

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

COUNTY OF WARREN

REPORT OF AUDIT

2015

*NISIVOCCIA LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS*

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

COUNTY OF WARREN

REPORT OF AUDIT

2015

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
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TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

PART I

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015



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Independent Auditors' Report

The Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Township Committee
Township of Independence
Independence, New Jersey

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the financial statements – *regulatory basis* of the various funds of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren (the "Township") as of and for the years then ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the foregoing 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 accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey (the "Division") to demonstrate compliance with the Division's regulatory basis of accounting, and the budget laws of New Jersey. Management is also responsible for 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.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, audit requirements prescribed by the Division, and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from 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 Township'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 Township'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.

The Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Township Committee
Township of Independence
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We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1, the financial statements are prepared by the Township on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Division to demonstrate compliance with the Division's regulatory basis of accounting and the budget laws of New Jersey, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for the Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America the financial position of each fund of the Township as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, or the changes in financial position where applicable thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

The financial statements – *regulatory basis* - of the various funds of the Township do not include the general fixed assets account group, which should be included to conform with the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Division. As described in Note 1, the amount that should be recorded in the general fixed assets accounting group cannot be determined.

Qualified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, except for the effects on the December 31, 2015 and 2014 financial statements of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* paragraph, the financial statements - *regulatory basis* - referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the various funds of the Township as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the results of operations and changes in fund balance, where applicable, of such funds, thereof for the years then ended on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Division to demonstrate compliance with the Division's regulatory basis of accounting and the budget laws of New Jersey, as described in Note 1.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 5 to the financial statements, the Township implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – An Amendment to GASB Statement No. 27*, and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68* during the year ended December 31, 2015. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

The Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Township Committee
Township of Independence
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Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements of the various funds that collectively comprise the Township's financial statements. The supplementary data schedules listed in the table of contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements. The accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance") and New Jersey's OMB Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements.

The supplementary data schedules and the schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the various fund financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the various fund financial statements or to the various fund financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary data schedules and the schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 15, 2016 on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Mount Arlington, New Jersey
March 15, 2016

NISIVOCIA LLP



William F. Schroeder
Certified Public Accountant
Registered Municipal Accountant No. 452

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
CURRENT FUND

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS

		December 31,	
	Ref.	2015	2014
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Regular Fund:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents:			
Treasurer	A-4	\$ 1,410,224.90	\$ 1,346,793.83
Change Funds		400.00	400.00
Due From State of New Jersey:			
Senior Citizen and Veterans Deductions			1,115.52
		<u>1,410,624.90</u>	<u>1,348,309.35</u>
Receivables and Other Assets With Full Reserves:			
Delinquent Property Taxes Receivable	A-7	291,343.69	276,683.44
Tax Title Liens Receivable	A-8	528,251.42	479,539.93
Penalty on Delinquent Taxes Receivable		2,800.57	1,266.54
Property Acquired for Taxes at Assessed Valuation		253,040.00	253,040.00
Revenue Accounts Receivable	A-9	3,335.82	2,072.53
Due From Federal and State Grant Fund	A	46,106.35	14,362.88
Total Receivables and Other Assets			
With Full Reserves		<u>1,124,877.85</u>	<u>1,026,965.32</u>
Deferred Charges:			
Special Emergency Authorization		60,000.00	80,000.00
		<u>60,000.00</u>	<u>80,000.00</u>
Total Regular Fund		<u>2,595,502.75</u>	<u>2,455,274.67</u>
Federal and State Grant Fund:			
Federal and State Grants Receivable	A-10	<u>70,620.22</u>	<u>55,081.37</u>
Total Federal and State Grant Fund		<u>70,620.22</u>	<u>55,081.37</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$ 2,666,122.97</u>	<u>\$ 2,510,356.04</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS
(Continued)

		December 31,	
	Ref.	2015	2014
<u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
Appropriation Reserves:			
Encumbered	A-3;A-11	\$ 13,667.11	\$ 26,319.39
Unencumbered	A-3;A-11	98,239.69	205,479.55
Total Appropriation Reserves		111,906.80	231,798.94
Accounts Payable- Vendors		1,828.00	1,828.00
County Taxes Payable		2,731.89	
Regional School District Taxes Payable	A-12	405,861.02	200,000.00
MUA Payments Payable			766.34
Due to:			
State of New Jersey:			
Senior Citizen and Veterans Deductions		1,134.48	
Marriage License Fees		200.00	325.00
Training Fees		1,049.00	1,337.00
Prepaid Taxes		83,643.13	73,250.69
Reserve for:			
Third Party Liens		2,486.00	71,686.23
Reassessment		16,720.00	16,720.00
Payroll Expenses		47,931.38	29,549.85
		675,491.70	627,262.05
Reserve for Receivables and Other Assets	A	1,124,877.85	1,026,965.32
Fund Balance	A-1	795,133.20	801,047.30
Total Regular Fund		2,595,502.75	2,455,274.67
Federal and State Grant Fund:			
Due Current Fund	A	46,106.35	14,362.88
Appropriated Reserves for Grants	A-13	16,139.91	34,438.59
Unappropriated Reserves for Grants	A-14	8,373.96	6,279.90
		70,620.22	55,081.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE		\$ 2,666,122.97	\$ 2,510,356.04

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - REGULATORY BASIS

	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>	
<u>Ref.</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<u>Revenue and Other Income Realized</u>		
Fund Balance Utilized	\$ 670,000.00	\$ 670,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue Anticipated	682,046.43	668,485.48
Receipts from:		
Delinquent Taxes	277,683.44	273,487.48
Current Taxes	15,525,713.76	14,852,679.99
Nonbudget Revenue	48,779.07	46,934.57
Other Credits to Income:		
Unexpended Balance of Appropriation Reserves	82,658.62	68,293.20
Tax Overpayments Cancelled	11.16	
Increase in Deferred School Tax		27,277.48
Penalty on Delinquent Taxes Collected	1,266.54	1,923.17
Interfund Returned	14,362.88	
Total Income	<u>17,302,521.90</u>	<u>16,609,081.37</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Budget and Emergency Appropriations:		
Municipal Purposes	3,305,801.95	3,225,111.75
County Taxes	4,353,230.70	4,148,487.11
Regional School District Taxes	8,932,297.00	8,520,575.00
Prior Year Senior Citizen Deductions Disallowed	1,000.00	523.97
Interfund Advanced	46,106.35	14,362.88
Total Expenditures	<u>16,638,436.00</u>	<u>15,909,060.71</u>
Statutory Excess to Fund Balance	664,085.90	700,020.66
<u>Fund Balance</u>		
Balance January 1	801,047.30	771,026.64
	<u>1,465,133.20</u>	<u>1,471,047.30</u>
Decreased by:		
Utilized as Anticipated Revenue	<u>670,000.00</u>	<u>670,000.00</u>
Balance December 31	<u><u>\$ 795,133.20</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 801,047.30</u></u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUE - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Added by 40A:4-87</u>	<u>Realized</u>	<u>Excess or Deficit*</u>
Fund Balance Anticipated	\$ 670,000.00		\$ 670,000.00	
Miscellaneous Revenue:				
Licenses:				
Alcoholic Beverages	6,000.00		7,075.00	\$ 1,075.00
Municipal Court - Fines and Costs	38,000.00		33,258.47	4,741.53 *
Interest and Costs on Taxes	42,000.00		56,766.85	14,766.85
In Lieu of Taxes - Liberty House	42,000.00		59,544.13	17,544.13
Municipal Building Rent	40,000.00		42,705.00	2,705.00
Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act	6,903.00		6,903.00	
Energy Receipts Tax	290,588.00		290,588.00	
Garden State Trust Fund	3,625.00		3,625.00	
Uniform Fire Safety Act	5,000.00		8,393.45	3,393.45
Uniform Construction Code Fees	52,000.00		68,437.00	16,437.00
Reserve for Debt Service	40,000.00		40,000.00	
Reserve for Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	2,344.82		2,344.82	
Clean Communities Program	12,722.94	\$ 3,105.96	15,828.90	
Municipal Alliance on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse	9,802.00		9,802.00	
Safe and Secure Communities Program	30,000.00		30,000.00	
Police Donations	600.00		600.00	
New Jersey Body Armor Grant	1,174.81		1,174.81	
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over		5,000.00	5,000.00	
Total Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>622,760.57</u>	<u>8,105.96</u>	<u>682,046.43</u>	<u>51,179.90 *</u>
Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	<u>240,000.00</u>		<u>277,683.44</u>	<u>37,683.44</u>
Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget:				
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	<u>2,570,959.00</u>		<u>3,046,186.06</u>	<u>475,227.06</u>
Budget Totals	<u>4,103,719.57</u>	<u>8,105.96</u>	<u>4,675,915.93</u>	<u>564,090.40</u>
Nonbudget Revenue			<u>48,779.07</u>	<u>48,779.07</u>
	<u>\$ 4,103,719.57</u>	<u>\$ 8,105.96</u>	<u>\$ 4,724,695.00</u>	<u>\$ 612,869.47</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUE - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(continued)

Allocation of Current Tax Collections:

Revenue from Collection of Current Taxes	\$ 15,525,713.76
Allocated to School and County Taxes	13,285,527.70
Balance for Support of Municipal Budget	<u>2,240,186.06</u>
Add: Appropriation "Reserve for Uncollected Taxes"	<u>806,000.00</u>
Realized for Support of Municipal Budget	<u><u>\$ 3,046,186.06</u></u>

Analysis of Non Budget Revenue:

Treasurer:

Interest on Investments	\$ 8,831.98	
Police Services	1,267.51	
Cable TV Franchise Fee	20,575.76	
Sale of Assets	6,340.40	
Senior and Veteran Deduction Administrative Fee	890.00	
Township Clean-up Fees	1,573.66	
Miscellaneous Fees	<u>9,299.76</u>	
		<u><u>\$ 48,779.07</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Appropriations		Expended By		Unexpended Balance Cancelled
	Budget	Budget After Modification	Paid or Charged	Reserved	
Operations - Within "CAPS"					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT:					
Mayor and Council:					
Salaries & Wages	\$ 20,485.00	\$ 20,485.00	\$ 16,190.00	\$ 4,295.00	
Other Expenses	1,815.00	1,815.00	1,513.00	302.00	
Municipal Clerk:					
Salaries & Wages	139,297.00	154,297.00	152,732.11	1,564.89	
Other Expenses	33,750.00	30,750.00	26,544.46	4,205.54	
Financial Administration:					
Salaries & Wages	41,581.00	41,581.00	41,581.00		
Other Expenses	12,188.00	12,188.00	12,116.87	71.13	
Annual Audit	16,750.00	16,750.00	16,750.00		
Collection of Taxes:					
Salaries & Wages	23,598.00	23,615.81	23,615.81		
Other Expenses	5,890.00	5,890.00	4,513.16	1,376.84	
Assessment of Taxes:					
Salaries & Wages	28,653.00	28,674.62	28,674.62		
Other Expenses	8,500.00	7,000.00	5,253.57	1,746.43	
Legal Services and Costs:					
Other Expenses	40,000.00	61,000.00	60,352.31	647.69	
Engineering Services and Costs:					
Other Expenses	22,000.00	19,500.00	16,242.50	3,257.50	
Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1):					
Planning Board:					
Salaries & Wages	8,280.00	8,280.00	8,280.00		
Other Expenses	5,100.00	5,100.00	4,275.83	824.17	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	<u>Appropriations</u>		<u>Expended By</u>		<u>Unexpended</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget After</u>	<u>Paid or</u>	<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Balance</u>
		<u>Modification</u>	<u>Charged</u>		<u>Cancelled</u>
Operations - Within "CAPS" (continued)					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT (continued):					
Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-1) (continued):					
Zoning Officer:					
Salaries & Wages	\$ 13,801.00	\$ 13,801.00	\$ 13,801.00		
Other Expenses	400.00	400.00		\$ 400.00	
INSURANCE:					
Liability Insurance	82,000.00	82,000.00	80,677.00	1,323.00	
Workers Compensation Insurance	64,200.00	64,200.00	60,453.00	3,747.00	
Group Plan for Employees	283,710.00	283,710.00	283,710.00		
PUBLIC SAFETY:					
Police:					
Salaries & Wages	789,879.00	750,736.69	743,717.83	7,018.86	
Other Expenses	43,300.00	41,300.00	34,169.64	7,130.36	
Purchase of Police Cars	40,934.00	40,934.00	40,933.39	0.61	
911 Coordinator:					
Salaries & Wages	1,417.00	1,417.00	1,417.00		
Office of Emergency Management:					
Salaries & Wages	2,521.00	2,522.88	2,522.88		
Other Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00	964.24	35.76	
Fire:					
Other Expenses	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00		
First Aid Squad:					
Other Expenses	26,250.00	26,250.00	26,250.00		
Uniform Fire Safety Act:					
Other Expenses	8,456.00	6,956.00	5,331.00	1,625.00	
Prosecutor:					
Salaries & Wages	7,948.00	7,948.00	7,948.00		

