

***VILLAGE OF BELLVILLE***

***RICHLAND COUNTY***

Regular Audit

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022







65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov  
800-282-0370

Village Council  
Village of Bellville  
142 Park Place  
Bellville, OH 44813

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Village of Bellville, Richland County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. 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. The Village of Bellville is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

November 18, 2024

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***Village of Bellville***  
*Richland County*  
 For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Village of Bellville  
Richland County  
142 Park Place  
Bellville, OH 44813

To the Village Council:

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

***Unmodified and Adverse Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the Village of Bellville, Richland County, Ohio (the Village), which comprise the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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 Village, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, or the changes in financial position or cash flows, 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 Village, 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 Village 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 Village'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 Village'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 Village'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 September 30, 2024, on our consideration of the Village'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 Village'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 Village's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***

September 30, 2024

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Governmental Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 339,070	\$ 437,418	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 776,488
Municipal Income Tax	574,666	222,389	-	-	797,055
Intergovernmental	240,950	216,723	-	-	457,673
Charges for Services	5,495	83,620	-	-	89,115
Fines, Licenses and Permits	14,468	62,802	-	-	77,270
Earnings on Investments	48,537	1,442	-	2,156	52,135
Miscellaneous	25,794	21,493	-	-	47,287
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,248,980</u>	<u>1,045,887</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,156</u>	<u>2,297,023</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>					
Current:					
Security of Persons and Property	79,216	715,775	-	-	794,991
Public Health Services	-	131,971	-	-	131,971
Leisure Time Activities	358,316	22,298	-	-	380,614
Community Environment	12,609	26,073	-	-	38,682
Transportation	-	438,641	-	-	438,641
General Government	431,152	12,492	-	-	443,644
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	-	74,809	5,244	-	80,053
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	7,514	-	-	7,514
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>881,293</u>	<u>1,429,573</u>	<u>5,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,316,110</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>367,687</u>	<u>(383,686)</u>	<u>(5,244)</u>	<u>2,156</u>	<u>(19,087)</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>					
Sale of Bonds	-	63,000	-	-	63,000
Transfers In	-	379,000	5,244	-	384,244
Transfers Out	(379,000)	(5,244)	-	-	(384,244)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(379,000)</u>	<u>436,756</u>	<u>5,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>63,000</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>(11,313)</u>	<u>53,070</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,156</u>	<u>43,913</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>648,191</u>	<u>921,154</u>	<u>2,174</u>	<u>42,757</u>	<u>1,614,276</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 636,878</u>	<u>\$ 974,224</u>	<u>\$ 2,174</u>	<u>\$ 44,913</u>	<u>\$ 1,658,189</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Proprietary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

	<u>Proprietary Fund Types</u>
	<u>Enterprise</u>
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Charges for Services	\$ 958,182
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>958,182</u>
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Personal Services	184,284
Employee Fringe Benefits	78,854
Contractual Services	404,564
Supplies and Materials	60,512
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>728,214</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<u>229,968</u>
<b>Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</b>	
Capital Outlay	(18,449)
Principal Retirement	(163,713)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	(40,690)
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(222,852)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	7,116
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>395,290</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 402,406</u>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Statement of Additions, Deductions*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Fiduciary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

	Other Custodial
<b>Additions</b>	
Fines, Licenses and Permits for Distribution	\$ 78,621
Other Amounts Collected for Distribution	58,786
<i>Total Additions</i>	137,407
<b>Deductions</b>	
Distributions to Other Governments	78,989
Distributions on Behalf of Employees	57,744
<i>Total Deductions</i>	136,733
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	674
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	27,801
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	\$ 28,475

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The Village of Bellville (the Village), Richland 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 publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides water and sewer utilities, park operations, and police services. The Village contracts with Jefferson Township and Washington Township to receive fire protection services.

***Public Entity Risk Pools***

The Village participates in Ohio Municipal League Group Rating Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation and the Ohio Plan Risk Management (OPRM), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

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

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

The Village 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

***Street Construction Maintenance and Repair Fund*** The street construction maintenance and repair fund accounts for and reports that portion of the local income tax, State gasoline tax and motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for construction, maintenance, and repair of streets within the Village.

***State Highway Fund*** The state highway fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax and motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for construction, maintenance, and repair of state routes within the Village.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland 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)**

***Cemetery Fund*** The cemetery fund accounts for and reports levied portions of property taxes, sale of grave lots, opening and closing fees, and deed transfers that are committed to operating and maintaining the cemeteries.

