

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021-2020

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
6710 County Road 55
Salineville, OH 43945

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, 2020 through December 31, 2021. 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 black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 26, 2022

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**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021-2020**

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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 Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County, Ohio (the Township) which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2

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* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements 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, 2021, or changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards general accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of Brush Creek Township, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by Brush Creek Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles general accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Emphasis of Matter

As described in Note 12 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Township. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Brush Creek Township's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion was expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 8, 2022, 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. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's 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 8, 2022

**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, 2021**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 25,056	\$ 85,112	\$ -	\$ 110,168
Licenses, Permits and Fees	759	-	-	759
Intergovernmental	28,180	249,121	-	277,301
Miscellaneous	50	-	-	50
Total Cash Receipts	<u>54,045</u>	<u>334,233</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>388,278</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	44,765	-	-	44,765
Public Safety	-	34,854	-	34,854
Public Works	1,703	152,192	-	153,895
Health	610	-	-	610
Human Services	1,547	10,375	-	11,922
Conservation-Recreation	8,955	-	-	8,955
Capital Outlay	-	35,220	65,576	100,796
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	-	7,100	-	7,100
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	1,607	-	1,607
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>57,580</u>	<u>241,348</u>	<u>65,576</u>	<u>364,504</u>
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(3,535)	92,885	(65,576)	23,774
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Capital Assets	-	3,000	-	3,000
Other Financing Sources	297	993	-	1,290
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>297</u>	<u>3,993</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,290</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	(3,238)	96,878	(65,576)	28,064
Fund Cash Balances, January 1, restated	<u>25,892</u>	<u>102,523</u>	<u>65,576</u>	<u>193,991</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 22,654</u>	<u>\$ 199,401</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 222,055</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

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 Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. 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.

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, 2021**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Capital Projects Fund

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects. The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

USDA Truck Fund – This fund received money from the USDA for bonds for financing the purchase of a truck.

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(C). 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(C) 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 2021 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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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.

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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2021 is as follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 51,867	\$ 54,342	\$ 2,475
Special Revenue	324,407	338,226	13,819
Total	\$ 376,274	\$ 392,568	\$ 16,294

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 66,805	\$ 58,655	\$ 8,150
Special Revenue	318,309	242,341	75,968
Capital Projects	65,576	65,576	-
Total	\$ 450,690	\$ 366,572	\$ 84,118

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

Contrary to ORC 5705.39, the USDA Truck Fund had appropriations exceed estimated resources by \$65,576.

4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Township's deposits and investment accounts are as follows:

<i>Cash Management Pool</i>	2021
Demand deposits	\$ 222,055
Total Carrying Amount of Deposits and Investments held in Pool	\$ 222,055

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2021, the Township is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or 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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

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.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	2021
Cash and investments	<u>\$34,880,599</u>
Actuarial liabilities	10,601,444

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 2021, 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, 2021.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

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 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2021.

9. PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOL

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims exceeding the member's deductible.

10. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2021 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest rate
USDA Bonds	\$ 71,400	2.25%
Total	\$ 71,400	

The Township issued USDA bonds in 2020 in the amount of \$78,500 with an interest rate of 2.25% to finance the purchase of a truck. This will be repaid over ten years.

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

Year Ended December 31	USDA Bonds
2022	\$ 8,707
2023	8,707
2024	8,707
2025	8,707
2026	8,707
2027-2031	34,828
Total	\$ 78,363

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

11. FUND BALANCES

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the expendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of those amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Total
Nonspendable:				
Corpus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outstanding Encumbrances	1,075	993	-	2,068
Total	<u>\$ 1,075</u>	<u>\$ 993</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,068</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects and permanent funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

12. COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021, while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the Township did receive COVID-19 funding. 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.

The Township received \$21,422 from the American Rescue Relief Fund.

13. RESTATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE

Fund balance in the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund has been restated for the year beginning January 1, 2021 for voided checks added back:

	General Fund	Special Revenue
Fund Balance at December 31, 2020	\$ 23,474	\$ 100,992
Adjustments	2,418	1,531
Fund Balance at January 1, 2021	<u>\$ 25,892</u>	<u>\$ 102,523</u>

**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
Hamondsville, 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 for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and the related notes of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County, Ohio.

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(C) 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(C), 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(C) 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, 2020 or changes in financial position thereof for the year 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 for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and related notes of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 12 to the 2020 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 8, 2022, 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 8, 2022