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	Appropriations		Expended By		Unexpended Balance Cancelled
	Budget	Budget After Modification	Paid or Charged	Reserved	
Operations - Within "CAPS" (continued)					
PUBLIC WORKS FUNCTIONS:					
Road Repairs and Maintenance:					
Salaries & Wages	\$ 221,675.00	\$ 220,175.00	\$ 215,401.99	\$ 4,773.01	
Other Expenses	130,350.00	130,350.00	128,527.55	1,822.45	
Garbage and Trash Removal:					
Other Expenses	3,700.00	3,700.00	3,700.00		
Public Buildings and Grounds:					
Salaries & Wages	6,630.00	7,730.00	7,664.10	65.90	
Other Expenses	13,000.00	13,000.00	12,481.08	518.92	
Vehicle Maintenance:					
Other Expenses	30,000.00	30,000.00	28,264.39	1,735.61	
Community Services Act:					
Other Expenses	15,000.00	15,000.00		15,000.00	
HEALTH AND WELFARE:					
Environmental Commission (R.S. 40:56A-1):					
Other Expenses	580.00	580.00		580.00	
Dog Regulation:					
Other Expenses	2,000.00	2,000.00	520.00	1,480.00	
Senior Citizen Center:					
Salaries & Wages	6,716.00	6,717.00	6,717.00		
Other Expenses	1,000.00	1,000.00	998.69	1.31	
Recreation:					
Salaries & Wages	40,901.00	63,901.00	62,481.86	1,419.14	
Other Expenses	10,500.00	10,500.00	10,500.00		
Landfill Closure:					
Other Expenses	4,141.00	4,141.00	484.50	3,656.50	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	Appropriations		Expended By		Unexpended
	Budget	Budget After Modification	Paid or Charged	Reserved	Balance Cancelled
Operations - Within "CAPS" (continued)					
Utilities:					
Other Expenses	\$ 132,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 98,797.14	\$ 21,202.86	
Municipal Court:					
Salaries & Wages	32,478.00	31,678.00	30,637.46	1,040.54	
Other Expenses	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,383.73	1,116.27	
Public Defender:					
Other Expenses	1,000.00	1,800.00	1,400.00	400.00	
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE OFFICIAL:					
Construction Official:					
Salaries & Wages	46,759.00	46,759.00	45,700.44	1,058.56	
Other Expenses	2,025.00	2,025.00	1,467.58	557.42	
Total Operations Within "CAPS"	2,502,908.00	2,499,908.00	2,403,907.73	96,000.27	
Detail:					
Salaries & Wages	1,432,619.00	1,430,319.00	1,409,083.10	21,235.90	
Other Expenses	1,070,289.00	1,069,589.00	994,824.63	74,764.37	
Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures:					
STATUTORY EXPENDITURES:					
Contribution to:					
Social Security System (O.A.S.I.)	106,718.00	109,718.00	109,497.85	220.15	
Unemployment Compensation Insurance	500.00	500.00	294.73	205.27	
Police and Firemen's Retirement System of N.J.	141,707.00	141,707.00	141,707.00		
Defined Contribution Retirement Program	500.00	500.00		500.00	
Public Employees' Retirement System	68,586.00	68,586.00	67,272.00	1,314.00	
Total Deferred Charges and Statutory Expenditures - Municipal Within "CAPS"	318,011.00	321,011.00	318,771.58	2,239.42	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	Appropriations		Expended By		Unexpended Balance Cancelled
	Budget	Budget After Modification	Paid or Charged	Reserved	
Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Within "CAPS"	\$ 2,820,919.00	\$ 2,820,919.00	\$ 2,722,679.31	\$ 98,239.69	
Operations Excluded from "CAPS": Public and Private Programs Offset by Revenues:					
Municipal Alliance Grant - State Share	9,802.00	9,802.00	9,802.00		
Municipal Alliance Grant - Local Match	1,869.00	1,869.00	1,869.00		
Safe and Secure Communities Program	30,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00		
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Grant (N.J.S.A.40A-87 + \$5,000.00)		5,000.00	5,000.00		
Reserve for Donations: Police	600.00	600.00	600.00		
NJ Body Armor Grant	1,174.81	1,174.81	1,174.81		
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	2,344.82	2,344.82	2,344.82		
Clean Communities Grant (N.J.S.A.40A-87 + \$3,105.96)	12,722.94	15,828.90	15,828.90		
Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	58,513.57	66,619.53	66,619.53		

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	<u>Appropriations</u>		<u>Expended By</u>		<u>Unexpended</u>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget After Modification</u>	<u>Paid or Charged</u>	<u>Reserved</u>	<u>Balance Cancelled</u>
Detail:					
Other Expenses	\$ 58,513.57	\$ 66,619.53	\$ 66,619.53		
Capital Improvements - Excluded from "CAPS":					
Capital Improvement Fund	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00		
Total Capital Improvements - Excluded from "CAPS"	17,500.00	17,500.00	17,500.00		
Municipal Debt Service - Excluded from "CAPS":					
Payment of Bond Principal	240,000.00	240,000.00	240,000.00		
Payment of Bond Anticipation Notes	75,000.00	75,000.00	75,000.00		
Interest on Bonds	62,062.00	62,062.00	62,061.24		\$ 0.76
Interest on Notes	3,725.00	3,725.00	3,702.18		22.82
Total Municipal Debt Service - Excluded from "CAPS"	380,787.00	380,787.00	380,763.42		23.58
Deferred Charges - Municipal - Excluded from "CAPS"					
Deferred Charges:					
Special Emergency Authorizations - 5 Years (N.J.S.A.40A:4-55)	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00		
Total Deferred Charges - Excluded from "CAPS"	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00		
Total General Appropriations - Excluded from "CAPS"	476,800.57	484,906.53	484,882.95		23.58
Subtotal General Appropriations	3,297,719.57	3,305,825.53	3,207,562.26	\$ 98,239.69	23.58
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	806,000.00	806,000.00	806,000.00		
Total General Appropriations	\$ 4,103,719.57	\$ 4,111,825.53	\$ 4,013,562.26	\$ 98,239.69	\$ 23.58

Ref.

A

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Analysis of</u>	
		<u>Budget After Modification</u>	<u>Paid or Charged</u>
Adopted Budget		\$ 4,103,719.57	
Added by N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87		<u>8,105.96</u>	
		<u>\$ 4,111,825.53</u>	
Reserve for Uncollected Taxes			\$ 806,000.00
Cash Disbursed			3,107,275.62
Deferred Charges:			
Emergency Authorization			20,000.00
Transferred to Federal and State Grant Fund			66,619.53
Encumbrances	A		<u>13,667.11</u>
			<u>\$ 4,013,562.26</u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
TRUST FUNDS

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - TRUST FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS

		December 31,	
	Ref.	2015	2014
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Animal Control Fund:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents			
Treasurer	B-4	\$ 1,417.60	\$ 2,358.56
Change Fund		25.00	25.00
		<u>1,442.60</u>	<u>2,383.56</u>
Other Trust Fund:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	B-4	<u>469,597.08</u>	<u>471,230.65</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$ 471,039.68</u>	<u>\$ 473,614.21</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
Animal Control Fund:			
Due to State of New Jersey			\$ 1.20
Reserve for Animal Control Expenditures	B-6	<u>\$ 1,442.60</u>	<u>2,382.36</u>
		<u>1,442.60</u>	<u>2,383.56</u>
Other Trust Fund:			
Reserve for:			
Recreation Trust		29,217.26	29,103.74
Developers' Escrow		301,603.26	307,870.75
Unemployment Compensation Insurance		22,169.94	20,625.14
Tax Sale Premiums		71,400.00	61,600.00
Parking Offense Adjudication Act Trust (P.O.A.A.)		308.00	308.00
Recycling Trust		1,639.42	1,639.42
Municipal Alliance		3,532.77	3,532.77
Council on Affordable Housing Trust (C.O.A.H.)		39,726.43	46,550.83
		<u>469,597.08</u>	<u>471,230.65</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE		<u>\$ 471,039.68</u>	<u>\$ 473,614.21</u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
ASSESSMENT TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

NOT APPLICABLE

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
ASSESSMENT TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF REVENUE - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

NOT APPLICABLE

ASSESSMENT TRUST FUND
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES - REGULATORY BASIS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

NOT APPLICABLE

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS

		December 31,	
	Ref.	2015	2014
<u>ASSETS</u>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	C-2	\$ 177,605.97	\$ 460,286.22
Due from State of New Jersey			
Department of Transportation Grant		41,250.00	
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation:			
Funded		1,325,000.00	1,565,000.00
Unfunded	C-4	600,000.00	675,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS		\$ 2,143,855.97	\$ 2,700,286.22
<u>LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE</u>			
Serial Bonds Payable	C-8	\$ 1,325,000.00	\$ 1,565,000.00
Bond Anticipation Notes Payable	C-7	600,000.00	675,000.00
Improvement Authorizations:			
Funded	C-5	214,508.59	166,061.89
Unfunded	C-5		2,376.95
Capital Improvement Fund	C-6	3,843.05	251,343.05
Reserve to Pay Debt Service			40,000.00
Fund Balance	C-1	504.33	504.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE		\$ 2,143,855.97	\$ 2,700,286.22

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE - REGULATORY BASIS

	<u>Ref.</u>	
Balance December 31, 2014	C	<u>\$ 504.33</u>
Balance December 31, 2015	C	<u><u>\$ 504.33</u></u>

THE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS STATEMENT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
WATER OPERATING FUND

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
SEWER OPERATING FUND

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Reporting Entity

Except as noted below, the financial statements of the Township of Independence include every board, body, officer or commission supported and maintained wholly or in part by funds appropriated by the Township of Independence, as required by N.J.S. 40A:5-5. Accordingly, the financial statements of the Township of Independence do not include the operations of the volunteer fire and first aid squads.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Codification Section 2100, "Defining the Financial Reporting Entity" establishes standards to determine whether a governmental component unit should be included in the financial reporting entity. The basic criterion for inclusion or exclusion from the financial reporting entity is the exercise of oversight responsibility over agencies, boards and commissions by the primary government. The exercise of oversight responsibility includes financial interdependency and a resulting financial benefit or burden relationship, selection of governing authority, designation of management, ability to significantly influence operations, and accountability for fiscal matters. In addition, certain legally separate, tax-exempt entities that meet specific criteria (i.e., benefit of economic resources, access/entitlement to resources, and significance) should be included in the financial reporting entities. As the financial reporting entity was established in accordance with New Jersey statutes, the requirements of GASB Codification Section 2100 were not followed and, accordingly, the reporting entity could be different from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

B. Description of Funds

The accounting policies of the Township of Independence conform to the accounting practices applicable to municipalities which have been prescribed or permitted by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey. Such practices are designed primarily for determining compliance with legal provisions and budgetary restrictions and as a means of reporting on the stewardship of public officials with respect to public funds. Under this method of accounting, the Township of Independence accounts for its financial transactions through the following separate funds:

Current Fund - resources and expenditures for governmental operations of a general nature, including federal and state grant funds.

