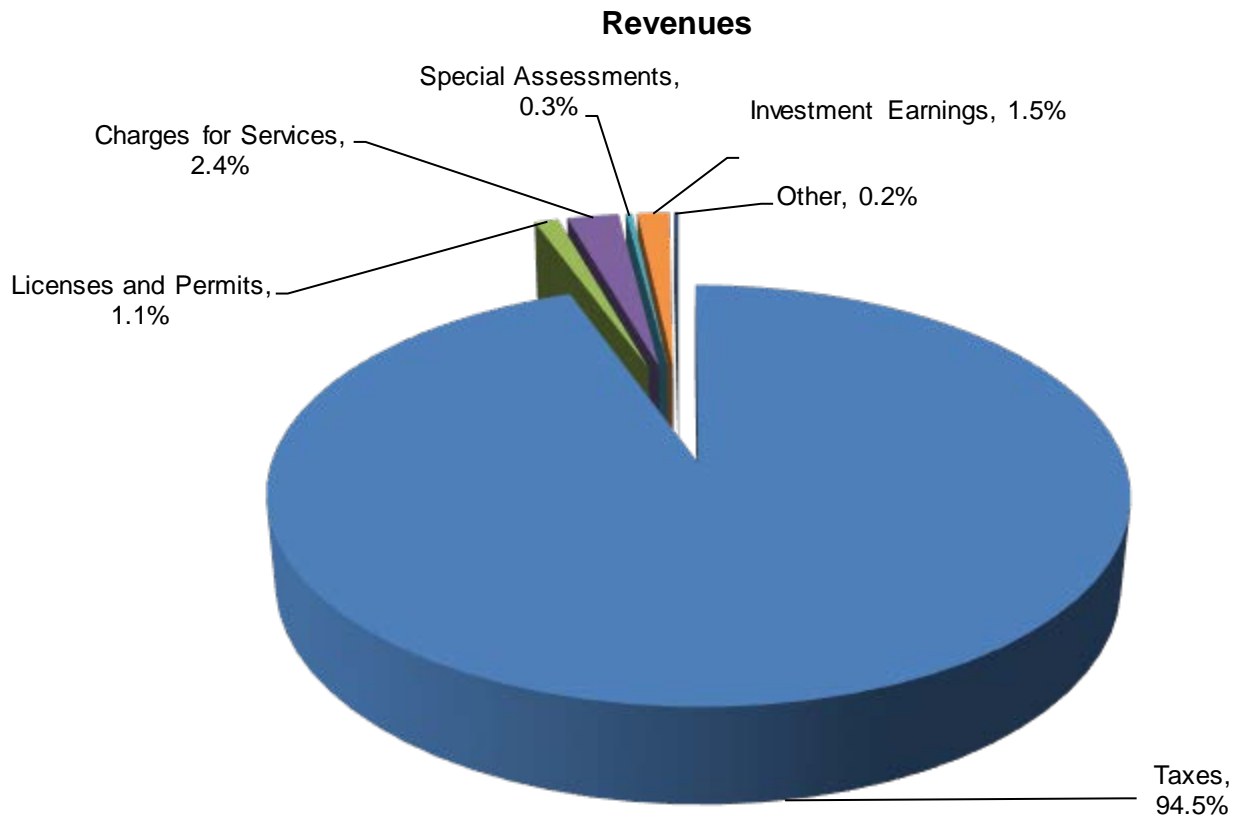
Fund Balance as a Percent of Next Year's Budget



A summary of General fund revenues is as follows:

Source	2015	2016	2017	Percent of Total	Per Capita
Property Taxes	\$ 456,001	\$ 488,490	\$ 530,692	90.3 %	\$ 96
Franchise Taxes	21,082	29,972	24,839	4.2	5
Licenses and Permits	6,100	5,000	6,275	1.1	1
Intergovernmental	994	28,729	918	0.2	-
Charges for Services	21,798	16,246	13,899	2.4	3
Special Assessments	-	-	1,649	0.3	-
Investment Earnings	7,536	8,699	8,684	1.5	2
Miscellaneous	-	965	-	-	-
Total Revenues	\$ 513,511	\$ 578,101	\$ 586,956	100.0 %	\$ 107