**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, 2020**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts:				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 24,309	\$ 82,011	\$ -	\$ 106,320
Licenses, Permits and Fees	1,208	-	-	1,208
Intergovernmental	41,255	166,850	170,102	378,207
Miscellaneous	100	-	-	100
Total Cash Receipts	<u>66,872</u>	<u>248,861</u>	<u>170,102</u>	<u>485,835</u>
Cash Disbursements:				
Current:				
General Government	49,483	-	-	49,483
Public Safety	-	69,998	-	69,998
Public Works	1,771	143,324	75,102	220,197
Health	342	-	-	342
Human Services	2,078	9,152	-	11,230
Conservation-Recreation	4,346	-	-	4,346
Capital Outlay	1,560	50,413	107,924	159,897
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>59,580</u>	<u>272,887</u>	<u>183,026</u>	<u>515,493</u>
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	7,292	(24,026)	(12,924)	(29,658)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Bonds	-	-	78,500	78,500
Other Financing Sources	-	2,420	-	2,420
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>-</u>	<u>2,420</u>	<u>78,500</u>	<u>80,920</u>
Net Change in Fund Cash Balance	7,292	(21,606)	65,576	51,262
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>16,182</u>	<u>122,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>138,780</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 23,474</u>	<u>\$ 100,992</u>	<u>\$ 65,576</u>	<u>\$ 190,042</u>

See notes to financial statements.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

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 Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. 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.

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, 2020**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Capital Projects Fund

These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects. The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

USDA Truck Fund – This fund received money from the USDA for bonds for financing the purchase of a truck.

Public Works Commission Project Fund – This fund receives money from Ohio Public Works Commission for street paving project in 2020.

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(C). 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(C) 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 2020 appears in Note 3.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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.

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.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

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.

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2020 is as follows:

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 66,870	\$ 66,872	\$ 2
Special Revenue	251,281	251,281	-
Capital Projects	248,602	248,602	-
Total	\$ 566,753	\$ 566,755	\$ 2

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 66,413	\$ 62,724	\$ 3,689
Special Revenue	311,905	274,591	37,314
Capital Projects	248,602	183,026	65,576
Total	\$ 626,920	\$ 520,341	\$ 106,579

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

4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Township's deposits and investment accounts are as follows:

	2020
<i>Cash Management Pool</i>	
Demand deposits	\$ 190,042
Total Carrying Amount of Deposits and Investments held in Pool	\$ 190,042

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2020, the Township is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)

Deposits: Deposits are either insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation or 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.

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.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31 (latest information available):

	<u>2020</u>
Cash and investments	\$36,348,066
Actuarial liabilities	10,894,146

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

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 2020, 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, 2020.

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 2020. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2020.

9. PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOL

The Township belongs to the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio local governments. OTARMA provides property and casualty coverage for its members. OTARMA is a member of the American Public Entity Excess Pool (APEEP). Member governments pay annual contributions to fund OTARMA. OTARMA pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims exceeding the member’s deductible.

10. DEBT

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest rate
USDA Bonds	\$ 78,500	2.25%
Total	\$ 78,500	

The Township issued USDA bonds in 2020 in the amount of \$78,500 with an interest rate of 2.25% to finance the purchase of a truck. This will be repaid over ten years.

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

Year Ended December 31	USDA Bonds
2021	\$ 8,707
2022	8,707
2023	8,707
2024	8,707
2025	8,707
2026-2030	43,535
Total	\$ 87,070

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2020**

11. FUND BALANCES

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the expendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of those amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nonspendable:				
Corpus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outstanding Encumbrances	3,144	1,704	-	4,848
Total	<u>\$ 3,144</u>	<u>\$ 1,704</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 4,848</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects and permanent funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

12. COVID-19

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.

**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 standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standard* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020 and the related notes to the financial statements of Brush Creek Township, Jefferson County (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated July 8, 2022, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Township.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2021-002 and 2021-003 that we consider 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 performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed one instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2021-001.

Purpose of this Report

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

Wilson, Phillips & Agin, CPA's, Inc.
Zanesville, Ohio
July 8, 2022

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2021-001

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 56% of the expenditures tested in 2021 and 2020, and there was no evidence the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2021-001 (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 2021-002

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 2021, a reclassification of \$21,422 was made from Other Financing Sources to Intergovernmental Revenue for American Rescue Plan monies received in the American Rescue Plan Fund.
- In 2021, a reclassification of \$3,000 was made from Other Financing Sources to Sale of Capital Assets for sale of equipment in the Gasoline Tax Fund.
- In 2020, a reclassification of \$7,285 was made from Other Financing Sources to Intergovernmental Revenue for money from County Commissioners received in the General Fund.
- In 2020, a reclassification of \$1,560 was made from Conservation-Recreation to Capital Outlay for equipment purchase in the General Fund.

**BRUSH CREEK TOWNSHIP
JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2021-002 (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.

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

FINDING NUMBER 2021-003

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	2021	\$ 51,867	\$ 54,343	\$ (2,476)
MVL Tax	2021	18,616	19,870	(1,254)
Gasoline Tax	2021	142,828	155,085	(12,257)
Permissive MVL	2021	3,579	3,889	(310)

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, 2021**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:
2019-001	ORC 5705.41(D) Expenditures made prior to certifications	No	Not Corrected - Refer to Findng 2021-001
2019-002	Material Weakness Transaction Posting	No	Not Corrected - Refer to Findng 2021-002
2019-003	Material Weakness Budgetary Postings	No	Not Corrected - Refer to Findng 2021-003

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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 9/8/2022

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