Trust Funds - receipts, custodianship and disbursement of funds in accordance with the purpose for which each reserve was created.

General Capital Fund - receipt and disbursement of funds for the acquisition of general capital facilities, other than those acquired in the Current Fund.

C. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenue and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

C. Basis of Accounting (Cont'd)

The more significant accounting policies in New Jersey follow:

Revenue is recorded when received in cash except for certain amounts which may be due from the State of New Jersey and for the prepayment of future years' revenue. Grant revenue is realized in the Current Fund when it is budgeted, and in the Capital Fund when improvements are authorized. The amounts recorded as property taxes receivable have not been included in revenue. Other amounts that are due to the municipality, which are susceptible of accrual, are recorded as receivables with offsetting reserves in the Current Fund.

Expenditures are charged to operations generally based on budgeted amounts.

Exceptions to this general rule include:

1. Accumulated unpaid vacation, sick pay and other employee amounts are not accrued.
2. Prepaid expenses, such as insurance premiums applicable to subsequent periods, are charged to current budget appropriations in total.
3. Principal and interest on long-term debt are recognized when due.

Expenditures, if any, in excess of appropriations, appropriation reserves or ordinances become deferred charges which must be raised by future taxes. Outstanding encumbrances at December 31st are reported as a cash liability in the financial statements and constitute part of the statutory appropriation reserve balance. Appropriation reserves covering unexpended appropriation balances are automatically created at December 31 of each year and recorded as liabilities, except for amounts which may be cancelled by the governing body. Appropriation reserves are available, until lapsed at the close of the succeeding year, to meet specific claims, commitments or contracts incurred during the preceding fiscal year. Lapsed appropriation reserves are recorded as income.

The cash basis of accounting is followed in the Trust and Capital Funds, except for grant revenue (as described above).

Had the Township's financial statements been prepared under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, encumbrances would not be considered as expenditures; appropriation reserves would not be recorded; revenue susceptible to accrual would have been reflected without offsetting reserves; Federal and State grants and assistance would be recognized when earned, not when budgeted or awarded, inventories would not be reflected as expenditures at the time of purchase; and the Township's net pension liability and related deferred inflows and outflows would be recorded.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

C. Basis of Accounting (Cont'd)

Other significant accounting policies include:

Management Estimates – The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures/expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – Amounts include petty cash, change funds, amounts on deposit, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Investments – Investments are stated at cost or amortized cost, which approximates market.

Allowance for Uncollectible Accounts – No allowance for uncollectible accounts has been recorded as all amounts are considered collectible.

Compensated Absences – Expenditures relating to unused vested accumulated vacation and sick pay are not recorded until paid.

Foreclosed Property - Foreclosed property is recorded in the Current Fund at the assessed valuation when such property was acquired and is fully reserved.

Interfunds - Interfund receivables in the Current Fund are recorded with offsetting reserves which are created by charges to operations. Income is recognized in the year the receivables are liquidated. Interfund receivables in the other funds are not offset by reserves.

Inventories of Supplies - The costs of inventories of supplies for all funds are recorded as expenditures at the time individual items are purchased. The costs of inventories are not included on the various balance sheets.

Grants Receivable - Grants receivable represent the total grant awards less amounts collected to date. Because the amount of grant funds to be collected are dependent on the total costs eligible for reimbursement, the actual amount collected may be less than the total amount awarded.

General Fixed Assets - The Township has not implemented a fixed assets accounting and reporting system in accordance with New Jersey Administrative Code accounting requirements.

Property and equipment purchased by the Current and General Capital funds are recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase and are not capitalized.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 1: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Cont'd)

- D. Budget/Budgetary Control – An annual appropriated budget is usually prepared in the first quarter for the Current Fund. The budget is submitted to the governing body and the Division of Local Government Services. The budget is prepared using the cash basis of accounting. The legal level of budgetary control is established at the line item accounts within each fund. Line item accounts are defined as the lowest (most specific) level of detail as established pursuant to the flexible chart of accounts referenced in N.J.S.A. 40A. All budget amendments/transfers must be approved by the Township during the year.
- E. Deferred Charges to Future Taxation – The Capital Fund balance sheet includes both funded and unfunded deferred charges. Funded means that bonds have been issued and are being paid off on a serial basis. Unfunded means the debt has been authorized but not permanently financed. A municipality can eliminate an unfunded deferred charge by raising it in the budget, or collecting a grant. The unfunded deferred charge may also be funded by selling bonds, by issuing loans or by capital lease purchase agreements.

Note 2: Long-Term Debt

The Local Bond Law governs the issuance of bonds to finance general Township capital expenditures. All bonds are retired in serial installments within the statutory period of usefulness. All bonds issued by the Township are general obligation bonds. The Township's full faith and credit and taxing power has been pledged to the payment of the general obligation debt principal and interest.

Summary of Municipal Debt

	December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Issued:			
General Bonds, Loans and Notes	\$ 1,925,000.00	\$ 2,240,000.00	\$ 2,467,000.00
Less:			
Funds Temporarily Held to Pay			
Bonds and Notes:			
Reserve to Pay Debt Service		40,000.00	20,632.00
Net Debt Issued	<u>\$ 1,925,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,200,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,446,368.00</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 2: Long-Term Debt (Cont'd)

Summary of Municipal Debt Issued and Outstanding – Current and Prior Years

	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2015</u>
Serial Bonds:				
General Capital Fund	\$ 1,565,000.00		\$ 240,000.00	\$ 1,325,000.00
Bond Anticipation Notes:				
General Capital Fund	675,000.00		75,000.00	600,000.00
Total	<u>\$ 2,240,000.00</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 315,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,925,000.00</u>
	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2013</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2014</u>
Serial Bonds:				
General Capital Fund	\$ 1,792,000.00		\$ 227,000.00	\$ 1,565,000.00
Bond Anticipation Notes:				
General Capital Fund	675,000.00			675,000.00
Total	<u>\$ 2,467,000.00</u>	<u>\$ -0-</u>	<u>\$ 227,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 2,240,000.00</u>

Summary of Statutory Debt Condition - Annual Debt Statement

The summarized statement of debt condition which follows is prepared in accordance with the required method of setting up the Annual Debt Statement and indicates a statutory net debt of .34%.

	<u>Gross Debt</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>Net Debt</u>
Regional School District Debt	\$ 3,541,372.34	\$ 3,541,372.34	
General Debt	1,925,000.00		\$ 1,925,000.00
	<u>\$ 5,466,372.34</u>	<u>\$ 3,541,372.34</u>	<u>\$ 1,925,000.00</u>

Net Debt \$1,925,000.00 divided by Equalized Valuation Basis Per N.J.S. 40A:2-2 as Amended, \$562,960,548= .34%.

Borrowing Power Under N.J.S. 40A:2-6 as Amended

3-1/2% of Equalized Valuation Basis (Municipal)	\$ 19,703,619.19
Net Debt	<u>1,925,000.00</u>
Remaining Borrowing Power	<u>\$ 17,778,619.19</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 2: Long-Term Debt (Cont'd)

The foregoing debt information is in agreement with the Annual Debt Statement filed by the Chief Financial Officer.

Summary of Municipal Debt Issued and Outstanding

At December 31, 2015, the Township had debt issued and outstanding as follows:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Maturities of Bonds</u> <u>Outstanding December 31, 2015</u>		<u>Interest</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2015</u>
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
Construction of Municipal Building and Water Supply System	8/15/16	\$ 115,000.00	4.625%	
	8/15/17	120,000.00	4.750%	
	8/15/18	130,000.00	4.800%	
	8/15/19	135,000.00	4.875%	
	8/15/20	140,000.00	5.000%	
	8/15/21	150,000.00	5.000%	
				<u>\$ 790,000.00</u>

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Maturities of Bonds</u> <u>Outstanding December 31, 2015</u>		<u>Interest</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>Dec. 31, 2015</u>
	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>		
Purchase of Land and Equipment	02/15/16	\$ 130,000.00	3.100%	
	02/15/17	135,000.00	3.100%	
	02/15/18	135,000.00	3.125%	
	02/15/19	135,000.00	3.250%	
				<u>\$ 535,000.00</u>
Total Serial Bonds Outstanding				<u><u>\$ 1,325,000.00</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
 (Continued)

Note 2: Long-Term Debt (Cont'd)

Summary of Municipal Debt Issued and Outstanding (Cont'd)

General Capital Bond Anticipation Notes

<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12/7/2016	1.01%	\$ 600,000.00
Total Debt Issued and Outstanding		\$ 1,925,000.00

Schedule of Annual Debt Service for Principal and Interest for the Next Five Years and thereafter for Bonded Debt Issued and Outstanding

<u>Calendar Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 53,146.24	\$ 298,146.24
2017	255,000.00	43,720.02	298,720.02
2018	265,000.00	33,818.14	298,818.14
2019	270,000.00	23,275.01	293,275.01
2020	140,000.00	14,500.00	154,500.00
2021	150,000.00	7,500.00	157,500.00
	<u>\$ 1,325,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 175,959.41</u>	<u>\$ 1,500,959.41</u>

Note 3: Fund Balances Appropriated

The amount of fund balance at December 31, 2015 included in the 2016 Introduced Current Fund budget for the year ending December 31, 2015 is \$670,000.

Note 4: Regional School District Taxes

Regulations provide for the deferral of not more than 50% of the annual levy when school taxes are raised for a school year and have not been requisitioned by the school district.

Regional School District Taxes have been raised and the liability deferred by statute, resulting in the school taxes payable set forth in the Current Fund liabilities as follows:

	<u>Regional School District Tax</u>		
	<u>Balance Dec. 31, 2015</u>	<u>Balance Dec. 31, 2014</u>	<u>Increase/ (Decrease)</u>
Balance of Tax	\$ 4,466,148.48	\$ 4,260,287.46	\$ 205,861.02
Amount Deferred	4,060,287.46	4,060,287.46	
Regional School District Tax Payable	<u>\$ 405,861.02</u>	<u>\$ 200,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 205,861.02</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5: Pension Plans

Township employees are enrolled in one of two cost sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement systems: the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) or the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) of New Jersey.

A. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)

Plan Description

The State of New Jersey, Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey, Division of Pensions and Benefits (the Division). For additional information about the PERS, please refer to the Division's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which can be found at www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrpts.shtml.

