



**VERMILION TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT**

**FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022-2021**



VERMILION TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Vermilion Township  
Erie County  
1907 State Road  
Vermilion, Ohio 44089-9102

To the Board of Trustees:

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

***Unmodified and Adverse Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of Vermilion Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 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 as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 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 the Township, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years 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 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 the 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 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 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 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 Township'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 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 March 1, 2024, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. 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 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.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 1, 2024

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**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements,*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Governmental Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Combined Total</u>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 104,196	\$ 681,696		\$ 785,892
Charges for Services		135,838		135,838
Licenses, Permits and Fees	71,306	422		71,728
Intergovernmental	68,765	454,257		523,022
Earnings on Investments	8,465	3,250		11,715
Miscellaneous	17,313	974		18,287
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>270,045</u>	<u>1,276,437</u>		<u>1,546,482</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	306,806			306,806
Public Safety		361,349		361,349
Public Works	6,076	647,747		653,823
Human Services		4,200		4,200
Capital Outlay		283,994		283,994
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>312,882</u>	<u>1,297,290</u>		<u>1,610,172</u>
Excess of Disbursements Over Receipts	<u>(42,837)</u>	<u>(20,853)</u>		<u>(63,690)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>				
Sale of Capital Assets			\$ 20,000	20,000
Other Financing Uses		(6)		(6)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>		<u>(6)</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>19,994</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(42,837)	(20,859)	20,000	(43,696)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>769,953</u>	<u>2,201,128</u>	<u>123,372</u>	<u>3,094,453</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 727,116</u>	<u>\$ 2,180,269</u>	<u>\$ 143,372</u>	<u>\$ 3,050,757</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 1 - Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Vermilion Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection, and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Erie County Sheriff's Department to provide dispatch services for the fire department.

***Jointly Governed Organization and Public Entity Risk Pool***

The Township participates in one jointly governed organization and one public entity risk. Notes 6 and 11 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

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

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

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

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

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

***Road and Bridge Fund*** The Road and Bridge Fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintain, and repairing Township road and bridges.

***Coronavirus Relief Fund*** The Coronavirus Relief Fund accounts for grant revenue to aid COVID-19 relief and any negative economic impact.

***Fire District Fund*** The Fire District Fund receives property tax and emergency medical services charges for services collections for the purpose of providing fire protection and emergency services.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Capital Projects Funds** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

**Permanent Improvement Fund** The Permanent Improvement Fund receives proceeds from the sale of permanent improvements. These proceeds are restricted for the construction or acquisition of permanent improvements.

***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 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 Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

***Budgetary Process***

The Ohio Revised Code requires each fund be budgeted annually.

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

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

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

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

***Deposits and Investments***

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

The Township's investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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***Capital Assets***

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

***Accumulated Leave***

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

***Fund Balance***

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

***Nonspendable*** The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

***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*. 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 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 10.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

**Note 3 - Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$278,710	\$270,045	(\$8,665)
Special Revenue	1,240,718	1,276,437	35,719
Capital Projects		20,000	20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,519,428</b>	<b>\$1,566,482</b>	<b>\$47,054</b>

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$791,544	\$327,415	\$464,129
Special Revenue	2,749,390	1,380,461	1,368,929
Capital Projects	236,997		236,997
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,777,931</b>	<b>\$1,707,876</b>	<b>\$2,070,055</b>

**Note 4 - Deposits and Investments**

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

	2022
<b><i>Cash Management Pool (the Pool):</i></b>	
Demand deposits	\$2,435,952
STAR Ohio	614,805
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool</i>	<b>\$3,050,757</b>

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, 2022 the Township is holding no unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

***Deposits***

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit 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.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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***Investments***

Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**Note 5 - Property Taxes**

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

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.

