

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MARCH 31, 2014



Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.
SERVING YOUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
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CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MARCH 31, 2014

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May 28, 2014

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Township Board
Cedar Township
Osceola County
Reed City, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cedar Township, Osceola County, Reed City, Michigan as of and for the year ended March 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise of the Township's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cedar Township, Osceola County, Reed City, Michigan as of March 31, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages iii through ix and 17 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

As management of Cedar Township (“the Township”), we offer readers of the Township’s financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Township for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the financial statements as a whole, which can be found in this report.

This reporting model was adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) – for State and Local Governments issued in June of 2000. Certain comparative information between the current year and the prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A. However, because the audit of the Township is only required every other year, certain necessary comparative information of the previous year was not prepared. Considering the financial resources necessary to prepare this information for the prior year, the Township has elected to exclude the comparative information. We expect this situation to continue due to the every other year audit requirement.

Financial Highlights

- ❖ The assets of the Township exceeded its liabilities at the close of the fiscal year by \$501,146 (shown as *Net Position*). Of this amount, \$285,500 (*Unrestricted Net Position*) may be used to meet the Township’s ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.
- ❖ The Township’s net position increased by \$116,178 during the fiscal year.
- ❖ As of the close of the current fiscal year, the Township’s governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$342,555 of which \$285,500 was unassigned.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Township’s basic financial statements. The Township’s basic financial statements consist of three components. 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also includes supplementary information intended to furnish additional details to support the basic financial statements themselves.

Government-Wide Financial Statements The *Government-Wide Financial Statements* are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of the Township’s finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The *Statement of Net Position* presents financial information on all of the Township’s assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources, with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position of the Township is improving or deteriorating.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

The *Statement of Activities* presents information showing how the Township's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, *regardless of the timing of related cash flows*. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported for some items that will only result in cash flows in future periods.

Both of the government-wide financial statements distinguish functions of the Township that are principally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues (*governmental activities*) from other functions that are intended to recover all or significant portion of their costs through user fees and charges (*business-type activities*). The governmental activities of the Township include general government, public safety, public works, community and economic development, recreation and cultural, and other functions.

The government-wide financial statements can be found on pages 1-2 of this report.

Fund Financial Statements A *fund* is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Cedar Township, like other state and local governments, uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds of the Township can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on *near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources*, as well as *on balances of spendable resources* available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in assessing a government's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for *governmental funds* with similar information presented for *governmental activities* in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between *governmental funds* and *governmental activities*.

The Township maintains two individual governmental funds. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the General Fund and Road Fund, which are considered to be major funds.

The Township adopts an annual budget for all major funds. A budgetary comparison has been provided for all major funds to demonstrate compliance with this budget.

The basic governmental fund financial statements can be found on pages 3-6 of this report.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

resources of those funds are not available to support the Township's own programs. The Township maintains one type of fiduciary fund. The Agency Fund reports resources held by the Township in a custodial capacity for other governments.

The fiduciary fund financial statement can be found on page 7 of this report.

Notes to Financial Statements The notes provide additional information that is necessary to acquire a full understanding of the data provided in the governmental-wide and fund financial statements. The notes can be found on pages 8-16 of this report.

Other Information In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents *Required Supplementary Information* (RSI) that explains and supports the information presented in the financial statements.

Government-Wide Overall Financial Analysis

As noted earlier, net position over time, may serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. In the case of Cedar Township, assets exceeded liabilities by \$501,146, at the close of the most recent fiscal year.

Cedar Township
Net Position as of March 31, 2014

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 343,999
Non Current Assets	
Capital Assets	199,174
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(40,583)</u>
Total Non Current Assets	<u>158,591</u>
Total Assets	<u>502,590</u>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	<u>1,444</u>
Net Position	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	158,591
Restricted	57,055
Unrestricted	<u>285,500</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 501,146</u></u>

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

A portion of the Township's net position (32%) reflects its net investment in capital assets (e.g. land, buildings, equipment, infrastructure, and others), less any related outstanding debt that was used to acquire those assets. The Township uses these capital assets to provide a variety of services to its citizens. Accordingly, these assets are not available for future spending.