***Special Park Fund*** The special park fund accounts for and reports donations, grants and general fund transfers that are committed to maintaining and enhancing the iconic Bandstand at Van Ross Wade park.

***Income Tax Fund*** The income tax fund accounts for and reports a portion of local income tax that is committed to fund maintenance and enlargement of municipal services and facilities.

***Police Levy Fund*** The police levy park fund accounts for and reports levied portions of property taxes, fines and collections from Mayor’s Court and BCI/FBI fingerprinting, grants, donations and general fund transfers that are committed to fund the safety and protection provided by the Police Department.

***Street Levy Fund*** The street levy fund accounts for and reports levied portions of property taxes that are committed to fund construction, reconstruction and resurfacing of streets and bridges.

***Debt Service Funds*** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Village had the following significant Debt Service Funds:

***General Obligation Bond Retirement*** The general obligation bond retirement fund receives transfers from other governmental funds and bond proceeds for repayment of related principal and interest of bonds that are not being paid directly from the respective asset’s fund.

***Note Retirement Fund*** The note retirement fund receives transfers from other governmental funds for repayment of related principal and interest for notes that are not being paid directly from the respective asset’s fund.

***Permanent Funds*** These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Village had the following significant permanent fund:

***Cemetery Endowment Fund*** The cemetery endowment fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Village’s cemetery.

***Enterprise Funds*** These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland 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)**

The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

***Water Fund*** The water fund accounts for the provision of water treatment and distribution to the residents and commercial users located within the Village.

***Sewer Fund*** The sewer fund accounts for the provision of sanitary sewer services to the residents and commercial users within the Village.

***Storm Sewer Fund*** The storm sewer fund accounts for the provision of storm sewer services to the residents and commercial users within the Village.

***Fiduciary Funds*** Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds, investment trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement meeting certain criteria.

Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to report fiduciary activity that is not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Village's custodial funds accounts for fines and collections made through Mayor's Court that are distributed to the State of Ohio and Village Police Levy Fund; these funds also account for the Employee's Health Reimbursement Accounts, and contractor reimbursement of engineering fees.

***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 Village 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 that each fund (except certain custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

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

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland 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)**

***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 Village 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 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

***Deposits and Investments***

The Village'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.

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 a NAV per share that approximates fair value.

***Capital Assets***

The Village 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 SBITAs***

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

The Village 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.

The Village is the transferor in a Public-Public Partnership (as defined by GASB 94) related to a Waste Water Treatment Plant with the Village of Butler under a noncancelable arrangement. Installment disbursements are recognized when they are paid.



**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland 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***

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

***Nonspendable*** The Village classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes nonspendable fund balance includes the nonexpendable 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*** Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution or ordinance). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution or ordinance. 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 Village 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 12.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	1,201,300	1,248,980	47,680
Special Revenue	1,595,005	1,487,887	(107,118)
Debt Service	75,244	5,244	(70,000)
Permanent	-	2,156	2,156
Enterprise	964,500	958,182	(6,318)

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 1,564,350	\$ 1,262,016	\$ 302,334
Special Revenue	1,843,680	1,450,791	392,889
Debt Service	5,244	5,244	-
Permanent	-	-	-
Enterprise	1,116,225	951,066	165,159

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

<b><i>Cash Management Pool:</i></b>	2023
Demand deposits	\$ 2,046,882
Total deposits	2,046,882
Investments	
STAR Ohio	42,188
Total investments	42,188
Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool	\$ 2,089,070

The Village does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2023, the Village is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)**

***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.

At December 31, 2023, all deposits were insured or collateralized, in accordance with Ohio law.

***Investments***

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

**Note 5 – Taxes**

***Property Taxes***

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Council 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 Village. The County is responsible for assessing property and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Village.

***Income Taxes***

The Village levies a municipal income tax of 1 percent on substantially all earned income arising from employment, residency, or business activities within the Village as well as certain income of residents earned outside of the Village.