**Note 6 - Risk Management**

***Risk Pool Membership***

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:

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$32,288,098
Actuarial liabilities	\$9,146,434

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

***Social Security***

Other Township employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

**Note 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 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

**Note 9 - Contingent Liabilities**

The Township is defendant in several lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of these suits, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township 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.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 10 - Fund Balances**

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 facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 14,533	\$ 83,165	\$ 97,698

The fund balance of Special Revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of Capital Projects Funds is restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted or committed amounts in the Special Revenue Funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the General Fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**Note 11 - Jointly Governed Organization**

***Northern Ohio Rural Water***

Northern Ohio Rural Water (the District), a regional water district, is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, organized pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 6119 and is directed by a Board of Trustees. The District was incorporated for the purpose of providing a water supply for domestic, industrial, and public use to users within and outside the District. Each member has one representative to the District and is entitled to one vote on items under consideration. The District is administered by a 24 member board of trustees elected by the members of the District of governments. The board exercises total control over the District's operation including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management.

**Note 12 - Miscellaneous Receipts**

General Fund miscellaneous receipts consisted primarily of proceeds from tower leases and farmland rental.

**Note 13 - Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio law, the Township did not record proceeds from the sale of a permanent improvement in the proper fund.



**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements,*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Governmental Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Combined Total</u>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 97,004	\$ 627,376		\$ 724,380
Charges for Services		149,351		149,351
Licenses, Permits and Fees	105,605			105,605
Intergovernmental	60,545	476,332		536,877
Earnings on Investments	914	36		950
Miscellaneous	17,123	13,298		30,421
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>281,191</u>	<u>1,266,393</u>		<u>1,547,584</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	362,031			362,031
Public Safety		315,272		315,272
Public Works	6,325	438,381		444,706
Health		3,057		3,057
Human Services		92,142		92,142
Other	396			396
Capital Outlay	33,117	2,346	\$ 36,212	71,675
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>401,869</u>	<u>851,198</u>	<u>36,212</u>	<u>1,289,279</u>
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	<u>(120,678)</u>	<u>415,195</u>	<u>(36,212)</u>	<u>258,305</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts</b>				
Other Financing Sources		489		489
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(120,678)	415,684	(36,212)	258,794
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>890,631</u>	<u>1,785,444</u>	<u>159,584</u>	<u>2,835,659</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 769,953</u>	<u>\$ 2,201,128</u>	<u>\$ 123,372</u>	<u>\$ 3,094,453</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

---

**Note 1 - Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Vermilion Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection, and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Erie County Sheriff's Department to provide dispatch services for the fire department.

***Jointly Governed Organization and Public Entity Risk Pool***

The Township participates in one jointly governed organization and one public entity risk. Notes 6 and 11 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

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

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

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

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

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

***Road and Bridge Fund*** The Road and Bridge Fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintain, and repairing Township road and bridges.

***Fire District Fund*** The Fire District Fund receives property tax and emergency medical services charges for services collections for the purpose of providing fire protection and emergency services.

***Capital Projects Funds*** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

***Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund*** The Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund receives General Fund transfers to be set aside for the future construction of the building and/or complexes.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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***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 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 Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

***Budgetary Process***

The Ohio Revised Code requires each fund be budgeted annually.

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

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

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

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

***Deposits and Investments***

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

The Township's investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

***Capital Assets***

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

***Accumulated Leave***

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

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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**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. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

***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*. 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 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 10.

**Note 3 - Budgetary Activity**

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

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 257,256	\$ 281,191	\$ 23,935
Special Revenue	1,190,186	1,266,882	76,696
Total	\$ 1,447,442	\$ 1,548,073	\$ 100,631

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 1,149,033	\$ 403,692	\$ 745,341
Special Revenue	2,974,331	856,252	2,118,079
Capital Projects	159,584	36,212	123,372
Total	\$ 4,282,948	\$ 1,296,156	\$ 2,986,792

**Note 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 deposit and investment accounts are as follows:

	2021
<b><i>Cash Management Pool (the Pool):</i></b>	
Demand deposits	\$2,489,791
STAR Ohio	604,662
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool</i>	\$3,094,453

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 no unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

***Deposits***

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit 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.

***Investments***

Investments in STAR Ohio are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**Note 5 - Property Taxes**

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

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

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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

**Note 6 - Risk Management**

***Risk Pool Membership***

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

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

Effective November 1, 2010 (through October 31, 2017), the corridor is for losses paid is between 60% and 70% of casualty premiums earned in the first \$250,000. Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and remain unchanged effective November 1, 2021 and November 1, 2020. OPRM had 769 members as of December 31, 2021.