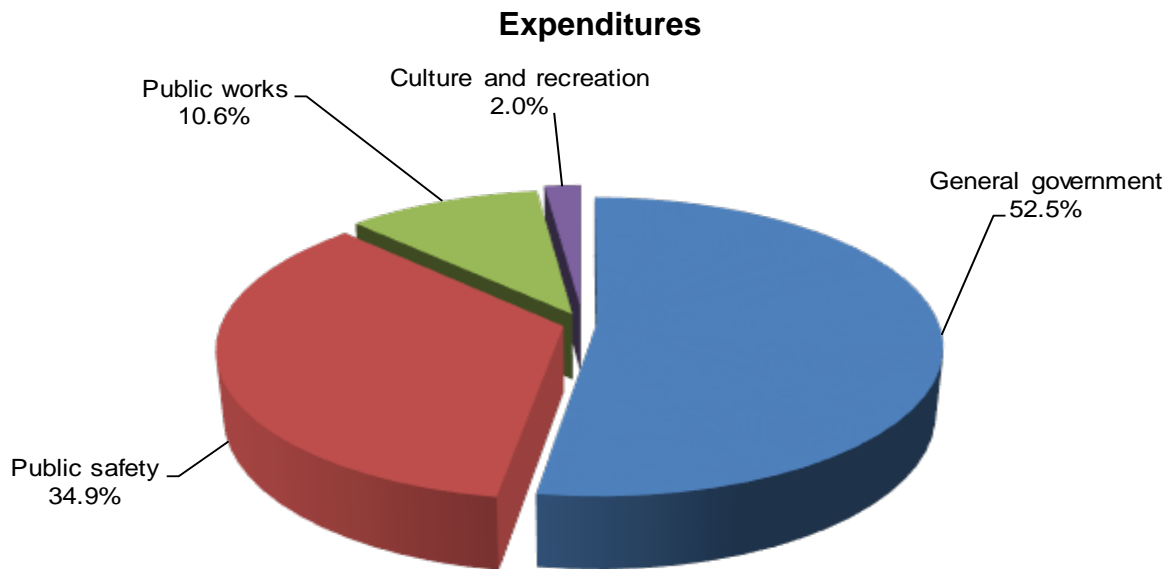
The sources of General fund revenues for 2017 are presented graphically as follows:



A summary of General fund expenditures is as follows:

Program	2015	2016	2017	Percent of Total	Per Capita
Current					
General government	\$ 231,731	\$ 228,577	\$ 277,972	52.5 %	\$ 50
Public safety	175,968	196,659	184,947	34.9	34
Public works	87,995	59,837	55,924	10.6	10
Culture and recreation	10,508	10,385	10,650	2.0	2
Total Current	506,202	495,458	529,493	100.0	96
Capital Outlay	30,310	384	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$ 536,512	\$ 495,842	\$ 529,493	100.0 %	\$ 96

The program expenditures for 2017 are presented graphically as follows:



Special Revenue Funds

A summary of year-end fund balances for all special revenue funds follows:

Fund	Fund Balances December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2017	2016	
Major			
Road and Bridge	\$ 1,313,438	\$ 1,205,418	\$ 108,020
Nonmajor			
Park	147,228	139,321	7,907
Total Special Revenue Funds	\$ 1,460,666	\$ 1,344,739	\$ 115,927

The Road and Bridge fund had an overall increase in fund balance of \$108,020. The fund has a committed fund balance of \$546,469 for road and bridge improvements expected to be spent in future years. The remaining fund balance is assigned for future road projects. The Park fund increased fund balance \$7,907 during the year.

Debt Service Funds

Debt Service funds are a type of governmental fund to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of interest and principal on debt (other than enterprise fund debt).

Debt Service funds may have one or a combination of the following revenue sources pledged to retire debt as follows:

- Property taxes - Primarily, general Township benefit projects such as parks and township buildings. Property taxes may also be used to fund special assessment bonds which are not fully assessed.
- Capitalized interest portion of bond proceeds - After the sale of bonds, the project may not produce revenue (special assessments) for a period of one to two years. Bonds are issued with this timing difference considered in the form of capitalized interest.
- Special assessments - Charges to benefited properties for various improvements.