Benefits Provided

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 43:15A. PERS provides retirement, death and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service, except for medical benefits, which vest after 25 years of service or under the disability provisions of PERS. The following represents the membership tiers for PERS:

Tier	Definition
1	Members who were enrolled prior to July 1, 2007
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after July 1, 2007 and prior to November 2, 2008
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after November 2, 2008 and prior to May 22, 2010
4	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
5	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Service retirement benefits of 1/55th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tiers 1 and 2 members upon reaching age 60 and to Tier 3 members upon reaching age 62. Service retirement benefits of 1/60th of final average salary for each year of service credit is available to Tier 4 members upon reaching age 62 and to Tier 5 members upon reaching age 65. Early retirement benefits are available to Tiers 1 and 2 members before reaching age 60, to Tiers 3 and 4 before age 62 with 25 or more years of service credit and Tier 5 with 30 or more years of service credit before age 65. Benefits are reduced by a fraction of a percent for each month that a members retires prior to the age at which a member can receive full early retirement benefits in accordance with their respective tier. Tier 1 members can receive an unreduced benefit from age 50 to age 60 if they have at least 25 years of service. Deferred retirement is available to members who have at least 10 years of service credit and have not reached the service retirement age for the respective tier.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

A. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Contributions

The contribution policy for PERS is set by N.J.S.A. 15A and requires contributions by active members and contributing members. The local employers' contribution amounts are based on an actuarially determined rate which includes the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. Chapter 19, P.L. 2009 provided an option for local employers of PERS to contribute 50% of the normal and accrued liability contribution amounts certified for payments due in State fiscal year 2009. Such employers will be credited with the full payment and any such amounts will not be included in their unfunded liability. The actuaries will determine the unfunded liability of those retirement systems, by employer, for the reduced normal and accrued liability contributions provided under this law. This unfunded liability will be paid by the employer in level annual payments over a period of 15 years beginning with the payments due in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and will be adjusted by the rate of return on the actuarial value of assets. Township contributions to PERS amounted to \$67,272 for 2015.

The employee contribution rate was 6.92% effective July 1, 2014 and increased to 7.06% effective July 1, 2015. Subsequent increases after October 1, 2011 are being phased in over 7 years effective on each July 1st to bring the total pension contribution rate to 7.5% of base salary as of July 1, 2018.

Pension Liabilities and Pension Expense.

At December 31, 2015, the Township's liability was \$1,527,824 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2014. The Township's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Township's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2014, the Township's proportion was 0.082%, which was a decrease of 0.003% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2013. The Township has rolled forward the net pension liability to December 31, 2014 with no adjustments.

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the Township recognized actual pension expense in the amount of \$67,272.

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2014 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2014. The total pension liability for the June 30, 2013 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Inflation Rate	3.01%
Salary Increases:	
2012-2021	2.15 – 4.40% based on age
Thereafter	3.15 – 5.40% based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.90%

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

A. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Actuarial Assumptions (Cont'd)

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Male and Female Mortality Tables (setback 1 year for females) with adjustments for mortality improvements from the base year of 2012 based on Projection Scale AA.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2013 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2011.

Long Term Expected Rate of Return

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the Board of Trustees and the actuaries. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PERS' target asset allocation as of June 30, 2014 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	6.00%	0.80%
Core Bonds	1.00%	2.49%
Intermediate-Term Bonds	11.20%	2.26%
Mortgages	2.50%	2.17%
High Yield Bonds	5.50%	4.82%
Inflation-Indexed Bonds	2.50%	3.51%
Broad U.S. Equities	25.90%	8.22%
Developed Foreign Equities	12.70%	8.12%
Emerging Market Equities	6.50%	9.91%
Private Equity	8.25%	13.02%
Hedge Funds/Absolute Return	12.25%	4.92%
Real Estate (Property)	3.20%	5.80%
Commodities	2.50%	5.35%

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

A. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 5.39% as of June 30, 2014. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.9% and a municipal bond rate of 4.29% as of June 30, 2014 based on the Bond Buyer Go 20 Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current member contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made based upon the average of the last five years of contributions made in relation to the last five years of recommended contributions. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2033. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2033, and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Township's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the Township's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability as of December 31, 2014 calculated using the discount rate as disclosed below, as well as what the Township's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	1%	Current	1%
	Decrease (4.39%)	Discount Rate (5.39%)	Increase (6.39%)
Township's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,922,054	\$ 1,527,824	\$ 1,196,770

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

Detailed information about the pension plan's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued PERS financial statements.

B. Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS)

Plan Description

The State of New Jersey, State of New Jersey Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS), is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the State of New Jersey Division of Pensions and Benefits (the Division). For additional information about the PFRS, please refer to the Division's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which can be found at www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/annrpts.shtml.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

B. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Benefits Provided

The vesting and benefit provisions are set by N.J.S.A. 43:16A. The PFRS provides retirement, death and disability benefits. All benefits vest after ten years of service, except for disability benefits, which vest after 4 years of service.

The following represents the membership tiers for PFRS:

Tier	Definition
1	Members who were enrolled prior to May 22, 2010
2	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after May 22, 2010 and prior to June 28, 2011
3	Members who were eligible to enroll on or after June 28, 2011

Contributions

The contribution policy for PFRS is set by N.J.S.A. 43:16A and requires contributions by active members and contributing members. The Local employers' contribution amounts are based on an actuarially determined rate which includes the normal cost and unfunded accrued liability. Chapter 19, P.L. 2009 provided an option for local employers of PFRS to contribute 50% of the normal and accrued liability contribution amounts certified for payments due in State fiscal year 2009. Such employers will be credited with the full payment and any such amounts will not be included in their unfunded liability. The actuaries will determine the unfunded liability of those retirement systems, by employer, for the reduced normal and accrued liability contributions provided under this law. This unfunded liability will be paid by the employer in level annual amounts over a period of 15 years beginning with the payments due in the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012 and will be adjusted by the rate of return on the actuarial value of the assets.

Special Funding Situation

Under N.J.S.A. 43:16A-15, local participating employers are responsible for their own contributions based on actuarially determined amounts, except where legislation was passed which legally obligated the State if certain circumstances occurred. The legislation which legally obligates the State is as follows: Chapter 8, P.L. 2000, Chapter 318, P.L. 2001, Chapter 86, P.L. 2001, Chapter 511, P.L. 1991, Chapter 109, P.L. 1979, Chapter 247, P.L. 1993 and Chapter 201, P.L. 2001. The amounts contributed on behalf of the local participating employers under this legislation is considered to be a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68 and the State is treated as a nonemployer contributing entity. The June 30, 2014 State special funding situation net pension liability amounts are the accumulated differences between the annual actuarially determined State obligation under the special funding situation and the actual State contribution through the valuation date. The fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 State special funding situation pension expense is the actuarially determined contribution amount that the State owes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. The pension expense is deemed to be a State administrative expense due to the special funding situation. Since the local participating employers do not contribute under this legislation directly to the plan (except for employer specific funded amounts), there is no net pension liability or deferred outflows or inflows to report in the financial statements of the local participating employers related to this legislation. However, the notes to the financial statements of the local participating employers must disclose the portion of the nonemployer contributing entities' total proportionate share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the local participating employer.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

B. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Special Funding Situation (Cont'd)

Township contributions to PFRS amounted to \$141,707 for the year ended December 31, 2015. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, the State of New Jersey contributed \$10,377 to the PFRS for normal pension benefits on behalf of the Township, which is less than the contractually required contribution of \$31,665.

The employee contributions for PFRS are 10.00% of employees' annual compensation, as defined.

Pension Liabilities and Pension Expense

At December 31, 2015, the Township's liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability was \$2,320,810. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2014. The Township's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Township's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2014, the Township's proportion was 0.018%, which was a decrease of 0.001% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2013. The Township has rolled forward the net pension liability to December 31, 2014 with no adjustments.

Additionally, the State's proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the Township is \$249,912 as of December 31, 2015. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2014. The State's proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Township was based on a projection of the Township's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. At June 30, 2014, the State's proportion was 0.018%, which was a decrease of 0.001% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2013 which is the same proportion as the Township's.

Township's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,320,810
State's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Township	<u>249,912</u>
Total Net Pension Liability	<u><u>\$ 2,570,722</u></u>

For the year ended December 31, 2015, the Township recognized total pension expense of \$141,707.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

B. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2014 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013 which was rolled forward to June 30, 2014. The total pension liability for the June 30, 2013 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2013. This actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods in the measurement.

Inflation Rate	3.01%
Salary Increases:	
2012-2021	3.95% - 8.62% based on age
Thereafter	4.95% - 9.62% based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.90%

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Males and Females Mortality Tables for Males with adjustments for mortality improvements from the base year of 2011 based on Projection Scale AA.

The actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2013 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

Long Term Expected Rate of Return

In accordance with State statute, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments is determined by the State Treasurer, after consultation with the Directors of the Division of Investments and Division of Pensions and Benefits, the Board of Trustees and the actuaries. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in PFRS's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2014 is summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	6.00%	0.80%
Core Bonds	1.00%	2.49%
Intermediate-Term Bonds	11.20%	2.26%
Mortgages	2.50%	2.17%
High Yield Bonds	5.50%	4.82%
Inflation-Indexed Bonds	2.50%	3.51%
Broad U.S. Equities	25.90%	8.22%
Developed Foreign Equities	12.70%	8.12%
Emerging Market Equities	6.50%	9.91%
Private Equity	8.25%	13.02%
Hedge Funds/Absolute Return	12.25%	4.92%
Real Estate (Property)	3.20%	5.80%
Commodities	2.50%	5.35%

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 5. Pension Plans (Cont'd)

B. Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) (Cont'd)

Discount Rate – PFRS

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 6.32% as of June 30, 2014. This single blended discount rate was based on the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.9% and a municipal bond rate of 4.29% as of June 30, 2014 based on the Bond Buyer Go 20 Bond Municipal Bond Index which includes tax-exempt general obligation municipal bonds with an average rating of AA/Aa or higher. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made based on the average of the last five years of contributions made in relation to the last five years of actuarially determined contributions. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make projected future benefit payments of current plan members through 2045. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to projected benefit payments through 2045, and the municipal bond rate was applied to projected benefit payments after that date in determining the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Total Net Pension Liability (including the State's proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the Township) to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the total net pension liability (including the State's proportionate share of the net pension liability attributable to the Township) as of December 31, 2014 calculated using the discount rate as disclosed above, as well as what the collective net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower or 1-percentage-point higher than the current rate:

	Year Ended December 31, 2014		
	1% Decrease (5.32%)	Current Discount Rate (6.32%)	1% Increase (7.32%)
Township's proportionate share of the NPL and the State's proportionate share of the Net Pension Liability associated with the Town	\$ 3,464,379	\$ 2,570,723	\$ 1,832,137

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position - PFRS

Detailed information about the PFRS's fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued PFRS financial statements.

Note 6: Accrued Sick and Vacation Benefits

The Township permits employees to accrue a limited amount of unused vacation and sick pay, which may be taken as time off or paid at a later date at an agreed-upon rate. It is estimated that the current cost of such unpaid compensation would approximate \$148,429.24 at December 31, 2015. This amount is not reported either as an expenditure or a liability. It is expected that the cost of such unpaid compensation would be included in the Township's budget operating expenditures in the year in which it is used.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 7: Selected Tax Information

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	*	<u>2013</u>
<u>Tax Rate</u>	\$ 3.168	\$ 3.027		\$ 2.167
<u>Apportionment of Tax Rate</u>				
Municipal	0.513	0.498		0.344
County	0.870	0.829		0.622
Regional School	1.785	1.700		1.201
<u>Assessed Valuations</u>				
2015	\$ 500,539,400.00			
2014		\$ 500,981,052.00	*	
2013				\$ 688,096,353.00

* - Revaluation effective in 2014.