Employers within the Village withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit the tax to the Village either monthly or quarterly, as required. Corporations and other individual taxpayers pay estimated taxes quarterly and file a declaration annually.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 6 – Risk Management**

***Workers' Compensation***

The Village participates in the Ohio Municipal League Group Rating Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation. The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of reduced premiums for the participants, foster safer working conditions and foster cost-effective claims management skills by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating entities is calculated as one experience and a common premium is applied to all entities in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for all entities in the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated, and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund." This "equity pooling" arrangement insures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Sedgwick Claims Management Services provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

***Risk Pool Membership***

The Village belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management programs 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, 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 has remain unchanged. OPRM had 801 members as of December 31, 2023.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, with the exception of a qualified opinion related to recording premiums and membership fees earned in full as of December 31, 2023. Those premiums and fees should be earned pro-rata over the individual coverage and membership periods of each policy. The financial statements reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2023.

Assets	\$ 23,113,696
Liabilities	( 16,078,587)
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 7,035,109</u>

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

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

Some of the Village 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 Village contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

***Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System***

The Village's full-time Police Officers belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The Village contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 19.5 percent of full-time police members' wages. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

Both OPERS and OP&F offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. OP&F uses a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F is placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

**Note 9 – Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2020 Dodge Ram Note - DOM 2025	\$ 36,561	2.50%
Cemetery Improvement Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2018 - DOM 2028	121,148	4.00%
OPWC Loan #CP04R - DOM 2045	183,333	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP07R - DOM 2036	87,844	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP25Z - DOM 2054	289,657	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP30G - DOM 2024	5,244	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP32P - DOM 2035	35,162	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP34Y - DOM 2037	69,404	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP37W - DOM 2039	122,952	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CT55S - DOM 2036	63,025	0.00%
OWDA Loan #4470 - DOM 2026	57,517	4.49%
OWDA Loan #6694 - DOM 2035	208,387	0.00%
OWDA Loan #6832 - DOM 2045	679,849	3.18%
OWDA Loan #6900 - DOM 2036	209,538	0.00%
OWDA Loan #7156 - DOM 2036	92,370	1.68%
Police Crusier Bond, Series 2019 - DOM 2024	7,078	2.47%
Police Crusier Bond, Series 2021 - DOM 2025	17,823	2.18%
Police Crusier Bond, Series 2022 - DOM 2026	27,115	2.30%
Skid Steer Equipment Bond, Series 2023 - DOM 2028	63,000	3.995%
Total	<u>\$ 2,377,007</u>	

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loans relate to various water and sewer plant projects. The OWDA has approved \$2,047,554.40 in loans to the Village for these projects. The Village will repay the loans in semiannual installments of approximately \$56,700, including interest, over 20 years. Water and sewer receipts collateralize the loan. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loans relate to various road, water, and sewer improvements and rehabilitations throughout the Village. The OPWC has approved \$913,733.59 in loans to the Village for these projects. The Village will repay the interest free loans in semiannual installments of approximately \$22,100, over ten to 30 years.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

**Note 9 – Debt –(Continued)**

The Village issued general obligation bonds to finance the purchase of a skid steer for Village road maintenance and police cruisers for Village safety and protection by the Police Department. The Village will repay the bonds in annual installment payments, including interest, over five to ten years. Police and street receipts are used to repay the bonds issued and taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

The Village issued a general obligation note to finance the purchase of a utility truck for Village road and utility maintenance. The Village will repay the note in annual installment payments from utility receipts of \$18,969, including interest, over five years.

Cemetery Improvement bond anticipation notes, 2018, Cemetery loan was used for the land improvements necessary for a cemetery addition, including excavation and site management cost for pinning grave locations. Annual payments of \$10,391 paid from the Cemetery funds. There will be a balloon payment in 2028 to pay off the notes.

***Amortization***

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

Year Ending December 31:	OPWC Loans	OWDA Loans	General Obligation Bonds	Dodge Ram Note	Cemetery Improvement BANs, 2018
2024	\$ 46,361	\$ 113,493	\$ 40,644	\$ 18,969	\$ 10,391
2025	45,945	113,601	33,566	18,969	10,391
2026	45,945	113,713	24,052	-	10,391
2027	45,945	89,222	14,594	-	10,391
2028	45,945	89,222	14,594	-	10,391
2029-2033	229,725	446,110	-	-	87,177
2034-2038	174,221	297,388	-	-	-
2039-2043	97,627	222,960	-	-	-
2044-2048	64,943	66,890	-	-	-
2049-2053	48,276	-	-	-	-
2054-2058	11,688	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 856,621</u>	<u>\$ 1,552,599</u>	<u>\$ 127,450</u>	<u>\$ 37,938</u>	<u>\$ 139,132</u>

