



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**ATHENS TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



53 Johnson Road
The Plains, Ohio 45780-1231
(740) 594-3300 or (800) 441-1389
SoutheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Athens Township
Harrison County
P.O. Box 147
New Athens, Ohio 43981

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of Athens Township, Harrison County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider 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 to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the Township prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the Township does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for 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 the Township as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of Athens Township, Harrison County, as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 and Note 9 to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2018, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 27, 2020, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine 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.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 27, 2020

Athens Township
Harrison County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$64,899	\$226,602	\$291,501
Licenses, Permits and Fees	0	6,305	6,305
Intergovernmental	21,307	120,310	141,617
Earnings on Investments	627	0	627
Miscellaneous	1,407	6,765	8,172
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>88,240</u>	<u>359,982</u>	<u>448,222</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	46,742	195	46,937
Public Safety	0	67,617	67,617
Public Works	0	108,176	108,176
Health	0	64,684	64,684
Capital Outlay	0	4,450	4,450
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>46,742</u>	<u>245,122</u>	<u>291,864</u>
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>41,498</u>	<u>114,860</u>	<u>156,358</u>
Other Financing Receipts			
Other Financing Sources	71,670	284	71,954
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	113,168	115,144	228,312
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>35,473</u>	<u>320,366</u>	<u>355,839</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	347,013	347,013
Committed	0	88,497	88,497
Assigned	81,441	0	81,441
Unassigned	67,200	0	67,200
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$148,641</u>	<u>\$435,510</u>	<u>\$584,151</u>

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

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Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Athens Township, Harrison County (the Township), as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection, and police protection. The Township contracts with the New Athens Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services and the Village of New Athens to provide police protection.

Risk Pool Membership

The Township participates in a risk pool membership. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

General Fund The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Cemetery Fund The cemetery fund accounts for and reports that portion of tax revenue restricted for maintenance of the cemeteries within the Township.

Fire District Fund The fire district fund accounts for and reports that portion of tax revenue restricted for contracted fire services for the Township.

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

Estimated Resources Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2019 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

Capital Assets

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Township must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Note 3 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the General and Fire District Funds by \$15,965 and \$11,524, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2019.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2019 follows:

Fund Type	2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$72,306	\$159,910	\$87,604
Special Revenue	313,024	360,266	47,242
Total	\$385,330	\$520,176	\$134,846

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$65,777	\$81,742	(\$15,965)
Special Revenue	422,055	278,122	143,933
Total	\$487,832	\$359,864	\$127,968

Note 5 – Deposits

The Township maintains a deposits pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2019
Demand deposits	\$584,151

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 6 – Property Taxes

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable non-business, owner occupancy, and homestead exemption credits and/or homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include these credits and/or deduction amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

The County is responsible for assessing property and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

Note 7 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. The OPRM is also participated in a property primary excess of loss treaty. This treaty reimbursed the OPRM 30% for losses between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. The reimbursement is based on the amount of loss between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. Effective November 1, 2019, the OPRM's property retention increased from 30% to 33%, while the casualty treaty remains unchanged and still assumes 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. OPRM had 776 members as of December 31, 2019.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2019.

Assets	\$ 15,920,504
Liabilities	<u>(11,329,011)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 4,591,493</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2019.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2019. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2019.

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 10 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

Athens Township
Harrison County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$60,600	\$207,350	\$267,950
Licenses, Permits and Fees	0	5,675	5,675
Intergovernmental	16,754	107,494	124,248
Earnings on Investments	28	0	28
Miscellaneous	2,283	5,305	7,588
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>79,665</u>	<u>325,824</u>	<u>405,489</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	45,593	195	45,788
Public Safety	0	8,471	8,471
Public Works	0	95,849	95,849
Health	0	37,686	37,686
Human Services	0	241	241
Capital Outlay	0	4,923	4,923
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	21,000	18,900	39,900
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	1,227	1,227
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>66,593</u>	<u>167,492</u>	<u>234,085</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	13,072	158,332	171,404
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>22,401</u>	<u>162,034</u>	<u>184,435</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	274,961	274,961
Committed	0	45,405	45,405
Unassigned	35,473	0	35,473
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$35,473</u></u>	<u><u>\$320,366</u></u>	<u><u>\$355,839</u></u>

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

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Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Athens Township, Harrison County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection, and police protection. The Township contracts with the New Athens Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services and the Village of New Athens to provide police protection.

Risk Pool Membership

The Township participates in a risk pool membership. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

General Fund The general fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Cemetery Fund The cemetery fund accounts for and reports that portion of tax revenue restricted for maintenance of the cemeteries within the Township.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. Appropriations lapse at year end.

