

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

AUDIT REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

**Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.
1100 Brandywine Blvd. Building G
Zanesville, Ohio 43701**

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees
Brush Creek Township
1138 Township Road 296
Hammondsville, Ohio 43930

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County, prepared by Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Brush Creek Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 2, 2020

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**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY
JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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**WILSON, PHILLIPS & AGIN, CPA'S, INC.
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD. BUILDING G
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701**

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Brush Creek Township
Jefferson County
1138 Township Road 296
Hammondsville, Ohio 43930

To the Township 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 the Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County, 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 Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 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 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 opinion.

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 Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States, 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 Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis permitted 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 Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, or 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 Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County as of December 31, 2019 and 2018, for the years then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 10 to the 2019 financial statements, during 2020, the 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 a report dated July 25, 2020, on our consideration of Brush Creek 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.

Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.
Zanesville, Ohio
July 25, 2020

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 24,721	\$ 84,113	\$ 108,834
Intergovernmental	15,810	97,995	113,805
Miscellaneous	1,991	-	1,991
Total Cash Receipts	<u>42,522</u>	<u>182,108</u>	<u>224,630</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	43,950	-	43,950
Public Safety	-	6,019	6,019
Public Works	1,556	118,471	120,027
Health	361	-	361
Human Services	2,915	8,219	11,134
Conservation-Recreation	748	-	748
Capital Outlay	1,898	33,745	35,643
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	5,261	5,261
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	178	178
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>51,428</u>	<u>171,893</u>	<u>223,321</u>
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(8,906)	10,215	1,309
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Other Financing Sources	-	1,384	1,384
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>-</u>	<u>1,384</u>	<u>1,384</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	(8,906)	11,599	2,693
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, restated	<u>25,088</u>	<u>110,999</u>	<u>136,087</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	-	122,598	122,598
Assigned	885	-	885
Unassigned (Deficit)	15,297	-	15,297
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 16,182</u>	<u>\$ 122,598</u>	<u>\$ 138,780</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

1. REPORTING ENTITY

Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publically-elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, recreation, cemetery maintenance, and provides fire protection.. The Township contracts with the Bergholz Volunteer Fire Department, Village of Irondale Fire Department, and Salineville Fire Department for fire protection services.

The Township participates in the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (the Plan), a risk sharing pool available to Ohio townships. 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.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. 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 and a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary and fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

B. 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund – This fund receives gasoline tax monies to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Road & Bridge Fund – This fund receives property tax monies for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. 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 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township 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 117-2-03(D) permit.

D. 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 and object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The 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 appears in Note 3.

E. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investment as assets. This basis does not record disbursement for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

F. 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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

G. 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.

H. 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 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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2019 is as follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 47,070	\$ 42,522	\$ (4,548)
Special Revenue	160,000	183,492	23,492
Total	\$ 207,070	\$ 226,014	\$ 18,944

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 55,350	\$ 52,313	\$ 3,037
Special Revenue	198,890	171,893	26,997
Total	\$ 254,240	\$ 224,206	\$ 30,034

Contrary to ORC 5705.41(D), the Township made expenditures prior to certification.

4. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

The Township maintains a deposit 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	\$ 138,780
Total Deposits	\$ 138,780

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution’s public entity deposit pool.

5. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Township Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback 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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

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

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Government belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) – formerly known as the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan, (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, 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:

	<u>2019</u>
Assets	\$15,920,504
Liabilities	<u>(11,329,011)</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 4,591,493</u>

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

7. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some of the Township’s full-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes the plan benefits, which include postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2019, OPERS members contributed 10.0% of their gross wages and the Township contributed an amount equal to 14.0% of participant’s gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2019.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

8. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include 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.

9. PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOL

The Township belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the Plan) an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management plan. Member governments pay annual premiums to fund the Plan. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims exceeding the member's deductible.

10. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The United State 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.

11. RESTATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE

Fund balance in the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund has been restated for the year beginning January 1, 2019 as an expense that was posted in 2019, should have been in 2018:

	General Fund	Special Revenue
Fund Balance at December 31, 2018	\$ 25,509	\$ 112,491
Adjustments	(421)	(1,492)
Fund Balance at January 1, 2019	\$ 25,088	\$ 110,999

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS, CASH DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND CASH BALANCES
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts:			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 22,746	\$ 77,528	\$ 100,274
Intergovernmental	35,057	112,113	147,170
Miscellaneous	60	-	60
Total Cash Receipts	<u>57,863</u>	<u>189,641</u>	<u>247,504</u>
Cash Disbursements:			
Current:			
General Government	32,554	-	32,554
Public Safety	-	11,260	11,260
Public Works	1,485	118,795	120,280
Health	5,758	-	5,758
Human Services	10,440	6,250	16,690
Conservation-Recreation	2,031	-	2,031
Capital Outlay	5,500	25,000	30,500
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	5,128	5,128
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	306	306
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>57,768</u>	<u>166,739</u>	<u>224,507</u>
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	95	22,902	22,997
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Other Financing Sources	39	1,129	1,168
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>39</u>	<u>1,129</u>	<u>1,168</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	134	24,031	24,165
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>25,375</u>	<u>88,460</u>	<u>113,835</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	-	112,491	112,491
Assigned	200	-	200
Unassigned (Deficit)	25,309	-	25,309
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 25,509</u>	<u>\$ 112,491</u>	<u>\$ 138,000</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

1. REPORTING ENTITY

Description of the Entity

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The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Basis of Presentation

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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:

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**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. 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 117-2-03(D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township 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 117-2-03(D) permit.

D. 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 and object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The 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 2018 appears in Note 3.

E. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investment as assets. This basis does not record disbursement for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

F. 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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

G. 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.

H. 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 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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2018 is as follows:

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 54,043	\$ 57,902	\$ 3,859
Special Revenue	186,852	190,770	3,918
Total	\$ 240,895	\$ 248,672	\$ 7,777

2018 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 58,733	\$ 57,968	\$ 765
Special Revenue	191,704	166,739	24,965
Total	\$ 250,437	\$ 224,707	\$ 25,730

Contrary to ORC 5705.41(D), the Township made expenditures prior to certification.

4. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH

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

	2018
Demand Deposits	\$ 138,000
Total Deposits	\$ 138,000

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

5. PROPERTY TAX

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which rates are adopted by Township Trustees. The State Board of Tax Equalization adjusts these rates for inflation. Property taxes are also reduced for applicable homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback 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.

Public utilities are also taxed on personal and real property located within the Township.

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

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Government belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) – formerly known as the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan, (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.

The Pool’s audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2018 (the latest information available).

	<u>2018</u>
Assets	\$15,065,412
Liabilities	<u>(10,734,623)</u>
Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 4,330,789</u>

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

7. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some of the Township’s full-time employees belong to the Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) of Ohio. OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes the plan benefits, which include postretirement healthcare, and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2018, OPERS members contributed 10.0% of their gross wages and the Township contributed an amount equal to 14.0% of participant’s gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2018.

8. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include 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. OPERS contributes 2 percent of the employer contribution to fund these benefits.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2018**

9. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2018 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest rate
Consumers National Bank Loan	\$ 5,261	2.9%
Total	\$ 5,261	

The Township entered into a loan agreement in 2015 with the Consumers National Bank to finance the repair of the road grader used for road maintenance within the township.

Amortization of the above debt, including interest, is scheduled as follows:

Year Ended December 31	Consumers Bank
2019	\$ 5,434
Total	\$ 5,434

10. PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOL

The Township belongs to the Ohio Government Risk Management Plan (the Plan) an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management plan. Member governments pay annual premiums to fund the Plan. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims exceeding the member's deductible.

**WILSON, PHILLIPS & AGIN, CPA'S, INC.
1100 BRANDYWINE BLVD. BUILDING G
ZANESVILLE, OHIO 43701**

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

Brush Creek Township
Jefferson County
1138 Township Road 296
Hammondsville, Ohio 43930

To the Township Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards general accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County 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 25, 2020, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered Brush Creek 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.