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 10 – Construction and Contractual Commitments**

The Village has a 30-year contractual Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement with the Village of Butler, in which the Village of Butler is providing the Village of Bellville with sanitary sewer treatment service. The Village of Bellville will be responsible for 67.3% of debt and operation and maintenance (OM&R), until the initial year has been established and then responsibility will be determined at an annual meeting, in January, using prior year average daily flows of all users. Management cannot presently confirm amounts until the Village of Butler establishes the initial year. The Village of Bellville did pay invoices from the Village of Butler, which did include a three percent increase, and have requested final determination of the initial year value and average daily flows to determine financial responsibility. Management believes that any refunds would be immaterial, based on information the Village of Butler has provided.

**Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities**

The Village is a plaintiff in a complaint case with the Supreme Court of Ohio. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of this case, management believes that the resolution of this matters will not materially adversely affect the Village’s financial condition.

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Village are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. 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 12 – Fund Balances**

Included in fund balance are amounts the Village cannot spend, including unexpendable 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 facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Corpus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,188	\$ 42,188
Outstanding Encumbrances	1,723	15,974	-	17,697
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ 1,723</u>	<u>\$ 15,974</u>	<u>\$ 42,188</u>	<u>\$ 59,885</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service 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 and permanent funds include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.



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**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland 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*

	General	Special Revenue	Debt Service	Permanent	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>					
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 341,426	\$ 434,334	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 775,760
Municipal Income Tax	558,974	162,013	-	-	720,987
Intergovernmental	295,218	338,399	-	-	633,617
Charges for Services	7,177	50,060	-	-	57,237
Fines, Licenses and Permits	14,643	68,344	-	-	82,987
Earnings on Investments	2,575	1,473	-	569	4,617
Miscellaneous	106,116	3,501	-	-	109,617
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,326,129</u>	<u>1,058,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>2,384,822</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>					
Current:					
Security of Persons and Property	64,336	714,469	-	-	778,805
Public Health Services	-	137,820	-	-	137,820
Leisure Time Activities	232,255	1,935	-	-	234,190
Community Environment	18,532	101,872	-	-	120,404
Transportation	-	383,859	-	-	383,859
General Government	446,181	11,514	-	-	457,695
Capital Outlay	-	69,729	-	-	69,729
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	-	94,521	5,244	-	99,765
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	9,390	-	-	9,390
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>761,304</u>	<u>1,525,109</u>	<u>5,244</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,291,657</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>564,825</u>	<u>(466,985)</u>	<u>(5,244)</u>	<u>569</u>	<u>93,165</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>					
Loans Issued	-	124,441	-	-	124,441
Transfers In	-	430,000	2,622	-	432,622
Transfers Out	(432,622)	-	-	-	(432,622)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(432,622)</u>	<u>554,441</u>	<u>2,622</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,441</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	132,203	87,456	(2,622)	569	217,606
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>515,988</u>	<u>833,698</u>	<u>4,796</u>	<u>42,188</u>	<u>1,396,670</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 648,191</u>	<u>\$ 921,154</u>	<u>\$ 2,174</u>	<u>\$ 42,757</u>	<u>\$ 1,614,276</u>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Proprietary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	Proprietary Fund Types
	Enterprise
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Charges for Services	\$ 779,591
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<i>779,591</i>
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Personal Services	185,935
Employee Fringe Benefits	67,583
Contractual Services	423,697
Supplies and Materials	83,580
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>760,795</i>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<i>18,796</i>
<b>Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</b>	
Loans Issued	289,657
Capital Outlay	(289,657)
Principal Retirement	(107,005)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	(29,139)
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<i>(136,144)</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<i>(117,348)</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<i>512,638</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<i>\$ 395,290</i>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Statement of Additions, Deductions*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Fiduciary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	Other Custodial
<b>Additions</b>	
Fines, Licenses and Permits for Distribution	\$ 80,493
<i>Total Additions</i>	80,493
<b>Deductions</b>	
Distributions to Other Funds	84,998
<i>Total Deductions</i>	84,998
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(4,505)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	32,306
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	\$ 27,801

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The Village of Bellville (the Village), Richland 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 publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides water and sewer utilities, park operations, and police services. The Village contracts with Washington Township to receive fire protection services.

***Public Entity Risk Pools***

The Village also participates in Ohio Municipal League Group Rating Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation and the Ohio Plan Risk Management (OPRM), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities. The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village is financially accountable

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

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

The Village 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

***Street Construction Maintenance and Repair*** This fund receives gasoline tax, permissive sales tax and motor vehicle tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Village streets.