In addition to the above pledged assets, other funding sources may be received by Debt Service funds as follows:

- Residual project proceeds from the related capital projects fund
- Investment earnings
- State or Federal grants
- Transfers from other funds

The following is a summary of Debt Service fund assets and outstanding debt as of December 31, 2017:

Fund	Cash Balance	Total Assets	Debt Outstanding	Final Maturity Date
2009 G.O. Improvement Bond Fund	\$ 136,035	\$ 164,915	\$ 200,000	2019
2012 G.O. Improvement Bond Fund	272,645	531,351	680,000	2023
2015 G.O. Improvement Bond Fund	465,872	806,896	1,280,000	2026
 Total Debt Service Funds	 <u>\$ 874,552</u>	 <u>\$ 1,503,162</u>	 <u>\$ 2,160,000</u>	

Capital Projects Funds

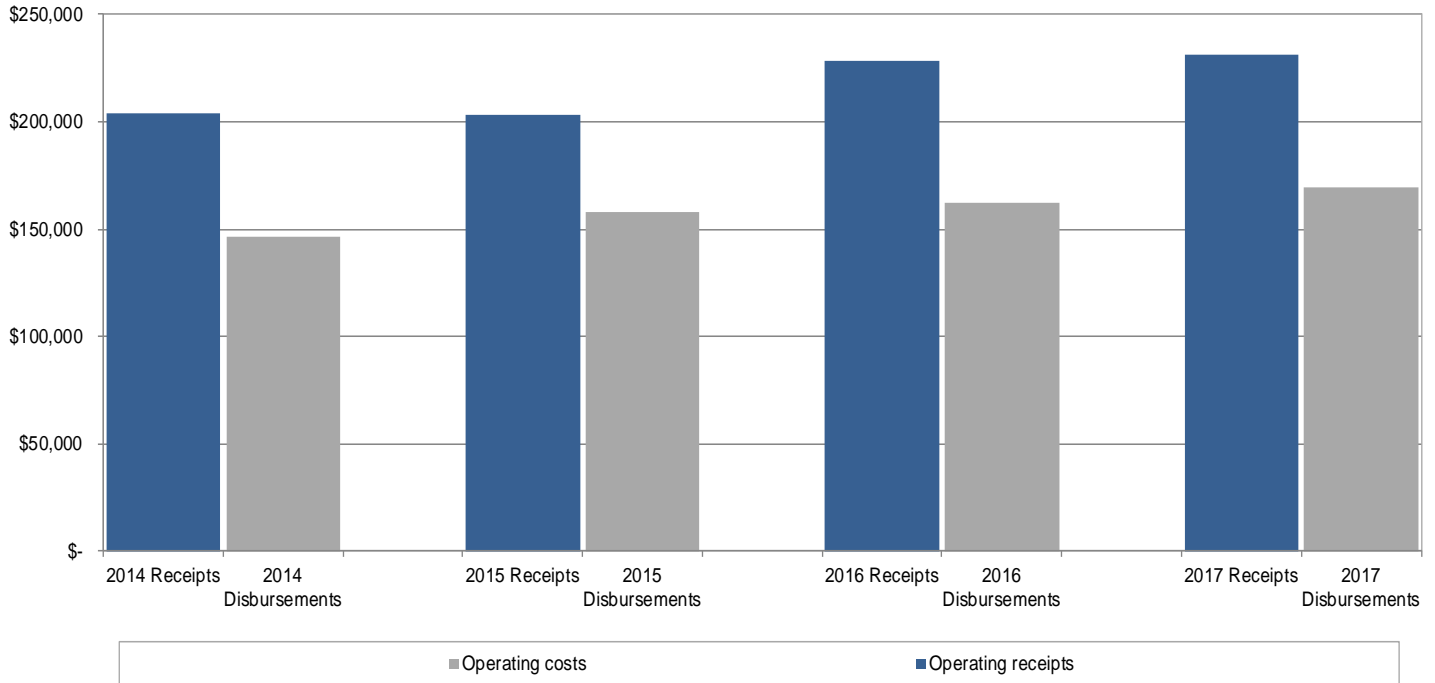
The Township established the Capital Improvements fund in 2011 through transferring funds from the Road and Bridge special revenue fund. The Capital Improvements fund is used for future capital projects.