An additional portion of the Township's net position (11%) represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of \$285,500 is unrestricted, which may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to its citizens and creditors.

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Township is able to report positive balances in all categories of net position. The same situation held true for the prior fiscal year.

Cedar Township's overall net position increased by \$116,178 from the prior fiscal year. The reasons for this overall increase are discussed in the following sections for the governmental activities.

Cedar Township
Change in Net Position
for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2014

	Governmental Activities
<u>Revenues</u>	
Program Revenues	
Charges for Services	\$ 2,803
Operating Grants and Contributions	2,041
Capital Grants and Contributions	91,500
General Revenues	
Taxes	52,622
State Grants	34,052
Interest Earnings	634
Total Revenues	<u>183,652</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
General Government	47,889
Public Safety	8,000
Public Works	1,390
Community and Economic Development	3,121
Recreational and Cultural	250
Other Functions	6,824
Total Expenses	<u>67,474</u>
Change in Net Position	116,178
<u>NET POSITION</u> - Beginning of Year	<u>384,968</u>
<u>NET POSITION</u> - End of Year	<u>\$ 501,146</u>

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

Governmental Activities

The most significant part of the revenue for all governmental activities of the Township comes from taxes.

The Township's governmental activities expenses are dominated by the General Government. The Township spent \$47,889 in fiscal year ending March 31, 2014 on General Government.

Financial Analysis of the Governmental Funds

As noted earlier, the Township uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds The focus of Cedar Township's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing the Township's financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for discretionary use as they represent the portion of fund balance which has not yet been limited to use for a particular purpose by either an external party, the Township itself, or a group or individual that has been delegated authority to assign resources for use for particular purposes by the Township Board.

At March 31, 2014, Cedar Township's governmental funds reported fund balance of \$342,555, a decrease of \$17,530 in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 83% of this amount (\$285,500) constitutes *unassigned fund balance*, which is available for spending at the government's discretion. The remainder of the fund balance is either *nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned* to indicate that it is 1) not in spendable form, 2) legally required to be maintained intact, 3) restricted for particular purposes (\$57,055), 4) committed for particular purposes, or 5) assigned for particular purposes.

General Fund – The General Fund increased its fund balance by \$4,459 which brings the fund balance to \$297,636. \$285,500 of the General Fund's fund balance is unassigned and \$12,136 was restricted for telecommunications right of way maintenance.

Road Fund - The Road Fund decreased its fund balance in this fiscal year by \$21,989, bringing the balance to \$44,919. The entire fund balance is restricted for road maintenance.

General Fund Budgetary Highlights

During the year, there were no changes in appropriations between the original budget and final amended budget.

The following schedule shows a comparison of the original general fund budget, the final amended general fund budget and actual totals from operations.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>ORIGINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>FINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 81,554	\$ 81,554	\$ 68,373
Total Expenditures	\$ 83,750	\$ 83,750	\$ 63,914

Capital Assets

Capital Assets The Township's investment in capital assets for governmental activities as of March 31, 2013, amounted to \$158,591 net of accumulated depreciation.

Capital assets summarized below include any items purchased with a cost greater than \$5,000 individually and that have a useful life greater than one year. A summary of capital asset categories is illustrated below:

Cedar Township
Capital Assets as of March 31, 2014

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Land	\$ 852
Land Improvements	5,500
Buildings	35,780
Infrastructure	145,250
Equipment	11,792
	<u>199,174</u>
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	40,583
Net Capital Assets	<u>\$ 158,591</u>

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included:

- Reconstruction of a portion of 10 Mile Road at a cost of \$137,250, which was partially funded by a private source donation of \$91,500.

Economic Condition and Outlook

It appears that state-shared revenues and taxable values have stabilized, stabilizing the two largest revenue streams of the Township. The Township continues to look for ways to improve the services it provides to its residents in a manner that is financially responsible.