***Cemetery Fund*** This fund receives money from property tax monies, sales of grave lots, and opening and closing of graves. The money is used for any maintenance needed in the cemeteries and to purchase equipment.

***Street Levy Fund*** This fund receives funding from property tax monies restricted for constructing, repairing, and maintaining Village streets.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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

***Police Levy Fund*** This fund receives funding from property tax monies restricted for supplying safety for the residents and safety equipment.

***Debt Service Funds*** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Village had the following significant Debt Service Funds:

***General Obligation Bond Retirement*** The general obligation bond retirement fund receives transfers from other governmental funds and bond proceeds for repayment of related principal and interest.

***Note Retirement Fund*** The note retirement fund receives transfers from other governmental funds and bond proceeds for repayment of related principal and interest.

***Permanent Funds*** These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Village had the following significant permanent fund:

***Cemetery Endowment Fund*** The cemetery endowment fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Village's cemetery.

***Enterprise Funds*** These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

***Water Fund*** The water fund accounts for the provision of water treatment and distribution to the residents and commercial users located within the Village.

***Sewer Fund*** The sewer fund accounts for the provision of sanitary sewer services to the residents and commercial users within the Village.

***Storm Sewer Fund*** The storm sewer fund accounts for charges and services to the residents and cover storm sewer service cost.

***Fiduciary Funds*** Fiduciary funds include custodial funds. Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to report fiduciary activity that is not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Village's custodial funds accounts for fines and collections made through Mayor's Court that are distributed to the State of Ohio and Village Police Levy Fund; these funds also account for the Employee's Health Reimbursement Accounts, and contractor reimbursement of engineering fees.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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

***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 Village 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 that each fund (except certain custodial funds) 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 Village Council 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 Village 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 Village'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.

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

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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

***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***

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

***Fund Balance***

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

***Nonspendable*** The Village classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes nonspendable fund balance includes the nonexpendable 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*** Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution or ordinance). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution or ordinance. 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 Village 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 12.



**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	1,263,759	1,326,129	62,370
Special Revenue	1,631,713	1,612,565	(19,148)
Debt Service	74,942	2,622	(72,320)
Permanent	-	569	569
Enterprise	988,657	1,069,248	80,591
2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 1,306,854	\$ 1,199,047	\$ 107,807
Special Revenue	1,956,635	1,526,394	430,241
Debt Service	5,244	5,244	-
Permanent	-	-	-
Enterprise	1,339,863	1,205,392	134,471

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

	2022
<b><i>Cash Management Pool:</i></b>	
Demand deposits	\$1,995,179
Total deposits	1,995,179
Investments	
STAR Ohio	42,188
Total investments	42,188
Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool	\$2,037,367

The Village does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2022, the Village did not have any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)**

***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 and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

**Note 5 – Taxes**

***Property Taxes***

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Council 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 Village. The County is responsible for assessing property and for billing, collecting, and distributing all property taxes on behalf of the Village.

***Income Taxes***

The Village levies a municipal income tax of one percent on substantially all earned income arising from employment, residency, or business activities within the Village as well as certain income of residents earned outside of the Village.

Employers within the Village withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit the tax to the Village, either monthly or quarterly, as required. Corporations and other individual taxpayers pay estimated taxes quarterly and file a declaration annually.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 6 – Risk Management**

***Workers' Compensation***

The Village participates in the Ohio Municipal League Group Rating Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation. The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of reduced premiums for the participants, foster safer working conditions and foster cost-effective claims management skills by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating entities is calculated as one experience and a common premium is applied to all entities in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for all entities in the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated, and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund." This "equity pooling" arrangement insures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Sedgwick Claims Management Services provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

***Risk Pool Membership***

The Village 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, 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 has remain unchanged. OPRM had 773 members as of December 31, 2022.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2022.

