



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**



STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
STARK COUNTY

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Stark County Regional Planning Commission  
Stark County  
201 Third Street NE, Suite 201  
Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Commission:

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Unmodified and Adverse Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Stark County, Ohio (the Commission), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for the governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, 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 as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, 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 the Commission, as of December 31, 2023, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally 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's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Commission, 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 the Commission 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 generally 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.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the 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 the Commission'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 Responsibilities 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 Commission's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is 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 Commission'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 October 28, 2024, on our consideration of the Commission'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 our 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 Commission'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 Commission's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

October 28, 2024

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**STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION  
STARK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN  
FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS) - GOVERNMENTAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General
<b>Cash Receipts</b>	
Taxes	\$3,978
Charges for Services	5,100
Licenses and Permits	21,894
Intergovernmental	2,200,864
Miscellaneous	33,240
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	2,265,076
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>	
Current:	
Economic Development:	
Personal Services - Salaries and Wages	1,540,367
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	561,819
Supplies and Materials	26,464
Purchased Services	118,509
Capital Outlay	51,862
Other Allocations	50,039
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	2,349,060
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	(83,984)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	1,151,104
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	\$1,067,120

*See accompanying notes to the financial statements*

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*Stark County Regional Planning Commission  
Stark County  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (the Commission), Stark County, is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A 61-member Board governs the Commission. The Board consists of representatives from participating political subdivisions, the County Commissioners, and appointed citizens. The Commission formulates and reviews plans affecting long and short term social, economic, and governmental development within the region. The participating subdivisions are:

City of Alliance	City of Canal Fulton	City of Canton
City of Louisville	City of Massillon	City of North Canton
Bethlehem Township	Canton Township	Jackson Township
Lake Township	Lawrence Township	Lexington Township
Marlboro Township	Nimishillen Township	Osnaburg Township
Pike Township	Plain Township	Sandy Township
Washington Township	Village of Beach City	Village of Brewster
Village of East Canton	Village of East Sparta	Village of Hartville
Village of Hills and Dales	Village of Magnolia	Village of Meyers Lake
Village of Minerva	Village of Navarre	Village of Waynesburg
Village of Wilmot	Stark County Commissioners	Stark County Park District

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

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

The Commission 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 Commission are presented below:

*Stark County Regional Planning Commission  
Stark County  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Fund Accounting (continued)***

**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 Commission for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

***Basis of Accounting***

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

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

***Deposits and Investments***

As the Ohio Revised Code permits, the Stark County Treasurer holds the Commission's deposits as the Commission's custodian. The County holds the Commission's assets in its investment pool, valued at the Treasurer's reported carrying amount.

***Capital Assets***

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

***Accumulated Leave***

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

***Leases and SBITA's***

The Commission is the lessee in various leases (as defined by GASB 87) related to vehicles and other equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

The Commission has entered into noncancelable Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software including contracts related to financial systems and various other software. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

***Fund Balance***

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

*Stark County Regional Planning Commission  
Stark County  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)**

***Fund Balance (continued)***

***Nonspendable*** The Commission 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*** The Board can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Commission must adhere to these commitments unless the Board amends 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*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

***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 Commission 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 7.

**Note 3 – Risk Management**

***Workers' Compensation***

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Commission pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

***Commercial Insurance***

The Commission has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles;
- Inland Marine
- Commercial crime; and
- Public Officials and Employment Practices Liability

*Stark County Regional Planning Commission*  
*Stark County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 3 – Risk Management (continued)**

***Self-Insurance***

The Commission is also insured for employee health insurance through Stark County. The County has elected to provide benefits through a self-insured program. The maintenance of these benefits is accounted for in the County's self-insurance Internal Services fund. The plan's specific stop-loss retention for 2023 was \$350,000. The aggregate stop-loss was discontinued at the end of 2017.

**Note 4 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10.0 percent of their gross salaries, and the Commission contributed an amount equaling 14.0 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Commission has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

**Note 5 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plan, which includes multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, and 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 members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2023. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2023.

**Note 6 – Contingent Liabilities**

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Commission are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

**Note 7 – Fund Balances**

Included in fund balance are encumbrances which 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 outstanding encumbrance balance in the General fund was \$209,614. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Stark County Regional Planning Commission  
Stark County  
201 Third Street NE, Suite 201  
Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Commission:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, Stark County, (the Commission) and have issued our report thereon dated October 28, 2024, wherein we noted the Commission followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

### ***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Commission'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 Commission's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission'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 Commission'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Commission's financial statements are free from 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

***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 Commission'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 Commission's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

October 28, 2024



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**STARK COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

**STARK 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 11/14/2024**

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)