The Plan's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2021.

	2021
Assets	<u>\$21,777,439</u>
Liabilities	<u>(\$15,037,383)</u>
Members' Equity	<u><u>\$6,740,056</u></u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, [www.ohioplan.org](http://www.ohioplan.org).

**Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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***Social Security***

Other Township employees contributed to Social Security. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants.

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

**Note 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.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

**Note 9 - Contingent Liabilities**

The Township is defendant in several lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of these suits, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the township 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 10 - Fund Balances**

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 facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 1,823	\$ 5,054	\$ 6,877

**Vermilion Township**  
*Erie County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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The fund balance of Special Revenue Funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of Capital Projects Funds is restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted or committed amounts in the Special Revenue Funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the General Fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**Note 11 - Jointly Governed Organization**

***Northern Ohio Rural Water***

Northern Ohio Rural Water (the District), a regional water district, is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio, organized pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Section 6119 and is directed by a Board of Trustees. The District was incorporated for the purpose of providing a water supply for domestic, industrial, and public use to users within and outside the District. Each member has one representative to the District and is entitled to one vote on items under consideration. The District is administered by a 24 member board of trustees elected by the members of the District of governments. The board exercises total control over the District's operation including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management.



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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(800) 282-0370

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

Vermilion Township  
Erie County  
1907 State Road  
Vermilion, Ohio 44089-9102

To the Board of Trustees:

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 years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of Vermilion Township, Erie County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated March 1, 2024, wherein we noted the Township 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 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 opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control.

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

Our consideration of 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 2022-001 and 2022-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township'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 an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-002.

***Township's Response to Findings***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings. The Township's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

***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.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 1, 2024

**VERMILION TOWNSHIP  
ERIE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

<b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b>
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**FINDING NUMBER 2022-001**

**Material Weakness - Financial Reporting**

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

In 2022, Capital Projects Fund Type Appropriation Authority was increased in the amount of \$236,997 in order to bring the amount reported in the Budgetary Activity note to the financial statements in line with the authorized budget amount.

This error was not identified and corrected prior to the Township preparing its notes to the financial statements due to deficiencies in the Township's internal controls over financial statement monitoring. The failure to adequately monitor the notes to the financial statements could allow for misstatements to occur and go undetected. The accompanying notes to the financial statements have been adjusted to reflect these changes. In addition to the adjustment noted above, we also identified additional immaterial misstatements ranging from \$18 to \$118,318 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

The Township should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements to help identify and correct errors and omissions.

**Officials' Response:**

The Fiscal Officer will seek reference materials and information and make necessary adjustments to postings.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-002**

**Noncompliance Citation and Material Weakness**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(F)** requires revenue received from the sale of a permanent improvement to be paid into the sinking fund, the bond retirement fund, or a special fund for the construction or acquisition of permanent improvements. **Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.01(E)** defines "permanent improvement" or "improvement" to mean "any property, asset, or improvement with an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more, including land and interests therein, and reconstructions, enlargements, and extensions thereof having an estimated life or usefulness of five years or more."

In 2022, the Township inappropriately recorded \$20,000 from the sale of a vehicle (a permanent improvement) in the General Fund. Given the source of the revenue, this receipt should have been recorded in a Capital Projects Fund. Audit adjustments are reflected in the financial statements, notes to the financial statements, and in the accounting records correcting the misstatement.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-002**  
**(Continued)**

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

**Officials' Response:**

The Fiscal Officer will seek reference materials and information and make necessary adjustments to postings.

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**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS  
 DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
2020-001	Finding was first reported during the audit of the 2016 financial statements. Material weakness for errors related to financial reporting.	Not corrected and reissued as Finding 2022-001 in this report	These matters were not correct due to deficiencies in Township's internal controls over financial reporting. The Fiscal Officer will seek reference materials and information and make necessary adjustments to postings.

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**VERMILION TOWNSHIP**

**ERIE 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 3/21/2024**

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)