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. 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 internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first 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 to be material weaknesses. We consider Finding 2019-002 and 2019-003 described in the accompanying schedule of findings to be material weaknesses.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Brush Creek 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 was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2019-001.

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 communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.
Zanesville, Ohio
July 25, 2020

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41 (D) (1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in §§ 5705.41 (D) (1) and 5705.41 (D) (3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

1. "Then and Now" Certificate – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Township can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Township has thirty days from receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.
2. Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.
3. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
4. Super Blanket Certificate – The Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to exceed beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The Fiscal Officer did not certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitments for 28% of the expenditures tested in 2019 and 2018, and there was no evidence the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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 (CONTINUED)

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend the Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

We recommend the Fiscal Officer certify purchases to which § 5705.41 (D) applies. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Township incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of Ohio Revised Code § 5705.41 (D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code, to reduce the available appropriation.

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

FINDING NUMBER 2019-002

Material Weakness

All local offices should maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office 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 (taxes or charges for services, for example) and classify disbursements by fund, program (general government, for example) or object (personal services, for example). Using these classifications 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.

As a result of audit procedures, errors were noted that required reclassification to the financial statements as follows which have been made to the financial statements and accounting records:

- In 2019, a reclassification of \$1,941 was made to Miscellaneous Revenue and decrease Intergovernmental Revenue for refunds received in the General Fund.
- In 2019, a reclassification of \$1,898 was made to increase Capital Outlay and decrease General Government for road paving in the General Fund
- In 2019, a reclassification of \$885 was made to increase Assigned Fund Balance and Decrease Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund for outstanding encumbrances.
- In 2018, a reclassification of \$5,500 was made to increase Capital Outlay and decrease General Government for equipment purchased in the General Fund
- In 2019, a reclassification of \$200 was made to increase Assigned Fund Balance and Decrease Unassigned Fund Balance in the General Fund for outstanding encumbrances.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON 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 2019-002 (CONTINUED)

The audited financial statements and the Township’s UAN accounting system have been adjusted for the issues noted above.

The Fiscal Officer should review the Township handbook for guidance to ensure financial statements are complete and accurate. The Fiscal Officer should also review Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004 for Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for proper reporting of fund balances on the financial statements [see GASB Cod. 1800.165 and 1800.166].

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

FINDING NUMBER 2019-003

Material Weakness

The Township should have internal controls in place to reasonably assure that budgetary accounts are integrated into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts and disbursements.

The Township does enter budgetary data for estimated receipts. However, the amounts entered do not agree with the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources. This can lead to decisions being made on faulty budgetary data and can lead to overspending and creating a negative fund balance if not monitored.

Fund	Year	Est. Certificate	UAN System	Variance
General	2019	\$ 47,070	\$ 42,217	\$ (4,853)
MVL Tax	2019	16,000	14,995	(1,005)
Gasoline Tax	2019	75,000	84,385	9,385
Road & Bridge	2019	41,000	47,955	6,955
Fire Levy	2019	25,000	31,572	6,572
Permissive MVL	2019	3,000	2,870	(130)
General	2018	54,043	56,904	2,861
Road & Bridge	2018	44,000	45,649	1,649
Fire Levy	2018	27,001	28,607	(1,606)

We recommend that the Township post the official certificate of estimated resources to the UAN system around the first of each year. Then any amendments to those official documents be posted to the system upon approval. This will lead to correct budgetary information and Township decisions can be made on accurate data.

Client Response: We have not yet received a response from the client.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:
2017-001	ORC Chapter 133 Debt Issuance	Yes	Finding No Longer Valid
2017-002	ORC 5705.39 Appropriations exceeded estimated resources	No	Partially Corrected Currently in Management Letter
2017-003	Material Weakness Transaction Posting	No	Not Corrected - Refer to Findng 2019-002
2017-004	Material Weakness Budgetary Postings	No	Not Corrected - Refer to Findng 2019-003

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP

JEFFERSON 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 10/15/2020

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
www.ohioauditor.gov