Fund	Fund Balances December 31,		Increase (Decrease)
	2017	2016	
Major Capital Improvements	<u>\$ 404,994</u>	<u>\$ 306,775</u>	<u>\$ 98,219</u>

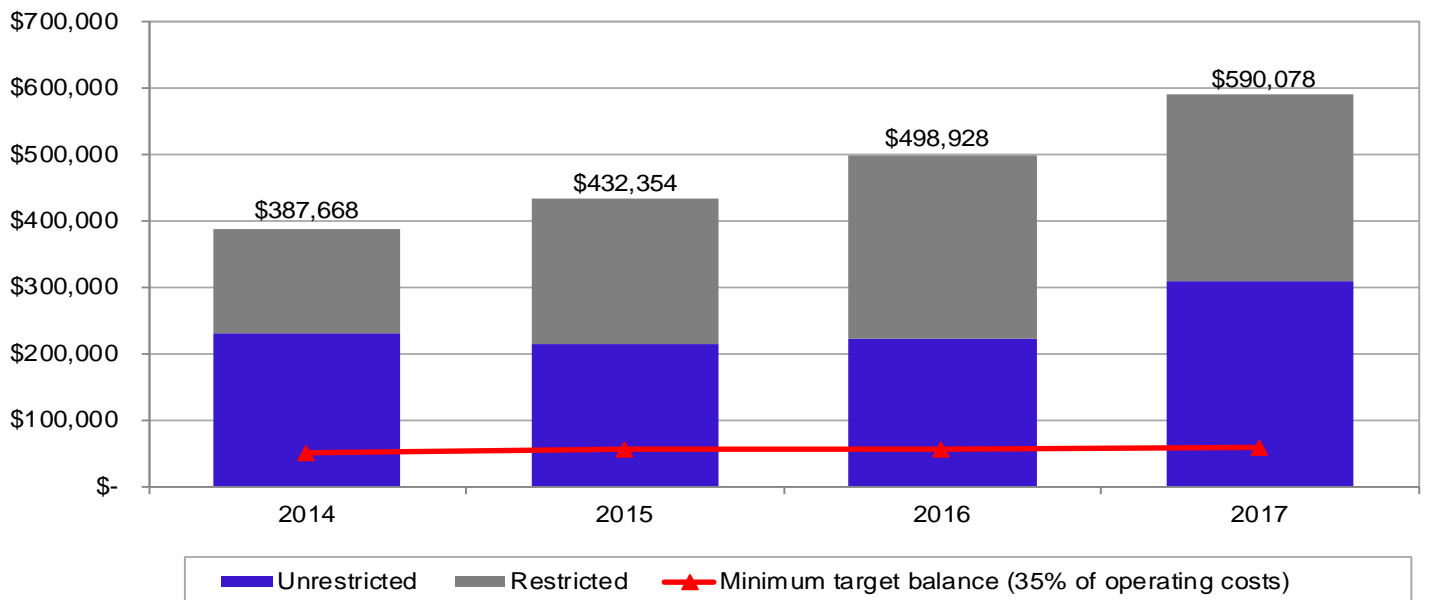
Sewer Subordinate Service Districts Fund

The Township operates three enterprise funds which are combined on the Enterprise statements. Enterprise funds are used to account for those operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business or where the Township has decided that the determination of revenues earned, costs incurred and/or net income is necessary for management accountability. A summary of their cash flows and cash position follows.