Property taxes are levied as of January 1 on property values assessed as of the previous calendar year. The tax levy is divided into two billings. The first billing is an estimate of the current year's levy based on the prior year's taxes. The second billing reflects adjustments to the current year's actual levy. The final tax bill is usually mailed on or before June 14th, along with the first half estimated tax bills for the subsequent year. The first half estimated taxes are divided into two due dates, February 1 and May 1. The final tax bills are also divided into two due dates, August 1 and November 1. A ten-day grace period is usually granted before the taxes are considered delinquent and there is an imposition of interest charges. A penalty may be assessed for any unpaid taxes in excess of \$10,000 at December 31 of the current year. Unpaid taxes of the prior year may be placed in lien at a tax sale held after April 1 and through December 31. Unpaid taxes of the current year may be placed in lien at a tax sale held after December 10.

Comparison of Tax Levies and Collection Currently

A study of this tabulation could indicate a possible trend in future tax levies.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Currently</u>	
		<u>Cash Collections</u>	<u>Percentage of Collection</u>
2015	\$ 15,867,036.00	\$ 15,525,713.76	97.84%
2014	15,177,419.58	14,852,679.99	97.86%
2013	14,945,825.12	14,401,942.37	96.36%

Also, increases in future tax levies can also be warranted if revenue sources outside of those directly generated by the municipality, such as federal or state aid, should decline without corresponding decreases in budgeted expenditures.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 8: Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes change funds, amounts on deposit, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Investments are stated at cost, which approximates market. The Township classifies certificates of deposit which have original maturity dates of more than three months but less than twelve months from the date of purchase, as investments.

GASB Statement No. 40, *Governmental Accounting Standards Board Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures* requires disclosure of the level of custodial credit risk assumed by the Township in its cash, cash equivalents and investments, if those items are uninsured or unregistered. Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned.

Interest Rate Risk – In accordance with its cash management plan, the Township ensures that any deposit or investment matures within the time period that approximates the prospective need for the funds, deposited or invested, so that there is not a risk to the market value of such deposits or investments.

Credit Risk – The Township limits its investments to those authorized in its cash management plan which are those permitted under state statute as detailed on the following page.

Deposits

New Jersey statutes permit the deposit of public funds in institutions located in New Jersey, which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), or by any other agencies of the United States that insure deposits or the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund.

New Jersey statutes require public depositories to maintain collateral for deposits of public funds that exceed insurance limits as follows:

The market value of the collateral must equal 5% of the average daily balance of public funds; and

If the public funds deposited exceed 75% of the capital funds of the depository, the depository must provide collateral having a market value equal to 100% of the amount exceeding 75%.

All collateral must be deposited with the Federal Reserve Bank, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board or a banking institution that is a member of the Federal Reserve System and has capital funds of not less than \$25,000,000.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 8: Cash and Cash Equivalents (Cont'd)

Investments

New Jersey statutes permit the Township to purchase the following types of securities:

- (1) Bonds or other obligations of the United States of America or obligations guaranteed by the United States of America;
- (2) Government money market mutual funds;
- (3) Any obligation that a federal agency or a federal instrumentality has issued in accordance with an act of Congress, which security has a maturity date not greater than 397 days from the date of purchase, provided that such obligation bears a fixed rate of interest not dependent on any index or other external factor;
- (4) Bonds or other obligations of the local unit or bonds or other obligations of school districts of which the local unit is a part or within which the school district is located;
- (5) Bonds or other obligations, having a maturity date not more than 397 days from the date of purchase, approved by the Division of Investment of the Department of the Treasury for investment by local units;
- (6) Local government investment pools;
- (7) Deposits with the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund; or
- (8) Agreements for the repurchase of fully collateralized securities if:
 - (a) the underlying securities are permitted investments pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (3) above;
 - (b) the custody of collateral is transferred to a third party;
 - (c) the maturity of the agreement is not more than 30 days;
 - (d) the underlying securities are purchased through a public depository as defined in statute; and
 - (e) a master repurchase agreement providing for the custody and security of collateral is executed

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 8: Cash and Cash Equivalents (Cont'd)

As of December 31, 2015, cash and cash equivalents of the Township of Independence consisted of the following:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Cash on Hand</u>	<u>Checking Accounts</u>	<u>Savings Accounts</u>	<u>Total</u>
Current	\$ 18,020.74	\$ 1,392,604.16		\$ 1,410,624.90
Animal Control	25.00	1,417.60		1,442.60
Other Trust		200,027.22	\$ 269,569.86	469,597.08
General Capital		177,605.97		177,605.97
	<u>\$ 18,045.74</u>	<u>\$ 1,771,654.95</u>	<u>\$ 269,569.86</u>	<u>\$ 2,059,270.55</u>

The carrying amount of the Township's cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2015, was \$2,059,270.55 and the bank balance was \$2,052,998.04. During the year ended December 31, 2015, the Township did not hold any investments.

Note 9: 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; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Township obtains their health benefit coverage through the State of New Jersey Health Benefits Program.

The Township is a member of the Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund (the "Fund"). The Fund is a risk-sharing public entity risk pool that is an insured and self-administered group of governmental entities established for the purpose of providing low-cost insurance coverage for their respective members in order to keep local property taxes at a minimum. Each member appoints an official to represent their respective entity for the purpose of creating a governing body from which officers for the Fund are elected.

The following coverages are offered by this fund to its members:

- a.) Worker's Compensation and Employers' Liability
- b.) Liability Other than Motor Vehicles
- c.) Property Damage Other Than Motor Vehicles
- d.) Motor Vehicles
- e.) Environmental

As a member of the Fund, the Township could be subject to supplemental assessments in the event of deficiencies. If the assets of the Fund were to be exhausted, members would become responsible for their respective shares of the Fund's liabilities.

The Fund can declare and distribute dividends to members upon approval of the State of New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. These distributions are divided amongst the members in the same ratio as their individual assessment relates to the total assessment of the membership body.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
 (Continued)

Note 9: Risk Management (Cont'd)

The December 31, 2015 audit report of the Fund was not available as of the date of this report. Selected, summarized financial information for the Fund as of December 31, 2014 is as follows:

	Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Dec. 31, 2014
Total Assets	\$ 16,389,567
Net Position	\$ 8,240,684
Total Revenue	\$ 7,380,440
Total Expenses	\$ 7,025,767
Change in Net Position	\$ 354,673
Member Dividends	\$ -0-

Financial statements for the Funds are available at the offices of the Fund's Executive Director:

Public Alliance Insurance Coverage Fund

Public Entity Group Administrative Services
 51 Everett Drive
 Suite B-40
 West Windsor, NJ 08550
 (609) 275-1155

New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance

The Township has elected to fund its New Jersey Unemployment Compensation Insurance under the "Benefit Reimbursement Method". Under this plan, the Township is required to reimburse the New Jersey Unemployment Trust Fund for benefits paid to its former employees and charged to its account with the State. The Township is billed quarterly for amounts due to the State. The following is a summary of Township contributions, employee contributions, interest earned, reimbursements to the State for benefits paid and the ending balance of the Township's expendable trust fund for the current and previous two years.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Township Contributions</u>	<u>Employee Contributions</u>	<u>Interest Earned</u>	<u>Amount Reimbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
2015	\$ -0-	\$ 1,544.80	\$ -0-	\$ -0-	\$ 22,169.94
2014	-0-	1,332.67	-0-	-0-	20,625.14
2013	-0-	2,337.07	-0-	-0-	19,292.47

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Note 10: Interfund Receivables and Payables

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Interfund Receivable</u>	<u>Interfund Payable</u>
Current	\$ 46,106.35	
Federal and State Grant		\$ 46,106.35
	<u>\$ 46,106.35</u>	<u>\$ 46,106.35</u>

The interfund between the Current Fund and the Federal and State Grant Fund represents the net amount received in and disbursed from the Current Fund on behalf of the Federal and State Grant Fund.

Note 11: Contingent Liabilities

The Township is periodically involved in various lawsuits arising in the normal course of business, including claims for property damage, personal injury, and various contract disputes. The Township vigorously contests these lawsuits and believes the ultimate resolution will not have a material adverse effect on their financial position.

Amounts received or receivable from grantors, principally the federal and state governments are subject to regulatory requirements and adjustments by the agencies. Any disallowed claims, including amounts previously recognized by the Township as revenue would constitute a liability of the applicable funds. The amount, if any, of expenditures which may be disallowed by the grantors cannot be determined at this time, although Township officials expect such amounts, if any, to be immaterial.

Note 12: Economic Dependency

The Township received a substantial amount of its support from federal and state governments. A significant reduction in the level of support, if this were to occur, may have an effect on the Township's programs and activities.

Note 13: Deferred Charges to be Raised in Succeeding Budgets

Certain expenditures are required to be deferred to budgets of succeeding years. At December 31, 2015, the following deferred charge is shown on the balance sheet of the Current Fund:

	<u>Balance Dec. 31, 2015</u>	<u>Required 2016 Budget Appropriation</u>	<u>Balance to Succeeding Years' Budgets</u>
Current Fund:			
Special Emergency Authorization	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 40,000.00

The appropriation in the 2016 budget is not less than the amount required by statute.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
OFFICIALS IN OFFICE AND SURETY BONDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Amount of Bond</u>	<u>Name of Corporate Surety</u>
Robert Giordano	Mayor		
Glenn Williams	Deputy Mayor		
Glenn Cogle	Committee Member		
Carmen Feula	Committee Member		
Bonnie Kelsey	Committee Member		
Deborah Hrebenak	Clerk, Assessment Search Officer, Registrar, Administrator	\$ 1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)
Kevin Lifer	Chief Financial Officer	1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)
Patricia Noll	Tax Collector, Tax Search Officer	1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)
Donna Re	Tax Assessor	1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)
Gebhardt & Kiefer	Attorney		
J. Edward Palmer	Magistrate	1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)
Anne Marie Trezeciakiewicz	Court Clerk, Violations Clerk	1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)
Richard O'Connor	Building Inspector, Construction Official	1,000,000.00	PAICJIF/MELJIF (A)

All bonds were examined and were properly executed.

(A) There is in effect a Public Employees Blanket Bond in the Amount of \$950,000.00 issued by MELJIF and \$50,000.00 issued by PAICJIF.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
CURRENT FUND

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF CASH

Ref.