This factor was considered in preparing the Township's budgets for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

Request for Information

The financial report is designed to provide our citizens, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Township's finances and to demonstrate the Township's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need any additional information, contact Cedar Township at 9115 170th Avenue, Reed City, Michigan 49677.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 311,594
Receivables	
Taxes	4,031
External Party (Fiduciary Funds)	12,274
Due from Other Governments	16,100
	343,999
Total Current Assets	343,999
 <u>CAPITAL ASSETS</u>	
Land	852
Land Improvements	5,500
Buildings	35,780
Infrastructure	145,250
Equipment	11,792
	199,174
Less Accumulated Depreciation	40,583
Net Capital Assets	158,591
Total Assets	502,590
 <u>LIABILITIES</u>	
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	
Accrued Taxes Payable	1,444
 <u>NET POSITION</u>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	158,591
Restricted for Telecommunications Right of Way Maintenance	12,136
Restricted for Road Maintenance	44,919
Unrestricted	285,500
	501,146
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 501,146

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS	EXPENSES	PROGRAM REVENUES			NET (EXPENSES) REVENUES AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION
		CHARGES FOR SERVICES	OPERATING GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	CAPITAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS	TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
<u>GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES</u>					
General Government	\$ 47,889	\$ 2,628	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ (45,261)
Public Safety	8,000	0	0	0	(8,000)
Public Works	1,390	0	2,041	91,500	92,151
Community and Economic Development	3,121	175	0	0	(2,946)
Recreation and Cultural	250	0	0	0	(250)
Other Functions	6,824	0	0	0	(6,824)
TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	\$ 67,474	\$ 2,803	\$ 2,041	\$ 91,500	28,870
<u>GENERAL REVENUES</u>					
					52,622
Taxes					34,052
State Grants					634
Interest Earnings					87,308
Total General Revenues					87,308
Change in Net Position					116,178
<u>NET POSITION</u> - Beginning of Year					384,968
<u>NET POSITION</u> - End of Year					\$ 501,146

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET
MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>ROAD FUND</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 268,594	\$ 43,000	\$ 311,594
Taxes Receivable	2,112	1,919	4,031
Due from Other Governments	16,100	0	16,100
Due from Other Funds	12,274	0	12,274
	<u>\$ 299,080</u>	<u>\$ 44,919</u>	<u>\$ 343,999</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Accrued Taxes Payable	\$ 1,444	\$ 0	\$ 1,444
 <u>FUND BALANCE</u>			
Restricted for:			
Telecommunications Right of Way Maintenance	12,136	0	12,136
Road Maintenance	0	44,919	44,919
Unassigned	285,500	0	285,500
	<u>297,636</u>	<u>44,919</u>	<u>342,555</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 299,080</u>	<u>\$ 44,919</u>	<u>\$ 343,999</u>
 TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 299,080</u>	<u>\$ 44,919</u>	<u>\$ 343,999</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
MARCH 31, 2014

Total Fund Balance for Governmental Funds \$ 342,555

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the
Statement of Net Position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not
financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.

Land	\$ 852	
Land Improvements	5,500	
Buildings	35,780	
Infrastructure	145,250	
Equipment	11,792	
Accumulated Depreciation	(40,583)	158,591

NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES \$ 501,146

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>ROAD FUND</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>			
Taxes	\$ 28,904	\$ 23,718	\$ 52,622
Licenses and Permits	175	0	175
State Grants	36,093	0	36,093
Charges for Services	2,628	0	2,628
Interest and Rents	573	61	634
Other Revenues	0	91,500	91,500
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Revenues	68,373	115,279	183,652
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
General Government	45,719	0	45,719
Public Safety	8,000	0	8,000
Public Works	0	137,268	137,268
Community and Economic Development	3,121	0	3,121
Recreation and Cultural	250	0	250
Other Functions	6,824	0	6,824
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expenditures	63,914	137,268	201,182
Net Change in Fund Balance	4,459	(21,989)	(17,530)
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - Beginning of Year	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	293,177	66,908	360,085
<u>FUND BALANCE</u> - End of Year	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 297,636	\$ 44,919	\$ 342,555

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES
IN FUND BALANCE TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
MARCH 31, 2014

Net Change in Fund Balance - Total Governmental Funds	\$ (17,530)
Amounts reported for governmental activities are different because:	
Governmental funds report capital outlay as expenditures in the Statement of Activities. These costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation.	
Depreciation Expense	(3,542)
Capital Outlay	<u>137,250</u>
CHANGE IN NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES	<u><u>\$ 116,178</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION
MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>AGENCY FUND</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>	
Cash	\$ 12,420
	<hr/>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>	
Due to Other Funds	12,274
Due to Other Governments	146
	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	12,420
	<hr/>
<u>NET POSITION</u>	\$ 0
	<hr/> <hr/>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

I. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report the information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. All fiduciary activities are reported only in the fund financial statements. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges to external customers for support. Likewise, the *primary government* is reported separately from certain legally separate *component units* for which the primary government is financially accountable. Cedar Township does not have any *business-type activities* or *component units*.