Sewer Subordinate Service Districts Fund Cash Flows

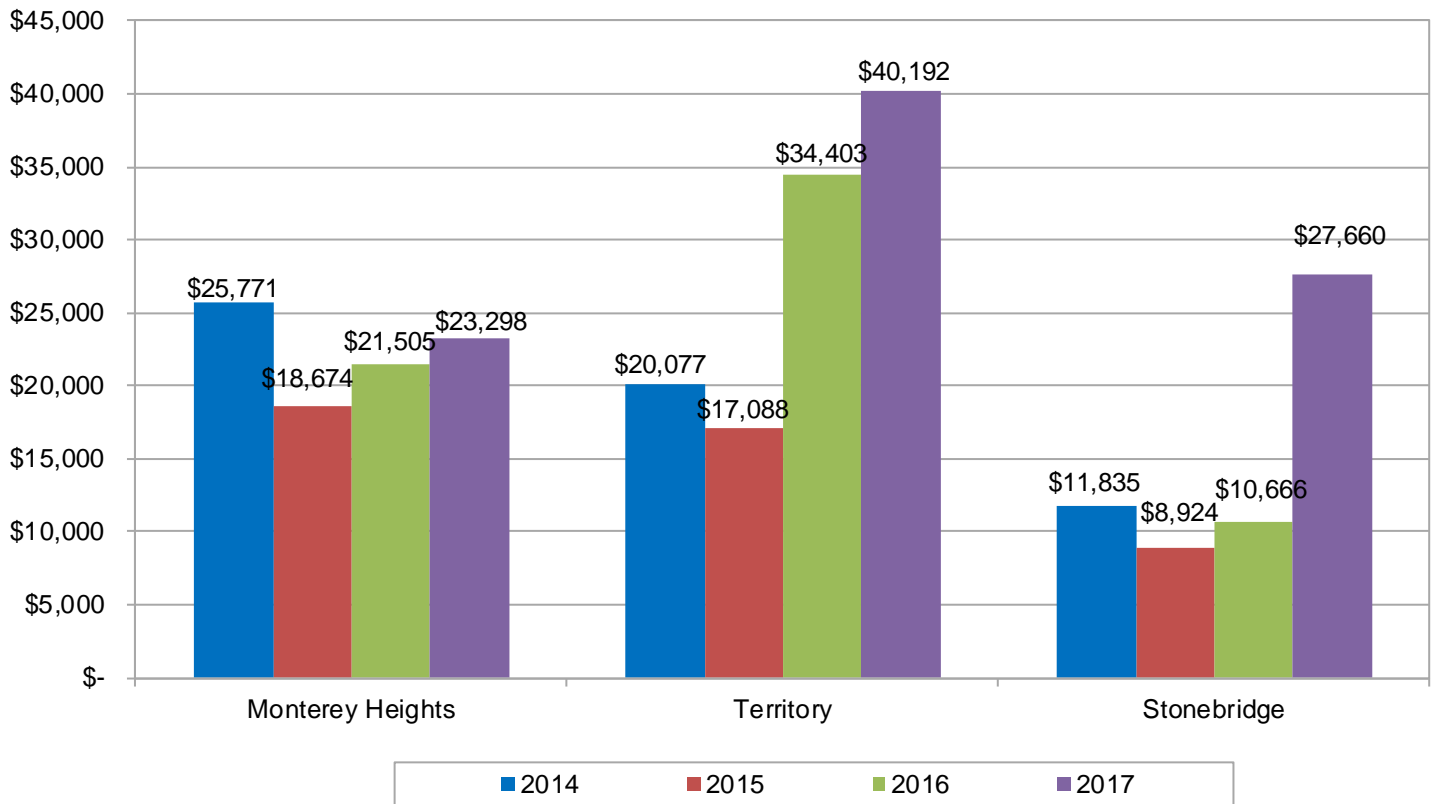


Sewer Subordinate Service Districts Fund Cash Balances



The Sewer fund continues to operate with operating revenues exceeding operating expenses. The three districts as a whole have enough cash to cover operations and continue to set aside reserves for future capital purchases. The Sewer fund restricted cash balance is for future capital replacement and repairs. For a view of the individual districts progress see the following page. The graph below represents the net increase/decrease in cash and cash equivalents.

Annual Cash Increases of the Districts



- Monterey Heights/South Passage has an ending net position of \$298,402, \$119,598 of which is restricted for future capital purchases. The cash balance in the district is sufficient cover over one years' worth of expenditures.
- Territory district has an ending net position of \$1,953,477, \$136,968 of which is restricted for future capital purchases. The cash balance is sufficient to cover over one years' worth of expenditures.
- Stonebridge district has an ending net position of \$416,190, \$25,552 of which is restricted for future capital purchases. The cash balance in the district is sufficient and enough to cover more than one year's worth of expenditures.