Balance December 31, 2014	A	\$ 1,346,793.83
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Increased by Receipts:

Tax Collector	\$ 15,901,013.44	
Revenue Accounts Receivable	560,529.05	
Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated	48,779.07	
Veterans and Senior Citizens' Deductions	44,500.00	
Due State of New Jersey - Marriage License Fees	700.00	
Due State of New Jersey - State Training Fees	4,166.00	
Reserve for Payroll Expenses	18,381.53	
Due to Federal and State Grant Fund:		
Federal and State Grants Receivable	42,540.88	
Unappropriated Reserves	6,213.69	
		16,626,823.66
		17,973,617.49

Decreased by Disbursements:

2015 Appropriation Expenditures	\$ 3,107,275.62	
2014 Appropriation Reserves	149,140.32	
Regional School District Taxes	8,726,435.98	
County Taxes	4,350,498.81	
Third Party Liens Redeemed	132,175.73	
Due to State of New Jersey - Marriage License Fees	825.00	
Due State of New Jersey - State Training Fees	4,454.00	
Tax Overpayments Refunded	9,453.75	
Reserve for MUA Payments	766.34	
Due from Federal and State Grant Fund:		
Grant Fund Expenditures	82,367.04	
		16,563,392.59

Balance December 31, 2015	A	\$ 1,410,224.90
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TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF CASH - COLLECTOR
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Increased by Receipts:

Taxes Receivable	\$ 15,686,896.51	
2016 Prepaid Taxes	83,643.13	
Third Party Tax Title Liens	62,975.50	
Interest and Costs on Taxes	56,766.85	
Tax Overpayments	9,464.91	
Penalty on Delinquent Taxes	1,266.54	
	<hr/>	
		<u>\$ 15,901,013.44</u>

Decreased by:

Payments to Treasurer		<u><u>\$ 15,901,013.44</u></u>
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TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SCHEDULE OF CASH - GRANT FUNDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF TAXES RECEIVABLE AND ANALYSIS OF PROPERTY TAX LEVY

Year	Balance	2015 Levy	Collections		State of NJ Veterans' and Senior Citizens' Deductions	Cancelled	Transferred to Tax Title Liens	Balance
	Dec. 31, 2014		2014	2015				Dec. 31, 2015
2014	\$ 276,683.44			\$ 277,683.44	\$ (1,000.00)			
2015		\$ 15,867,036.00	\$ 73,250.69	15,409,213.07	43,250.00	\$ 1,986.50	\$ 47,992.05	\$ 291,343.69
	<u>\$ 276,683.44</u>	<u>\$ 15,867,036.00</u>	<u>\$ 73,250.69</u>	<u>\$ 15,686,896.51</u>	<u>\$ 42,250.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,986.50</u>	<u>\$ 47,992.05</u>	<u>\$ 291,343.69</u>
<u>Ref.</u>	A							A

Analysis of 2015 Property Tax Levy

Tax Yield:

General Purpose Tax	\$ 15,857,088.24	
Added and Omitted Taxes	<u>9,947.76</u>	
		<u>\$ 15,867,036.00</u>

Tax Levy:

County Taxes	4,350,498.81	
Due County for Added and Omitted Taxes	<u>2,731.89</u>	
		4,353,230.70
Regional School District Taxes		<u>8,932,297.00</u>
		13,285,527.70
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Levied	2,570,959.00	
Add: Additional Tax Levied	<u>10,549.30</u>	
		2,581,508.30
		<u>\$ 15,867,036.00</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF TAX TITLE LIENS

	<u>Ref.</u>	
Balance December 31, 2014	A	\$ 479,539.93
Increased by:		
Year End Penalties	\$ 719.44	
Transfer from Taxes Receivable	47,992.05	
		<u>48,711.49</u>
Balance December 31, 2015	A	<u>\$ 528,251.42</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF REVENUE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Accrued In 2015	Collected by Treasurer	Balance Dec. 31, 2015
Clerk:				
Licenses:				
Alcoholic Beverage Licenses		\$ 7,075.00	\$ 7,075.00	
Building Inspector:				
Fees and Permits		68,437.00	68,437.00	
Municipal Court:				
Fines and Costs	\$ 2,072.53	34,521.76	33,258.47	\$ 3,335.82
Energy Receipts Taxes		290,588.00	290,588.00	
Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Act		6,903.00	6,903.00	
In-Lieu of Taxes-Liberty House		59,544.13	59,544.13	
Municipal Building Rent		42,705.00	42,705.00	
Uniform Fire Safety Fees		8,393.45	8,393.45	
Garden State Preservation Trust		3,625.00	3,625.00	
Reserve to Pay Debt Service		40,000.00	40,000.00	
	<u>\$ 2,072.53</u>	<u>\$ 561,792.34</u>	<u>\$ 560,529.05</u>	<u>\$ 3,335.82</u>
<u>Ref.</u>	A			A

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUND
SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS RECEIVABLE

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	2015 Budget Revenue Realized	Cash Received	Transferred from Unappropriated Reserve	Cancelled	Balance Dec. 31, 2015
Municipal Alliance Grant - 2013	\$ 209.63		\$ 209.63			
Municipal Alliance Grant - 2014	4,789.31		4,789.31			
Municipal Alliance Grant - 2015		\$ 9,802.00	4,628.70			\$ 5,173.30
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund		2,344.82		\$ 2,344.82		
Clean Communities - 2014	841.88					841.88
Clean Communities - 2015		15,828.90	15,464.41			364.49
Safe & Secure Communities Program - 2014	15,000.00		15,000.00			
Safe & Secure Communities Program - 2015		30,000.00				30,000.00
New Jersey Body Armor Grant		1,174.81		1,174.81		
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over		5,000.00	2,448.83		\$ 2,551.17	
Wastewater Management Plan- 2014	16,000.00					16,000.00
Police Donations		600.00		600.00		
Highlands Plan Conformance Grant	3,240.55					3,240.55
Highlands Plan Assessment Grant	15,000.00					15,000.00
	<u>\$ 55,081.37</u>	<u>\$ 64,750.53</u>	<u>\$ 42,540.88</u>	<u>\$ 4,119.63</u>	<u>\$ 2,551.17</u>	<u>\$ 70,620.22</u>

Ref.

A

A

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF 2014 APPROPRIATION RESERVES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Balance After Modification	Paid or Charged	Balance Lapsed
Mayor and Council:				
Salaries and Wages	\$ 403.00	\$ 403.00		\$ 403.00
Other Expenses	158.00	158.00	\$ 114.00	44.00
Municipal Clerk:				
Salaries and Wages	387.52	5,141.12	4,927.12	214.00
Other Expenses	7,307.36	3,307.36	784.81	2,522.55
Financial Administration:				
Salaries and Wages	1.00	106.85	106.85	
Other Expenses	225.98	1,225.98	430.90	795.08
Collection of Taxes:				
Salaries and Wages		889.81	889.81	
Other Expenses	186.27	186.27	180.00	6.27
Tax Assessment/Administration:				
Salaries and Wages		1,080.42	1,080.42	
Other Expenses	3,220.34	1,220.34	1,110.89	109.45
Legal Services and Costs:				
Other Expenses	13,219.43	13,219.43	12,917.11	302.32
Engineering Services and Costs:				
Other Expenses	4,320.00	4,320.00	1,833.75	2,486.25
Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:55D-1):				
Planning Board:				
Other Expenses	1,693.84	1,693.84	956.59	737.25
Zoning Officer:				
Other Expenses	400.00	400.00		400.00
Police:				
Salaries and Wages	73,157.40	62,157.40	29,141.56	33,015.84
Other Expenses	5,969.18	5,969.18	4,357.20	1,611.98
Purchase of Police Cars	0.60	0.60		0.60
911 Coordinator:				
Salaries and Wages		53.42	53.42	
Office of Emergency Management:				
Salaries and Wages		95.08	95.08	
Other Expenses	1,000.00	500.00		500.00
Uniform Fire Safety Act:				
Other Expenses	3,806.00	1,806.00	821.50	984.50
Road Repairs and Maintenance:				
Salaries and Wages	13,826.04	9,608.98	7,524.85	2,084.13
Other Expenses	5,437.72	43,120.29	41,382.26	1,738.03
Garbage and Trash Removal:				
Other Expenses	275.14	275.14		275.14
Public Buildings and Grounds:				
Other Expenses	7,250.30	4,250.30	998.87	3,251.43
Vehicle Maintenance:				
Other Expenses	4,824.27	4,824.27	3,543.03	1,281.24
Community Services Act:				
Other Expenses	18,215.49	18,215.49	18,215.49	
Environmental Commission:				
Other Expenses	194.74	194.74		194.74
Recreation:				
Salaries and Wages		1,542.27	1,542.27	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF 2014 APPROPRIATION RESERVES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Balance After Modification	Paid or Charged	Balance Lapsed
Utility:				
Other Expenses	\$ 32,598.46	\$ 18,598.46	\$ 8,646.79	\$ 9,951.67
Municipal Court:				
Salaries and Wages	1,805.00	805.00	23.04	781.96
Other Expenses	555.38	555.38	465.00	90.38
Public Defender:				
Other Expenses	400.00	400.00	400.00	
Uniform Construction Code:				
Salaries and Wages		714.04	714.04	
Other Expenses	1,115.21	415.21	32.43	382.78
Statutory Expenditures:				
Contribution:				
Social Security System (O.A.S.I.)	2,026.50	2,026.50		2,026.50
Unemployment Compensation Insurance	228.04	228.04		228.04
Liability Insurance	2,352.65	2,352.65		2,352.65
Workers Compensation Insurance	1,378.00	1,378.00		1,378.00
Group Insurance	6,410.08	910.08		910.08
Defined Contribution Retirement Program	500.00	500.00		500.00
Police and Firemen's Retirement System of N.J.	8,787.00	8,787.00	4,537.48	4,249.52
Public Employee's Retirement System	8,163.00	8,163.00	1,313.76	6,849.24
Total	<u>\$ 231,798.94</u>	<u>\$ 231,798.94</u>	<u>\$ 149,140.32</u>	<u>82,658.62</u>

Ref.

Analysis of Balance December 31, 2014

Encumbered	A	\$ 26,319.39
Unencumbered	A	<u>205,479.55</u>
		<u>\$ 231,798.94</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
CURRENT FUND
SCHEDULE OF REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TAXES PAYABLE

	<u>Ref.</u>	
Balance December 31, 2014:		
School Taxes Deferred	\$ 4,060,287.46	
School Taxes Payable	A <u>200,000.00</u>	
		\$ 4,260,287.46
Increased by:		
Levy - School Year - July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016		<u>8,932,297.00</u>
		13,192,584.46
Decreased by:		
Payments to Regional School District		<u>8,726,435.98</u>
Balance December 31, 2015:		
School Taxes Deferred	\$ 4,060,287.46	
School Taxes Payable	A <u>405,861.02</u>	
		<u>\$ 4,466,148.48</u>
 <u>Analysis of Increase - Deferred School Tax:</u>		
Balance December 31, 2015		\$ 4,060,287.46
Balance December 31, 2014		<u>4,060,287.46</u>
Net Increase Credited to Operations		<u>\$ -0-</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUND
SCHEDULE OF APPROPRIATED RESERVES

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Transferred from 2015 Budget Appropriations	Paid or Charged	Cancelled	Balance Dec. 31, 2015
Clean Communities Program - 2014	\$ 4,363.27		\$ 4,363.27		
Clean Communities Program - 2015		\$ 15,828.90	14,536.57		\$ 1,292.33
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	5,097.70	2,344.82	88.43		7,354.09
Body Armor Grant- 2014	743.65		743.65		
Body Armor Grant- 2015		1,174.81	150.20		1,024.61
Municipal Alliance Grant - 2014	1,487.15		1,487.15		
Municipal Alliance Grant - 2015		9,802.00	7,432.97		2,369.03
Municipal Alliance Grant- 2015 Local Match		1,869.00	1,869.00		
Recycling Tonnage	8,688.07		7,362.83		1,325.24
Safe and Secure Communities Program - 2015		30,000.00	30,000.00		
Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over		5,000.00	2,448.83	\$ 2,551.17	
Wastewater Management Plan- 2014	14,058.75		11,418.75		2,640.00
Police Donations		600.00	465.39		134.61
	<u>\$ 34,438.59</u>	<u>\$ 66,619.53</u>	<u>\$ 82,367.04</u>	<u>\$ 2,551.17</u>	<u>\$ 16,139.91</u>

Ref.