B. Reporting Entity

Cedar Township is a general law township located in Osceola County which operates under the direction of an elected township board. Under the criteria established by generally accepted accounting principles, the Township has determined that there are no component units which should be included in its reporting entity.

C. Basis of Presentation – Government-Wide Financial Statements

While separate government-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. The governmental activities column incorporates data from the governmental funds. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

D. Basis of Presentation – Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about the government's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category – governmental and fiduciary – are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental funds, each displayed in a separate column.

Cedar Township reports the following major governmental funds:

The *General Fund* is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The *Road Fund* is used to account for financial activity of a levied road millage and road maintenance expenditures.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

Additionally Cedar Township reports the following fund types:

Fiduciary funds are accounted for using the accrual method of accounting. Fiduciary funds account for assets held by the Township in a trustee capacity or as an agent on behalf of others. This fund is custodial in nature and does not involve measurement of results of operations. Accordingly, it presents only a statement of fiduciary net position and does not present a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide statements.

During the course of operations the government has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at year-end are reported as due from/to other funds and advances to/from other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Balances between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as internal balances in the governmental activities column.

Further, certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in/out. While reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Transfers between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as transfers in the governmental activities column.

E. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as *current financial resources* or *economic resources*. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, and claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

Property taxes and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Entitlements are recorded as revenues when all eligibility requirements are met, including any time requirements, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue resource (within 60 days of year-end). Expenditure-driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other eligibility requirements have been met, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source (within 60 days of year-end). All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government.

F. Budgetary Information

1. Budgetary Basis of Accounting

The annual budget is adopted on the modified accrual basis in accordance with the requirements of “The Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act”. A public hearing is held to obtain taxpayer comments. Appropriations lapse at year-end. Budget amounts are as originally adopted on March 28, 2013, or as amended by the Township Board from time to time throughout the year.

The appropriated budget is prepared by fund and activity. The Township Board exercises budgetary control over expenditures.

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, is not employed by the Township because it is, at present, not considered necessary to assure effective budgetary control or to facilitate effective cash planning and control.

2. Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations

	<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
Road Fund		
Highways, Streets, and Bridges	\$ 101,500	\$ 137,268

This overage was funded by available fund balance and greater than anticipated revenues. Additionally, a separate budget was not adopted for the Road Fund.

G. Assets, Liabilities, Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources, and Net Position/Fund Balance

1. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Township’s cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from date of acquisition.

The investment policy adopted by the Township states that the treasurer may invest Township funds in certificates of deposit, savings accounts, deposit accounts, or depository receipts of a bank but only if the bank, savings and loan association, or credit union meets all criteria as a depository of public funds contained in state law.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

2. *Inventories and Prepaid Items*

Inventories are not significant and are expensed as acquired.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items.

3. *Capital Assets*

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend asset lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are constructed.

Property, plant and equipment of the primary government, as well as the component units are depreciated using the straight line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>YEARS</u>
Buildings	50
Land Improvements	20
Infrastructure	50
Vehicles	10
Equipment	5-10

4. *Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources*

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Township does not have any deferred outflows of resources.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. The separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Township does not have any deferred inflows of resources.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

5. *Net Position Flow Assumption*

Sometimes the government will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted – net position and unrestricted – net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government’s policy to consider restricted – net position to have been depleted before unrestricted – net position is applied.

6. *Fund Balance Flow Assumption*

Sometimes the government will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied. It is the government’s policy to consider restricted fund balance to have been depleted before using any of the components of unrestricted fund balance. Further, when the components of unrestricted fund balance can be used for the same purpose, committed fund balance is depleted first, followed by assigned fund balance. Unassigned fund balance is applied last.