Estimated Resources Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2018 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Capital Assets

The Township records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Township must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

Unassigned Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2018 follows:

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$62,700	\$79,665	\$16,965
Special Revenue	281,929	325,824	43,895
Total	\$344,629	\$405,489	\$60,860

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$86,092	\$66,593	\$19,499
Special Revenue	355,658	167,492	188,166
Total	\$441,750	\$234,085	\$207,665

Note 4 – Deposits

The Township maintains a deposits pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

Demand deposits	2018 \$355,839
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Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Trustees adopted tax rates. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable non-business, owner occupancy, and homestead exemption credits and/or homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include these credits and/or deduction amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

The County is responsible for assessing property and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Township.

Note 6 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM retained 50% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. OPRM had 774 members as of December 31, 2018.

Athens Township
Harrison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2018.

Assets	\$15,065,412
Liabilities	<u>(10,734,623)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 4,330,789</u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2018.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members was 0 percent during calendar year 2018.

Note 9 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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The Plains, Ohio 45780-1231
(740) 594-3300 or (800) 441-1389
SoutheastRegion@ohioauditor.gov

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Athens Township
Harrison County
P.O. Box 147
New Athens, Ohio 43981

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements by fund type of Athens Township, Harrison County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated July 27, 2020, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. However, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting, that we consider material weaknesses and significant deficiencies.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. We consider findings 2019-001, 2019-004, and 2019-005 described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be material weaknesses.

A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of internal control deficiencies less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider findings 2019-002 and 2019-006 described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2019-001 through 2019-003.

Township's Responses to Findings

The Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. We did not subject the Township's responses to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 27, 2020

**ATHENS TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2019-001

Noncompliance and Material Weakness

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(D) provides in part that all revenue derived from a source other than the general property tax and which the law prescribes shall be used for a particular purpose, shall be paid into a special fund for such purpose.

During 2019 and 2018, the Township inappropriately recorded \$5,550 and \$4,300, respectively, payments made to the Township for gravel per RUMA agreements in the General Fund. Given the source of the revenue, this should have been recorded in the Gasoline Tax Fund. Audit adjustments are reflected in the financial statements and in the accounting records correcting the misstatement.

In addition to the adjustments listed above, we also identified additional misstatements ranging from \$25 to \$290 in 2019 and \$150 to \$632 in 2018 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

The lack of controls over the posting of financial transactions decreases the reliability of financial data at year-end and can result in undetected errors and irregularities. The Township should implement controls to help ensure all transactions are reviewed to help ensure posting to the proper funds.

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will monitor the receipts more closely to ensure they are posted to the correct funds.

FINDING NUMBER 2019-002

Noncompliance and Significant Deficiency

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(I) requires that money paid into any fund shall be used for the purposes for which such fund is established.

During 2018, expenditures totaling \$2,700 for tree removal and portable toilet rentals for the Township's park were improperly paid from the Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund, rather than the General Fund.

Audit adjustments are reflected in the financial statements and in the accounting records correcting the misstatement.

In addition to the adjustment listed above, we also identified additional misstatements in 2019 of \$491 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

The lack of controls over the posting of financial transactions decreases the reliability of financial data at year-end and can result in undetected errors and irregularities. The Township should implement controls to help ensure all transactions are reviewed to help ensure posting to the proper funds.

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will monitor the expenditures more closely to ensure they are paid from the correct funds.

**ATHENS TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

FINDING NUMBER 2019-003

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority unit from making any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Due to inadequate policies and procedures in approving and reviewing budget versus actual information, the Township had expenditures in excess of appropriations for the following funds as of December 31, 2019:

Fund	Approved Appropriations	Actual Expenditures plus Encumbrances Outstanding at Year-End	Variance
General	\$65,777	\$81,742	(\$15,965)
Fire District	49,250	60,774	(11,524)

Failure to have adequate appropriations in place at the time expenditures are made could cause expenditures to exceed available resources, further resulting in deficit spending practices.

The Board of Trustees should closely monitor expenditures and appropriations and make the necessary appropriation amendments, if possible, to reduce the likelihood of expenditures exceeding appropriations. Additionally, the Fiscal Officer should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations when appropriations are inadequate to cover the expenditures.

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will utilize more of the UAN management reports to ensure that the needed amendments are provided to the board. Approval by the board will be noted in the minutes and posted correctly to the UAN system.

FINDING NUMBER 2019-004

Material Weakness

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Terms of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

The Township should maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the Township to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets, document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements.

The Ohio Township Handbook provides suggested account classifications. These accounts classify receipts by fund and source (property taxes or intergovernmental revenue, for example); classify disbursements by fund, program (general government, for example) or object (personal services, for example); and provides suggested fund balance classifications and clarifies the existing governmental fund type definitions. Using these classifications and the aforementioned accounting records will provide the Township with information required to monitor compliance with the budget, and prepare annual reports in the format required by the Auditor of State.

**ATHENS TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

**FINDING NUMBER 2019-004
(Continued)**

Material Weakness (Continued)

The Township did not always record receipts and disbursements into accurate classifications on the financial statements.

Also, the Township did not properly classify its December 31, 2019 and 2018 governmental fund cash balances in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) *Statement Number 54 - Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2010.