A

A

Grant Funds	\$ 64,750.53
Matching Share	<u>1,869.00</u>
	<u>\$ 66,619.53</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
FEDERAL AND STATE GRANT FUND
SCHEDULE OF UNAPPROPRIATED RESERVES

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Cash Received	Transferred to 2015 Budget Revenue	Balance Dec. 31, 2015
Recycling Tonnage Grant	\$ 2,035.44	\$ 2,390.04		\$ 4,425.48
Court - Alcohol Rehabilitation	124.83			124.83
Police Donations	600.00	700.00	\$ 600.00	700.00
New Jersey Body Armor Grant	1,174.81	1,173.55	1,174.81	1,173.55
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	2,344.82	1,950.10	2,344.82	1,950.10
	<u>\$ 6,279.90</u>	<u>\$ 6,213.69</u>	<u>\$ 4,119.63</u>	<u>\$ 8,373.96</u>

Ref.

A

A

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
TRUST FUNDS

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
TRUST FUNDS
SCHEDULE OF CASH - TREASURER

		<u>Animal Control Fund</u>	<u>Other Trust Funds</u>
	<u>Ref.</u>		
Balance December 31, 2014	B	\$ 2,358.56	\$ 471,230.65
Increased by Receipts:			
Township Dog License Fees		\$ 5,038.80	
State Dog License Fees		1,063.20	
Other Animal Control Fees		1,300.00	
Developers Escrow			\$ 19,660.50
Recreation Trust			29,512.56
Unemployment Compensation Insurance			1,544.80
COAH Trust			8,481.00
Tax Sale Premiums			34,100.00
Due to Current Fund:			
Interest on Deposits		13.87	342.11
		<u>7,415.87</u>	<u>93,640.97</u>
		9,774.43	564,871.62
Decreased by Disbursements:			
Administrative Expenses		7,278.56	
State Board of Health		1,064.40	
Due to Current Fund:			
Interest on Deposits		13.87	342.11
Developers Escrow			25,927.99
COAH Fees			15,305.40
Tax Sale Premiums			24,300.00
Recreation Expenditures			29,399.04
		<u>8,356.83</u>	<u>95,274.54</u>
Balance December 31, 2015	B	<u>\$ 1,417.60</u>	<u>\$ 469,597.08</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
ASSESSMENT TRUST FUND
ANALYSIS OF CASH
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
ANIMAL CONTROL FUND
SCHEDULE OF RESERVE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL FUND EXPENDITURES

	<u>Ref.</u>	
Balance December 31, 2014	B	\$ 2,382.36
Increased by:		
Dog License Fees		\$ 5,038.80
Other Animal Control Fees		<u>1,300.00</u>
		<u>6,338.80</u>
		8,721.16
Decreased by:		
Expenditures Under R.S. 4:19-15.11		<u>7,278.56</u>
Balance December 31, 2015	B	<u><u>\$ 1,442.60</u></u>

License Fees Collected

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2013	\$ 5,909.20
2014	<u>5,440.00</u>
Maximum Allowable Reserve	<u><u>\$ 11,349.20</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF CASH

	<u>Ref.</u>	
Balance December 31, 2014	C	\$ 460,286.22
Increased by:		
Budget Appropriation - Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 17,500.00	
State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Grant	123,750.00	
Interest Due to Current Fund	42.07	
		<hr/> 141,292.07
		<hr/> 601,578.29
Decreased by:		
Improvement Authorizations	383,930.25	
Due to Current Fund	42.07	
Reserve to Pay Debt Service- Anticipated Revenue in Current Fund	40,000.00	
		<hr/> 423,972.32
Balance December 31, 2015	C	<hr/> \$ 177,605.97

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
ANALYSIS OF CASH

		<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Disbursements</u>		<u>Transfers</u>		Balance/ (Deficit)
		Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Miscellaneous	Improvement Authorizations	Miscellaneous	From	To	Dec. 31, 2015
Fund Balance		\$ 504.33						\$ 504.33
Capital Improvement Fund		251,343.05	\$ 17,500.00			\$ 265,000.00		3,843.05
Due Current Fund			42.07		\$ 42.07			
Due from State of New Jersey Department of Transportation Grant			123,750.00			165,000.00		(41,250.00)
Reserve to Pay Debt Service		40,000.00			40,000.00			
Ord. No.	Improvement Description							
05-05	Purchase Land and Equipment	31,558.71		\$ 366.59				31,192.12
08-08	Various Equipment	3,238.00						3,238.00
09-06	Improve Roads & Facilities, Purchase Equipment	885.60		885.60				
11-09	Various Equipment & Improvements	2,376.95		2,376.95				
12-03	Purchase of Police Equipment	117.63		117.63				
13-06	Various Road Improvements and Equipment	130,261.95		130,261.95				
15-05	Various Road Improvements and Equipment			249,921.53			\$ 430,000.00	180,078.47
		<u>\$ 460,286.22</u>	<u>\$ 141,292.07</u>	<u>\$ 383,930.25</u>	<u>\$ 40,042.07</u>	<u>\$ 430,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 430,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 177,605.97</u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF DEFERRED CHARGES TO FUTURE TAXATION - UNFUNDED

Ord. Date	Improvement Description	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Funded by Budget Appropriation	Balance Dec. 31, 2015	Analysis of Balance December 31, 2015
					Bond Anticipation Notes
3/8/2011	Various Road Improvements	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 90,000.00
8/2/2011	Various Equipment & Improvements	580,000.00	70,000.00	510,000.00	510,000.00
		<u>\$ 675,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 75,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 600,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 600,000.00</u>
	<u>Ref.</u>	C		C	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF IMPROVEMENT AUTHORIZATIONS

Ord. No.	Improvement Description	Ordinance		Balance Dec. 31, 2014		2015 Authorizations		Improvement Authorizations Expenditures	Balance Dec. 31, 2015 Funded
		Date	Amount	Funded	Unfunded	Capital Improvement Fund	State of New Jersey D.O.T. Grant Receivable		
05-05	Purchase Land and Equipment	7/13/05	\$ 1,869,000.00	\$ 31,558.71				\$ 366.59	\$ 31,192.12
08-08	Purchase of Various Equipment	7/8/08	64,000.00	3,238.00					3,238.00
09-04	Improve Roads & Facilities, Purchase Equipmment	6/9/09	50,000.00	885.60				885.60	
11-09	Various Equipment & Improvements	9/13/11	610,000.00		\$ 2,376.95			2,376.95	
12-03	Purchase of Police Equipment	8/14/12	40,000.00	117.63				117.63	
13-06	Various Road Improvements and Equipment	6/11/13	330,000.00	130,261.95				130,261.95	
15-05	Various Road Improvements and Equipment	9/4/15	430,000.00			\$ 265,000.00	\$ 165,000.00	249,921.53	180,078.47
				<u>\$ 166,061.89</u>	<u>\$ 2,376.95</u>	<u>\$ 265,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 165,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 383,930.25</u>	<u>\$ 214,508.59</u>
	<u>Ref.</u>			C	C				C

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

	<u>Ref.</u>	
Balance December 31, 2014	C	\$ 251,343.05
Increased by:		
2015 Budget Appropriation		<u>17,500.00</u>
		268,843.05
Decreased by:		
Appropriated to Finance Improvement Authorizations		<u>265,000.00</u>
Balance December 31, 2015	C	<u><u>\$ 3,843.05</u></u>

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES PAYABLE

Ord. No.	Improvement Description	Date of			Interest Rate	Balance December 31, 2014	Issued	Matured	Balance December 31, 2015
		Issue of Original Note	Issue	Maturity					
11-02	Various Road Improvements	12/19/2012	12/17/2014 12/8/2015	12/18/2015 12/7/2016	0.55% 1.01%	\$ 95,000.00		\$ 95,000.00	
							\$ 90,000.00		\$ 90,000.00
11-09	Various Equipment and Improvement Authorizations	12/19/2012	12/17/2014 12/8/2015	12/18/2015 12/7/2016	0.55% 1.01%	580,000.00		580,000.00	
							510,000.00		510,000.00
						<u>\$ 675,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 600,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 675,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 600,000.00</u>
					<u>Ref.</u>	C			C
						Renewed	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00	
						Paid by Budget Appropriation		75,000.00	
							<u>\$ 600,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 675,000.00</u>	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF SERIAL BONDS PAYABLE

Purpose	Date of Issue	Original Issue	Maturities of Bonds Outstanding		Interest Rate	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Matured	Balance Dec. 31, 2015
			December 31, 2015					
			Date	Amount				
Construction of Municipal Building and Water Supply System	10/10/01	\$ 1,995,000.00	08/15/16	\$ 115,000.00	4.625%	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 790,000.00
			08/15/17	120,000.00	4.750%			
			08/15/18	130,000.00	4.800%			
			08/15/19	135,000.00	4.875%			
			08/15/20	140,000.00	5.000%			
			08/15/21	150,000.00	5.000%			
Purchase Land and Equipment	02/26/09	1,200,000.00	02/15/16	130,000.00	3.100%	665,000.00	130,000.00	535,000.00
			02/15/17	135,000.00	3.100%			
			02/15/18	135,000.00	3.125%			
			02/15/19	135,000.00	3.250%			

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND
SCHEDULE OF BONDS AND NOTES AUTHORIZED BUT NOT ISSUED
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
WATER OPERATING FUND

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
SEWER OPERATING FUND

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COUNTY OF WARREN
2015
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FUND

NOT APPLICABLE

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

PART II

SINGLE AUDIT

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Name of Federal Agency or Department	Name of Program	C.F.D.A. Number	Pass Through Entity ID	Grant Period		Grant Award	Amount Received	Amount of Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	Amounts Provided to Subrecipients
				From	To					
U.S. Department of Transportation (Passed through New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety)	Transportation Authority Planning Grant	20.205	078-6320- 480-AL5	1/1/15	12/31/15	\$ 123,750.00	\$ 123,750.00	\$ 123,750.00	\$ 123,750.00	
	Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over	20.616	066-1160- 100-157	1/1/15	12/31/15	\$ 2,448.83	2,448.83	2,448.83	2,448.83	
	Subtotal - U.S. Department of Transportation						2,448.83	2,448.83	2,448.83	
							\$ 2,448.83	\$ 2,448.83	\$ 2,448.83	\$ -0-
	Total Federal Awards									

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF STATE AWARDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

New Jersey Agency or Department	Name of Program	State Grant Award Number	Grant Period		Grant Award	Amount Received	Amount of Expenditures	Cumulative Expenditures	
			From	To					
Department of Environmental Protection	Clean Communities Act	765-042-4900- 004-178910	1/1/14	12/31/15	15,576.08		\$ 4,363.27	\$ 15,576.08	
			1/1/15	12/31/16	15,828.90	\$ 15,464.41	14,536.57	14,536.57	
	Recycling Tonnage Grant	752-042-4900- 001-6020	1/1/11	12/31/15	2,760.74		2,760.74	2,760.74	
			1/1/12	12/31/15	3,316.65		2,297.45	3,316.65	
			1/1/13	12/31/16	3,629.88		2,304.64	2,304.64	
			1/1/15	12/31/16	2,390.04	2,390.04			
	Wastewater Management Plan	100-042-4801- 444-900260	1/1/13	12/31/16	16,000.00		11,418.75	13,360.00	
	Subtotal - Department of Environmental Protection					17,854.45	37,681.42	51,854.68	
	Department of the Treasury (Passed through County of Warren) (Passed through County of Warren)	Municipal Alliance Grant	100-082-2000 044-995120	1/1/13	12/31/14	9,802.00	209.63		9,802.00
				1/1/14	12/31/15	9,802.00	4,789.31	1,487.15	9,802.00
1/1/15				12/31/16	9,802.00	4,628.70	7,432.97	7,432.97	
Subtotal - Department of Treasury					9,627.64	8,920.12	27,036.97		
Department of Law and Public Safety	Safe and Secure Communities Program	100-066-1020 107-090940	1/1/14	12/31/14	30,000.00	15,000.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	
	Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	100-078-6400- 260-YYYY	1/1/12	12/31/16	5,000.00		88.43	4,570.51	
			1/1/15	12/31/16	1,950.10	1,950.10			
	Body Armor Replacement Fund	718-066-1020-001	1/1/13	12/31/16	1,413.32		743.65	1,413.32	
			1/1/14	12/31/16	1,174.81		150.20	150.20	
			1/1/15	12/31/16	1,173.55	1,173.55			
	Subtotal - Department of Law and Public Safety					18,123.65	30,982.28	36,134.03	
TOTAL STATE AWARDS						\$ 45,605.74	\$ 77,583.82	\$ 115,025.68	

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
NOTES TO SCHEDULES OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AND STATE AWARDS
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Note 1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards (the "Schedules") include the federal and state grant activity of the Township of Independence under programs of the federal and state governments for the year ended December 31, 2015. The information in these schedules is presented in accordance with the requirements of the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* ("Uniform Guidance") and New Jersey's OMB Circular 15-08, *Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid*. Because the schedules present only a selected portion of the operations of the Township, they are not intended to and do not present the financial position, changes in fund balance or cash flows of the Township.