7. *Fund Balance Policies*

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The government itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either a commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the government’s highest level of decision-making authority. The governing board is the highest level of decision-making authority for the government that can, by adoption of an ordinance prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the ordinance remains in place until a similar action is taken (the adoption of another ordinance) to remove or revise the limitation.

Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the government for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as committed. The board may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year’s appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above, an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

8. *Use of Estimates*

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

H. Revenues and Expenditures/Expenses

1. *Program Revenues*

Amounts reported as program revenue include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions (including special assessments) that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes and other internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues.

2. *Property Taxes*

All trade and property tax receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles. Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on the property as of the date they are levied. State education taxes and county taxes are levied and due July 1, and become delinquent after September 14. The remaining millages are levied and due December 1, and become delinquent after February 14. Collections of taxes and remittances of them are accounted for in the Current Tax Collection Fund. Township property tax revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available for use to finance Township operations. Amounts which are not expected to be collected within sixty days are treated as deferred revenues.

The 2013 taxable valuation of Cedar Township totaled \$22,648,792, on which ad valorem taxes levied consisted of 0.7791 mills for Cedar Township operating purposes, and an extra voted levy of 1.0000 mill authorized through the 2013 tax year for roads. The levies raised approximately \$40,267 for operating purposes and road maintenance.

II. STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A. Violations of Legal or Contractual Provisions

Note I.F.2, on the Excess of Expenditures Over Appropriations, describes a budgetary violation that occurred for the year-ended March 31, 2014.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

III. DETAILED NOTES ON ALL ACTIVITIES AND FUNDS

A. Deposits with Financial Institutions

Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits. In the case of deposits, this is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Township’s deposits may not be returned to it. As of March 31, 2014, none of the Township’s bank balance of \$347,695 was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although it is not specifically addressed in the Township’s investment policy, the Township typically limits its exposure to this type of risk by controlling who holds its deposits.

Foreign Currency Risk. The Township is not authorized to invest in investments which have this type of risk; therefore, it is not addressed in the investment policy.

B. Receivables

Receivables as of year-end for the government’s individual major funds are as follows:

	General	Road	Total
Taxes	\$ 2,112	\$ 1,919	\$ 4,031
Due from Other Governments	16,100	0	16,100
	\$ 18,212	\$ 1,919	\$ 20,131

By ordinance, the Township can place substantially all of its delinquent receivables on the tax rolls as a lien against real property. As a result, its uncollectible accounts are virtually nil.

C. Capital Assets

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
<u>Governmental activities:</u>				
Capital assets, not being depreciated				
Land	\$ 852	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 852
Capital assets, being depreciated				
Land Improvements	5,500	0	0	5,500
Buildings	35,780	0	0	35,780
Infrastructure	8,000	137,250	0	145,250
Equipment	11,792	0	0	11,792
Total capital assets, being depreciated	61,072	137,250	0	198,322

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

	Beginning Balance	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balance
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Land Improvements	2,590	275	0	2,865
Buildings	18,188	716	0	18,904
Infrastructure	8,000	1,372	0	9,372
Equipment	8,263	1,179	0	9,442
Total accumulated depreciation	37,041	3,542	0	40,583
Total capital assets, being depreciated, net	24,031	133,708	0	157,739
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ 24,883	\$ 133,708	\$ 0	\$ 158,591

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental Activities:

General Government	\$ 2,170
Public Works	1,372
	\$ 3,542

D. Interfund Receivables, Payables and Transfers

Individual fund interfund receivable and payable balances at March 31, 2014, were:

<u>FUND</u>	INTERFUND RECEIVABLES DUE FROM'S	INTERFUND PAYABLES DUE TO'S
General Fund	\$ 12,274	\$ 0
Fiduciary Fund		
Current Tax Collection Fund	0	12,274
	\$ 12,274	\$ 12,274

All remaining balances resulted from the time lag between the dates that (1) interfund goods and services are provided or reimbursable expenditures occur, (2) transactions are recorded in the accounting system, and (3) payments between funds are made.