The UAN Accounting and General Manual provides five suggested fund balance classifications and clarifies the existing governmental fund type definitions. The fund balance classifications relate to constraints placed upon the use of resources reported in governmental funds. The five classifications are nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

We noted the following in 2019:

- Gas and oil lease proceeds of \$71,670 were improperly classified as Intergovernmental, rather than Other Financing Sources in the General Fund.
- The Township's ending fund balances in the Motor Vehicle License Tax (MVL), Gasoline Tax, and Police District Funds of \$9,052, \$76,108 and \$66,095, respectively, were improperly classified as Committed, rather than Restricted.
- The Township's ending fund balance in the Cemetery fund of \$152,948 was improperly classified as Assigned, rather than Restricted.
- A portion (\$81,441) of the Township's ending fund balance in the General Fund was improperly classified as Unassigned, rather than Assigned due to encumbrances outstanding at December 31, 2019 and subsequent year appropriations exceeding estimated receipts.

We noted the following in 2018:

- A portion of the Township's USDA debt payment in the amount of \$10,184 was improperly classified as Public Works, rather than Debt Service - Principal in the Road and Bridge Fund.
- The Township's ending fund balances in the MVL, Gasoline Tax, and Police District Funds of \$9,650, \$40,437 and \$44,283, respectively, were improperly classified as Committed, rather than Restricted.
- The Township's ending fund balance in the Cemetery fund of \$122,693 was improperly classified as Assigned, rather than Restricted.

The reclassifications noted above, with which management agrees, have been made and are reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

Not properly reporting financial activity could result in material misstatements occurring and remaining undetected and increases the risk that management would not be provided an accurate picture of the Township's financial position and operations.

**ATHENS TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018
(Continued)**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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**FINDING NUMBER 2019-004
(Continued)**

Material Weakness (Continued)

The Township should take the necessary steps to ensure that all receipts, disbursements and fund balances are properly presented and disclosed in the Township's financial statements. When classifying fund balance in accordance with GASB 54 the Fiscal Officer should refer to Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004 for guidance.

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will view the available webinars on this area to achieve a better understanding of the fund classifications.

FINDING NUMBER 2019-005

Material Weakness

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Terms of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Sound accounting practices require accurately posting estimated receipts and appropriations to the ledgers to provide information for budget versus actual comparison and to allow the Board to make informed decisions regarding budgetary matters.

The Appropriation resolution and subsequent amendments establish the legal spending authority of the Township and the appropriation ledger provides the process by which the Township controls spending, it is therefore necessary the amounts appropriated by the Board are precisely stated and accurately posted to the appropriation ledger.

The Township did not have procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The appropriations (and/or amendments thereof) approved by the Board were not properly posted to the accounting system. Therefore, the following variances were noted for 2019:

Fund	Approved Appropriations	Appropriations Posted to the Accounting System	Variance
General	\$65,777	\$87,877	\$22,100
Fire District	49,250	74,250	25,000

Also, during 2018, the Fiscal Officer improperly posted a \$15,000 board-approved supplemental appropriation to the accounting system as \$14,000 in the General Fund, which resulted in a variance of \$1,000.

Failure to accurately post the appropriations to the ledgers could result in overspending and negative cash balances. In addition, this could lead to inaccurate reporting of the budgetary information in the financial statements.

**ATHENS TOWNSHIP
HARRISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2018
(Continued)**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

**FINDING NUMBER 2019-005
(Continued)**

Material Weakness (Continued)

To effectively control the budgetary cycle and to maintain accountability over receipts and expenditures, the Township should post to the ledgers, on a timely basis, appropriations approved by the Board. The Township should then monitor budget versus actual reports to help ensure appropriations have been properly posted to the ledgers.

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will utilize more of the UAN management reports to ensure that the needed amendments are provided to the board. Approval by the board will be noted in the minutes and posted correctly to the UAN system.

FINDING NUMBER 2019-006

Significant Deficiency

When designing the public office's system of internal control and the specific control activities, management should plan for adequate segregation of duties or compensating controls.

The small size of the Township's staff did not allow for an adequate segregation of duties as the Fiscal Officer performed all accounting functions. Therefore, it is important that the Board of Trustees function as a finance committee to monitor financial activity closely. While monthly fund balance financial reports were documented as being presented during the meetings, there was no formal approval by the Trustees to ensure they were being reviewed in 2019 or 2018. In addition, no other financial reports, such as budget versus actual reports, receipt listing reports or bank reconciliations, were documented as being presented to and approved by the Board.

The formal approval of financial reports by the Board of Trustees should be documented in the minutes of the Township meetings. In addition, various financial reports, such as budget versus actual reports, receipt reports and monthly bank reconciliation reports, should be documented as being provided to and approved by the Board.

Officials' Response: Fiscal Officer will also provide to the board with the above mentioned reports at each meeting and note in the minutes the board approval of said reports.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ATHENS TOWNSHIP

HARRISON COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 8/18/2020

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
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