Note 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the accompanying schedules of expenditures of federal and state awards are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts, if any, shown on the Schedules represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years. Pass-through identifying numbers are presented where available. The Township has elected to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

Note 3. RELATIONSHIP TO FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL REPORTS

Amounts reported in the accompanying schedules agree with the amounts reported in the related federal and state financial reports.



Mount Arlington Corporate Center
200 Valley Road, Suite 300
Mt. Arlington, NJ 07856
973-328-1825 | 973-328-0507 Fax
Lawrence Business Center
11 Lawrence Road
Newton, NJ 07860
973-383-6699 | 973-383-6555 Fax

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements
Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Township Committee
Township of Independence
Independence, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, audit requirements prescribed by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey ("the Division"), and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements - *regulatory basis* - of the various funds of the Township of Independence, in the County of Warren (the "Township") as of and for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 15, 2016. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Division to demonstrate compliance with the Division's regulatory basis of accounting, and the budget laws of New Jersey, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. That report contained a qualified opinion on the financial statements as the amount that should be recorded in the general fixed assets account group could not be determined.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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.

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 Township's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. 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.

Our consideration of the internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as Findings 2015-01 and 2015-02, that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

The Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Township Committee
Township of Independence
Page 2

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, and grant agreements, 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, and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

The Township's Response to Findings

The Township's response to the findings identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. The Township's response was not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Mount Arlington, New Jersey
March 15, 2016

NISIVOCIA LLP



William F. Schroeder
Registered Municipal Accountant No. 452
Certified Public Accountant

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

Summary of Auditors' Results:

- The Independent Auditors' Report expresses a qualified opinion on the Township's financial statements, prepared in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey to demonstrate compliance with the Division's regulatory basis of accounting and the budget laws of New Jersey, as the general fixed assets account group was not audited.
- Significant deficiencies disclosed during the audit of the financial statements are reported in the *Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards*. No material weaknesses are reported.
- No instances of noncompliance material to the financial statements of the Township which would be required to be reported in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, were disclosed during the audit.
- The Township was not subject to the single audit provisions of the Uniform Guidance and New Jersey's OMB Circular 15-08 for the year ended December 31, 2015 as both state and federal grant expenditures were less than the single audit thresholds of \$750,000 identified in the Uniform Guidance and NJOMB 15-08.

Findings Relating to the Financial Statements which are required to be Reported in Accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards:

The audit disclosed the following significant deficiencies required to be reported under Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards:

Finding 2015-01

Segregation of Duties

The Township does not maintain an adequate segregation of duties with respect to the recording and treasury functions. Segregation of duties refers to separating those functions that place too much control over a transaction or class of transactions that would enable a person to perpetuate errors and prevent detection within a reasonable period of time. The reconciliation of bank accounts, the preparation of the general ledger for the various funds as well as the preparation of payroll are performed by the Chief Financial Officer. This is due, in part, to the limited number of personnel of the Township and the decentralized nature of governmental collection procedures. Accordingly, management and the Township Committee should be aware of this situation and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from a control point of view.

Finding 2015-02

Fixed Asset Reporting

A fixed asset accounting and reporting system has not been implemented. The Township has an analysis of Township owned land, buildings and vehicles. However, a complete listing of fixed assets (which details, by historical cost, all Township fixed assets by tag number and location) is not maintained. A fixed assets accounting and reporting system is a key control, in that it helps to ensure that assets are safeguarded against loss from unauthorized use or disposition. The maintenance of a fixed assets accounting and reporting system is also required by the New Jersey's Administrative Code accounting requirements as prescribed by the Division.

Management's Response

The findings have been evaluated by the Township, however, due to budgetary constraints, no resolution can be made at this time.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015
(Continued)

Findings and Questioned Costs for Federal Awards:

- Not applicable since federal expenditures were below the single audit threshold defined in the Uniform Guidance.

Findings and Questioned Costs for State Awards:

- Not applicable since state expenditures were below the single audit threshold defined in New Jersey's OMB Circular 15-08.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

The Township's prior year findings regarding segregation of duties and fixed assets have not been resolved during the current year and are included as current year findings on the Schedule of Findings and Responses.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE

PART III

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Contracts and Agreements Required to be Advertised for N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4

N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 states:

a. " When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the contracting agent in the aggregate does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$17,500, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent when so authorized by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate to the contracting unit, of the governing body of the contracting unit without public advertising for bids, except that the governing body of any contracting unit may adopt an ordinance or resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to Subsection b. of Section 9 of P.L. 1971, C.198 (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9), the governing body of the contracting unit may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$25,000. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.

b. Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 5 of P.L. 1971, C.198 (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5) may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months. The Division of Local Government Services shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations concerning the methods of accounting for all contracts that do not coincide with the contracting unit's fiscal year.

c. The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of every fifth year beginning in the fifth year after the year in which P.L.1999, C.440 takes effect, adjust the threshold amount and the higher threshold amount which the governing body is permitted to establish, as set forth in subsection a. of this section, or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in section 2 of P.L. 1971, C.198 (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2), and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of every fifth year, notify each governing body of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of the year in which it is made."

N.J.S.A. 40A: 11-4 states: "Every contract awarded by the contracting agent for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate exceeds the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the governing body of the contracting unit to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this act or specifically by any other law. The governing body of a contracting unit may, by resolution approved by a majority of the governing body and subject to subsections b. and c. of this section, disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the governing body finds that it has had prior negative experience with the bidder."

Effective January 1, 2011 and thereafter the bid threshold in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 is \$17,500, and with a qualified purchasing agent the threshold may be up to \$36,000 through June 30, 2015 and \$40,000 thereafter.

The governing body of the municipality has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the bid threshold within the fiscal year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the Township Counsel's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

The minutes indicated that bids were requested by public advertising per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4. The minutes also indicated that resolutions were adopted and advertised authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" and "Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services" per N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
(Continued)

Contracts and Agreements Required to be Advertised for N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4 (Cont'd)

Inasmuch as the system of records did not provide for an accumulation of payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed. None were noted.

Collection of Interest on Delinquent Taxes

The statute provides the method for authorizing interest and the maximum rate to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes on or before the date when they would become delinquent.

On January 4, 2015, the governing body adopted the following resolution authorizing interest to be charged on delinquent taxes:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Independence, Warren County, that the rate of interest to be paid upon delinquent taxes for the year 2015 shall be fixed at the rate of 8 percent per annum to \$1,500, and any amount in excess of \$1,500 shall be fixed at the rate of 18 percent per annum. However, interest shall not be collected upon taxes that are not delinquent over ten (10) days. After the tenth day of "grace period", interest reverts back to the due date. An additional penalty of 6% of the amount of the delinquency will be charged to a taxpayer with a delinquency in excess of \$10,000 who fails to pay that delinquency prior to the end of the calendar year.

It appears from an examination of the Collector's records that interest was collected in accordance with the foregoing resolution.

Delinquent Taxes and Tax Title Liens

The last tax sale was held on December 1, 2015, and included all eligible properties.

Inspection of tax sale certificates on file revealed that all tax sale certificates were available for audit.

The following comparison is made of the number of tax title liens receivable on December 31, of the last three years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Liens</u>
2015	22
2014	27
2013	24

It is essential to good management that all means provided by statute be utilized to liquidate tax title liens in order to get such properties back on a taxpaying basis.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
(Continued)

Verification of Delinquent Taxes and Other Charges

A test verification of delinquent charges and current payments was made in accordance with the regulations of the Division of Local Government Services, consisting of verification notes as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number Mailed</u>
Payments of 2014 and 2015 Taxes	20
Delinquent Taxes	15
Tax Title Liens	3

Verification notices were mailed to confirm balances as of December 31, 2015. The items that were returned were checked and in agreement with the Township's records. For receivable items not returned, alternative procedures were performed.

Accounting Requirements under New Jersey Administrative Code

The Division of Local Government Services has established three (3) accounting requirements which are prescribed in the New Jersey Administrative Code. They are as follows:

1. Maintenance of an encumbrance accounting system.
2. Fixed asset accounting and reporting system.
3. General ledger accounting system.

The Township currently complies with these accounting requirements except as noted below.

The Township does not have a fixed asset accounting and reporting system in place. At the present time, fixed assets may be discarded without management's authorization, or items may be lost or stolen and not be detected within a timely period. It is recommended that a fixed asset accounting and reporting system be implemented.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
(Continued)

Municipal Court

The transactions for the year 2015 were as follows:

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	Balance Dec. 31, 2014	Cash Received	Cash Disbursed	Balance Dec. 31, 2015
Municipal Treasurer:				
Fines and Costs	\$ 2,072.53	\$ 34,521.76	\$ 33,258.47	\$ 3,335.82
Restitution		548.80	548.80	
Conditional Discharge		525.00	525.00	
Interest		12.10	9.74	2.36
County:				
Fines and Costs	1,019.00	17,274.00	16,514.50	1,778.50
State Treasurer:				
Fines and Costs	1,611.44	18,999.25	19,672.01	938.68
Drug Education	38.00	400.00	268.00	170.00
Weights and Measures	300.00	550.00	850.00	
State Lab Fee	83.00	350.00	433.00	
Fish & Game		720.00	720.00	
Bail		3,669.00	3,619.00	50.00
	<u>\$ 5,123.97</u>	<u>\$ 77,569.91</u>	<u>\$ 76,418.52</u>	<u>\$ 6,275.36</u>

Corrective Action Plan

The Township has initiated a corrective action plan to resolve the comments and recommendations from the 2014 audit report. The prior year findings concerning segregation of duties and the implementation of a fixed assets accounting and reporting system have not yet been resolved and are included as recommendations for 2015.

TOWNSHIP OF INDEPENDENCE
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Township maintains an adequate segregation of duties with respect to the recording and treasury functions.
2. A fixed assets accounting and reporting system be implemented.

* * * * *