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them, and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations. The Township has no interfund transfers.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2014

IV. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; and natural disasters. The Township participates in a pool of municipalities within the State of Michigan for self-insuring property and casualty, crime, general liability, workers compensation insurance and errors and omissions insurance. The Township pays annual premiums to the pool for the respective insurance coverage. In the event the pool's total claims and expenses for a policy year exceed the total normal annual premiums for said years, all members of the specific pool's policy year may be subject to special assessments to make up the deficiency. The Township has not been informed of any special assessments being required for the current year or the three prior years.

The Township continues to carry insurance for other risks of loss, including fidelity bonds.

B. Fire Protection Contract

The Township has a contract with Lincoln Township and paid \$8,000 for fire protection for the current fiscal year.

C. Commitments

On May 19, 2014, an agreement was signed with the Osceola County Road Commission for road improvement projects to be performed within the Township. The amount of the contract that the Township entered into with the Road Commission totaled \$109,700, which is 50% of the total estimated cost of the project.

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY
REED CITY, MICHIGAN
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
MAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>			<u>ROAD FUND</u>		
	<u>ORIGINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>FINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ORIGINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>FINAL BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>						
Taxes	\$ 45,273	\$ 45,273	\$ 28,904	\$ 20,078	\$ 20,078	\$ 23,718
Licenses and Permits	0	0	175	0	0	0
State Grants	35,233	35,233	36,093	0	0	0
Charges for Services	0	0	2,628	0	0	0
Interest and Rents	642	642	573	0	0	61
Other Revenues	406	406	0	0	91,500	91,500
Total Revenues	81,554	81,554	68,373	20,078	111,578	115,279
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>						
General Government						
Township Board	5,500	5,500	3,922	0	0	0
Supervisor	4,500	4,500	4,212	0	0	0
Elections	4,500	4,500	706	0	0	0
Assessor	13,550	13,550	12,447	0	0	0
Attorney	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
Clerk	9,800	9,800	8,340	0	0	0
Board of Review	2,400	2,400	1,496	0	0	0
Treasurer	12,000	12,000	10,998	0	0	0
Building and Grounds	5,500	5,500	2,491	0	0	0
Cemetery	1,500	1,500	1,107	0	0	0
Public Safety						
Fire Department	8,000	8,000	8,000	0	0	0
Public Works						
Highways, Streets, and Bridges	0	0	0	10,000	101,500	137,268
Community and Economic Development						
Planning and Zoning	3,450	3,450	3,121	0	0	0
Recreation and Cultural						
Library	2,550	2,550	250	0	0	0
Other Functions	9,000	9,000	6,824	0	0	0
Contingency	500	500	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditures	83,750	83,750	63,914	10,000	101,500	137,268
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,196)	(2,196)	4,459	10,078	10,078	(21,989)
<u>FUND BALANCE - Beginning of Year</u>	266,135	266,135	293,177	0	0	66,908
<u>FUND BALANCE - End of Year</u>	\$ 263,939	\$ 263,939	\$ 297,636	\$ 10,078	\$ 10,078	\$ 44,919



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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

134 WEST HARRIS STREET CADILLAC, MICHIGAN 49601 PHONE: (231) 775-9789 FAX: (231) 775-9749

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May 28, 2014

COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE
AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUDIT

To the Township Board
Cedar Township
Osceola County
Reed City, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cedar Township for the year ended March 31, 2014, and has issued our report thereon dated May 28, 2014. 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 April 23, 2014. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Cedar Township are described in Note I to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2013-2014. We noted no transactions entered into by the governmental unit 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 sensitive estimate affecting the governmental activities of Cedar Township's financial statements was:

Management's estimates of the useful lives of capital assets which is based on previous history. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no 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 clearly 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.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is 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 representation letter dated May 28, 2014.

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 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 Cedar 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.

During the course of our audit of the basic financial statements of Cedar Township for the year ended March 31, 2014, we noted the following items which we feel deserve comment:

Road Fund

The Township should record the road fund activity separately from General Fund, including all associated road millage and interest revenue as well as applicable road expenditures. This will help account for the extra voted millage funds separately.

We also recommend that a separate budget be adopted for the road fund in accordance with “The Uniform Budgeting and Accounting Act” which states that “the legislative body of each local unit shall pass a general appropriations act for all funds except trust or agency, internal service, enterprise, debt service, or capital project funds for which the legislative body may pass a special appropriation act.”