Future Accounting Standard Changes

The following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements have been issued and may have an impact on future Township financial statements: ⁽¹⁾

GASB Statement No. 75 - *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other than Pension*

Summary

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits or OPEB). It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for OPEB that is provided by other entities. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for all postemployment benefits (pensions and OPEB) with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions, as amended, and No. 57, OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans, for OPEB. Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other than Pension Plans, establishes new accounting and financial reporting requirements for OPEB plans.

The scope of this Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for OPEB that is provided to the employees of state and local governmental employers. This Statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. For defined benefit OPEB, this Statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discount projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service. Note disclosure and required supplementary information requirements about defined benefit OPEB also are addressed.

In addition, this Statement details the recognition and disclosure requirements for employers with payables to defined benefit OPEB plans that are administered through trusts that meet the specified criteria and for employers whose employees are provided with defined contribution OPEB. This Statement also addresses certain circumstances in which a nonemployer entity provides financial support for OPEB of employees of another entity.

In this Statement, distinctions are made regarding the particular requirements depending upon whether the OPEB plans through which the benefits are provided are administered through trusts that meet the following criteria:

- Contributions from employers and nonemployer contributing entities to the OPEB plan and earnings on those contributions are irrevocable.
- OPEB plan assets are dedicated to providing OPEB to plan members in accordance with the benefit terms.
- OPEB plan assets are legally protected from the creditors of employers, nonemployer contributing entities, the OPEB plan administrator, and the plan members.

Effective Date

This Statement is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2017. Earlier application is encouraged.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will improve the decision-usefulness of information in employer and governmental nonemployer contributing entity financial reports and will enhance its value for assessing accountability and interperiod equity by requiring recognition of the entire OPEB liability and a more comprehensive measure of OPEB expense. Decision-usefulness and accountability also will be enhanced through new note disclosures and required supplementary information, as follows:

- More robust disclosures of assumptions will allow for better informed assessments of the reasonableness of OPEB measurements.
- Explanations of how and why the OPEB liability changed from year to year will improve transparency.

Future Accounting Standard Changes (Continued)

- The summary OPEB liability information, including ratios, will offer an indication of the extent to which the total OPEB liability is covered by resources held by the OPEB plan, if any.
- For employers that provide benefits through OPEB plans that are administered through trusts that meet the specified criteria, the contribution schedules will provide measures to evaluate decisions related to contributions.

The consistency, comparability, and transparency of the information reported by employers and governmental nonemployer contributing entities about OPEB transactions will be improved by requiring:

- The use of a discount rate that considers the availability of the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position associated with the OPEB of current active and inactive employees and the investment horizon of those resources, rather than utilizing only the long-term expected rate of return regardless of whether the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to make projected benefit payments and is expected to be invested using a strategy to achieve that return.
- A single method of attributing the actuarial present value of projected benefit payments to periods of employee service, rather than allowing a choice among six methods with additional variations.
- Immediate recognition in OPEB expense, rather than a choice of recognition periods, of the effects of changes of benefit terms.
- Recognition of OPEB expense that incorporates deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB over a defined, closed period, rather than a choice between an open or closed period.

GASB Statement No. 83 - *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*

Summary

This Statement addresses accounting and financial reporting for certain asset retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. A government that has legal obligations to perform future asset retirement activities related to its tangible capital assets should recognize a liability based on the guidance in this Statement.

This Statement establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for AROs. This Statement requires that recognition occur when the liability is both incurred and reasonably estimable. The determination of when the liability is incurred should be based on the occurrence of external laws, regulations, contracts, or court judgments, together with the occurrence of an internal event that obligates a government to perform asset retirement activities. Laws and regulations may require governments to take specific actions to retire certain tangible capital assets at the end of the useful lives of those capital assets, such as decommissioning nuclear reactors and dismantling and removing sewage treatment plants. Other obligations to retire tangible capital assets may arise from contracts or court judgments. Internal obligating events include the occurrence of contamination, placing into operation a tangible capital asset that is required to be retired, abandoning a tangible capital asset before it is placed into operation, or acquiring a tangible capital asset that has an existing ARO.

This Statement requires the measurement of an ARO to be based on the best estimate of the current value of outlays expected to be incurred. The best estimate should include probability weighting of all potential outcomes, when such information is available or can be obtained at reasonable cost. If probability weighting is not feasible at reasonable cost, the most likely amount should be used. This Statement requires that a deferred outflow of resources associated with an ARO be measured at the amount of the corresponding liability upon initial measurement.

This Statement requires the current value of a government's AROs to be adjusted for the effects of general inflation or deflation at least annually. In addition, it requires a government to evaluate all relevant factors at least annually to determine whether the effects of one or more of the factors are expected to significantly change the estimated asset retirement outlays. A government should remeasure an ARO only when the result of the evaluation indicates there is a significant change in the estimated outlays. The deferred outflows of resources should be reduced and recognized as outflows of resources (for example, as an expense) in a systematic and rational manner over the estimated useful life of the tangible capital asset.

Future Accounting Standard Changes (Continued)

A government may have a minority share (less than 50 percent) of ownership interest in a jointly owned tangible capital asset in which a nongovernmental entity is the majority owner and reports its ARO in accordance with the guidance of another recognized accounting standards setter. Additionally, a government may have a minority share of ownership interest in a jointly owned tangible capital asset in which no joint owner has a majority ownership, and a nongovernmental joint owner that has operational responsibility for the jointly owned tangible capital asset reports the associated ARO in accordance with the guidance of another recognized accounting standards setter. In both situations, the government's minority share of an ARO should be reported using the measurement produced by the nongovernmental majority owner or the nongovernmental minority owner that has operational responsibility, without adjustment to conform to the liability measurement and recognition requirements of this Statement.

In some cases, governments are legally required to provide funding or other financial assurance for their performance of asset retirement activities. This Statement requires disclosure of how those funding and assurance requirements are being met by a government, as well as the amount of any assets restricted for payment of the government's AROs, if not separately displayed in the financial statements.

This Statement also requires disclosure of information about the nature of a government's AROs, the methods and assumptions used for the estimates of the liabilities, and the estimated remaining useful life of the associated tangible capital assets. If an ARO (or portions thereof) has been incurred by a government but is not yet recognized because it is not reasonably estimable, the government is required to disclose that fact and the reasons therefor. This Statement requires similar disclosures for a government's minority shares of AROs.

Effective Date

The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2018. Earlier application is encouraged.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

This Statement will enhance comparability of financial statements among governments by establishing uniform criteria for governments to recognize and measure certain AROs, including obligations that may not have been previously reported. This Statement also will enhance the decision-usefulness of the information provided to financial statement users by requiring disclosures related to those AROs.

GASB Statement No. 84 - *Fiduciary Activities*

Summary

The objective of this Statement is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how those activities should be reported.

This Statement establishes criteria for identifying fiduciary activities of all state and local governments. The focus of the criteria generally is on (1) whether a government is controlling the assets of the fiduciary activity and (2) the beneficiaries with whom a fiduciary relationship exists. Separate criteria are included to identify fiduciary component units and postemployment benefit arrangements that are fiduciary activities.

An activity meeting the criteria should be reported in a fiduciary fund in the basic financial statements. Governments with activities meeting the criteria should present a statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. An exception to that requirement is provided for a business-type activity that normally expects to hold custodial assets for three months or less.

This Statement describes four fiduciary funds that should be reported, if applicable: (1) pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, (2) investment trust funds, (3) private-purpose trust funds, and (4) custodial funds. Custodial funds generally should report fiduciary activities that are not held in a trust or equivalent arrangement that meets specific criteria.

Future Accounting Standard Changes (Continued)

A fiduciary component unit, when reported in the fiduciary fund financial statements of a primary government, should combine its information with its component units that are fiduciary component units and aggregate that combined information with the primary government's fiduciary funds.

This Statement also provides for recognition of a liability to the beneficiaries in a fiduciary fund when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Events that compel a government to disburse fiduciary resources occur when a demand for the resources has been made or when no further action, approval, or condition is required to be taken or met by the beneficiary to release the assets.

Effective Date

The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2018. Earlier application is encouraged.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will enhance consistency and comparability by (1) establishing specific criteria for identifying activities that should be reported as fiduciary activities and (2) clarifying whether and how business-type activities should report their fiduciary activities. Greater consistency and comparability enhances the value provided by the information reported in financial statements for assessing government accountability and stewardship.