Un-Cashed Checks

While reconciling the receipts the Township recorded for the year, we noted the Township had recorded less than it should have related to State-Shared Revenue and Metro Act Revenue. Upon investigation of this problem, we found the Township had not received its October 2013 revenue sharing payment in the amount of \$6,044 or its metro act payment of \$2,041 from the State of Michigan. We contacted the State to verify the checks were not cashed and initiated the process for the State to pay these funds to the Township. We recommend the Township review its records for the previous year to insure all revenue sharing payments for the 2012-2013 fiscal year were received and deposited by the Township. Also, we recommend that the Township implement controls to verify all revenues from the State are received and deposited properly.

Update Accounting Software

It is our recommendation that the Township consider updating the computerized general ledger accounting system. There are several options available for minimal cost. We are available to help implement the update and can provide training if needed.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to the Management Discussion and Analysis and the Budgetary Comparison Schedule, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquires of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing 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.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the Township Board and others within the organization and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

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May 28, 2014

COMMUNICATION OF MATERIAL WEAKNESSES

To the Township Board
Cedar Township
Osceola County
Reed City, Michigan

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Cedar Township as of and for the year ended March 31, 2014, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered Cedar Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing our auditing 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 Cedar Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Cedar Township's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and would not be designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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 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 following deficiencies in Cedar Township's internal control to be material weaknesses:

1) Segregation of Incompatible Duties and Documented Independent Review

Criteria: Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls in order to safeguard the assets of the government. A key element of internal control is the segregation of incompatible duties.

Condition: The government has several accounting functions that are performed by the same individual and are not subject to a documented independent review and approval.

Cause: This condition is primarily the result of staffing constraints typical of smaller governmental units. Some of the control activities may be occurring on a routine basis, but are not being documented.

Effect: As a result of this condition, the government is exposed to an increased risk that misstatements (whether caused by error or fraud) may occur and not be prevented or detected by management on a timely basis.

Recommendation: There are, of course, no easy answers to the challenge of balancing the costs and benefits of internal controls and the segregation of incompatible duties. Recognizing this fact, we encourage the government to mitigate this risk by requiring as much independent review, reconciliation, and approval of accounting functions by qualified members of management as possible.

View of Responsible Officials: Management recognizes that this limitation is a natural outgrowth of the small number of full-time staff, and applies its judgment in determining how best to allocate the government's resources to provide and appropriate balance between sound internal controls and fiscal prudence.

2) *Preparation of Financial Statements in Accordance with GAAP*

Criteria: All Michigan governments are required to prepare financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). This is the responsibility of the government's management. The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires internal controls over both (1) recording, processing, and summarizing accounting data (i.e., maintaining internal books and records), and (2) reporting government-wide and fund financial statements, including related footnotes (i.e., external financial reporting).

Condition: As is the case with many smaller and medium-sized entities, the government has historically relied on its independent external auditor to assist in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements and footnotes as part of its external financial reporting process. Accordingly, the government's ability to prepare financial statements in accordance with GAAP is based, in part, on its reliance on its external auditors, who cannot by definition be considered a part of the government's internal controls.

Cause: This condition was caused by the government's decision that it is more cost effective to outsource the preparation of its financial statements to the auditors than to incur the time and expense of obtaining the necessary training and expertise required for the government to perform this task internally.

Effect: As a result of this condition, the government's internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP are incomplete. Instead, the government relies, in part, on its external auditors for assistance with this task.

Recommendation: Due to the size and minimal activity, we recommend that the government continue to outsource financial statement preparation.

View of Responsible Officials: The government has evaluated the cost vs. benefit of establishing internal controls over the preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP, and determined that it is in the best interests of the government to outsource this task to its external auditors, and to carefully review the draft financial statements and noted prior to approving them and accepting responsibility for their content and presentation.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or 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.

Cedar Township's response to the material weaknesses identified in our audit has not been subjected to the audit procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Township Board and others within the organization, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

BAIRD, COTTER AND BISHOP, P.C.

Baird, Cotter & Bishop, P.C.