GASB Statement No. 85 - Omnibus 2017

Summary

The objective of this Statement is to address practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. This Statement addresses a variety of topics including issues related to blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and postemployment benefits (pensions and other postemployment benefits [OPEB]). Specifically, this Statement addresses the following topics:

- Blending a component unit in circumstances in which the primary government is a business-type activity that reports in a single column for financial statement presentation
- Reporting amounts previously reported as goodwill and "negative" goodwill
- Classifying real estate held by insurance entities
- Measuring certain money market investments and participating interest-earning investment contracts at amortized cost
- Timing of the measurement of pension or OPEB liabilities and expenditures recognized in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus
- Recognizing on-behalf payments for pensions or OPEB in employer financial statements
- Presenting payroll-related measures in required supplementary information for purposes of reporting by OPEB plans and employers that provide OPEB
- Classifying employer-paid member contributions for OPEB
- Simplifying certain aspects of the alternative measurement method for OPEB
- Accounting and financial reporting for OPEB provided through certain multiple-employer defined benefit OPEB plans.

Effective Date

The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2017. Earlier application is encouraged.

Future Accounting Standard Changes (Continued)

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will enhance consistency in the application of accounting and financial reporting requirements. Consistent reporting will improve the usefulness of information for users of state and local government financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 86 - *Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues*

Summary

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve consistency in accounting and financial reporting for in-substance defeasance of debt by providing guidance for transactions in which cash and other monetary assets acquired with only existing resources - resources other than the proceeds of refunding debt - are placed in an irrevocable trust for the sole purpose of extinguishing debt. This Statement also improves accounting and financial reporting for prepaid insurance on debt that is extinguished and notes to financial statements for debt that is defeased in substance.

Effective Date

The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2017. Earlier application is encouraged.

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Accounting and Financial Reporting

The requirements of this Statement will increase consistency in accounting and financial reporting for debt extinguishments by establishing uniform guidance for derecognizing debt that is defeased in substance, regardless of how cash and other monetary assets placed in an irrevocable trust for the purpose of extinguishing that debt were acquired. The requirements of this Statement also will enhance consistency in financial reporting of prepaid insurance related to debt that has been extinguished. In addition, this Statement will enhance the decision-usefulness of information in notes to financial statements regarding debt that has been defeased in substance.

GASB Statement No. 87 - *Leases*

Summary

The objective of this Statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities.

Effective Date and Transition

The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. Earlier application is encouraged.

Leases should be recognized and measured using the facts and circumstances that exist at the beginning of the period of implementation (or, if applied to earlier periods, the beginning of the earliest period restated). However, lessors should not restate the assets underlying their existing sales-type or direct financing leases. Any residual assets for those leases become the carrying values of the underlying assets.

Future Accounting Standard Changes (Continued)

How the Changes in This Statement Will Improve Accounting and Financial Reporting

This Statement will increase the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring reporting of certain lease liabilities that currently are not reported. It will enhance comparability of financial statements among governments by requiring lessees and lessors to report leases under a single model. This Statement also will enhance the decision-usefulness of the information provided to financial statement users by requiring notes to financial statements related to the timing, significance, and purpose of a government's leasing arrangements.

⁽¹⁾ *Note.* From GASB Pronouncements Summaries. Copyright 2017 by the Financial Accounting Foundation, 401 Merritt 7, Norwalk, CT 06856, USA, and is reproduced with permission.

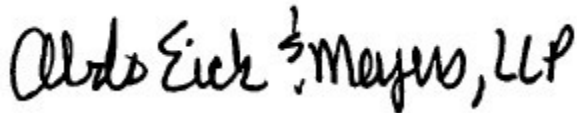
* * * * *

Restriction on Use

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Township Board, management and the Minnesota Office of the State Auditor and is not intended and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties.

Our audit would not necessarily disclose all weaknesses in the system because it was based on selected tests of the accounting records and related data. The comments and recommendations in the report are purely constructive in nature, and should be read in this context.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the items contained in this letter, please feel free to contact us at your convenience. We wish to thank you for the continued opportunity to be of service and for the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by your staff.



ABDO, EICK & MEYERS, LLP
Minneapolis, Minnesota
February 27, 2018