Assets	\$ 21,662,291
Liabilities	<u>(18,158,351)</u>
Members' Equity	<u>\$ 3,503,940</u>

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

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland 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***

Most Village 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 Village contributed an amount equaling 14% percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

***Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System***

The Village's certified full-time Police Officers belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25% percent of their wages. The Village contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 19.5% percent of full-time police members' wages. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

Both OPERS and OP&F offer 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. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

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.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

**Note 9 – Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2022, was as follows:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
2020 Dodge Ram Note - DOM 2025	\$ 54,175	2.50%
Cemetery Improvement Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2018 - DOM 2028	127,306	4.00%
OPWC Loan #CP04R - DOM 2045	195,833	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP07R - DOM 2036	98,385	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP25Z - DOM 2054	289,657	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP30G - DOM 2024	13,109	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP32P - DOM 2035	39,749	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP34Y - DOM 2037	77,412	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP37W - DOM 2039	134,479	0.00%
OPWC Loan #CP500 - DOM 2023	3,964	3.995%
OPWC Loan #CT55S - DOM 2036	70,298	0.00%
OWDA Loan #4470 - DOM 2026	89,084	4.49%
OWDA Loan #6694 - DOM 2035	236,804	0.00%
OWDA Loan #6832 - DOM 2045	713,265	3.18%
OWDA Loan #6900 - DOM 2036	235,730	0.00%
OWDA Loan #7156 - DOM 2036	102,212	1.68%
Police Crusier Bond, Series 2019 - DOM 2024	13,982	2.47%
Police Crusier Bond, Series 2021 - DOM 2025	26,580	2.18%
Police Crusier Bond, Series 2022 - DOM 2026	35,749	2.30%
Total	<u>\$ 2,557,773</u>	

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loans relate to various water and sewer plant projects. The OWDA has approved \$2,047,554.40 in loans to the Village for these projects. The Village will repay the loans in semiannual installments of approximately \$56,700, including interest, over 20 years. Water and sewer receipts collateralize the loan. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loans relate to various road, water, and sewer improvements and rehabilitations throughout the Village. The OPWC has approved loans to the Village for these projects. The Village will repay the interest free loans in semiannual installments of approximately \$22,100, over ten to 30 years.

The Village issued general obligation bonds to finance the purchase of police cruisers for Village safety and protection by the Police Department. The Village's will repay the bonds in annual installment payments, including interest, over five to ten years. Police receipts are used to repay the bonds issued and taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

The Village issued a general obligation note to finance the purchase of a utility truck for Village road and utility maintenance. The Village will repay the note in annual installment payments from utility of \$18,969, including interest, over five years.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

**Note 9 – Debt – (Continued)**

Cemetery Improvement bond anticipation notes, 2018, Cemetery loan was used for the land improvements necessary for a cemetery addition, including excavation and site management cost for pinning grave locations. Annual payments of \$10,391 paid from the Cemetery funds. There will be a balloon payment in 2028 to pay off the notes.

***Amortization***

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

Year Ending December 31:	OPWC Loans	OWDA Loans	General Obligation Bonds	Dodge Ram Note	Cemetery Improvement BANs, 2018
2023	\$ 44,176	\$ 113,390	\$ 26,223	\$ 18,969	\$ 10,391
2024	47,683	113,493	26,223	18,969	10,391
2025	48,567	113,601	18,972	18,969	10,391
2026	45,945	113,713	9,458	-	10,391
2027	45,945	89,222	-	-	10,391
2028-2032	229,725	446,109	-	-	97,558
2033-2037	211,489	364,332	-	-	-
2038-2042	109,154	178,370	-	-	-
2043-2047	77,442	111,481	-	-	-
2048-2052	48,276	-	-	-	-
2053-2057	10,484	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 918,886</u>	<u>\$ 1,643,711</u>	<u>\$ 80,876</u>	<u>\$ 56,907</u>	<u>\$ 149,513</u>

**Note 10 – Construction and Contractual Commitments**

The Village has a 30-year contractual Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement with the Village of Butler, in which the Village of Butler is providing the Village of Bellville with sanitary sewer treatment service. The Village of Bellville will be responsible for 67.3% of debt and operation and maintenance (OM&R), until the initial year has been established and then responsibility will be determined at an annual meeting, in January, using prior year average daily flows of all users. Management cannot presently confirm amounts until the Village of Butler establishes the initial year. The Village of Bellville did pay invoices from the Village of Butler, which did include a three percent increase, and have requested final determination of the initial year value and average daily flows to determine financial responsibility. Management believes that any refunds would be immaterial, based on information the Village of Butler has provided.

**Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities**

The Village may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the Village's financial condition.

**Village of Bellville, Ohio**  
*Richland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 12 – Fund Balances**

Included in fund balance are amounts the Village cannot spend, including the unexpendable 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 facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Corpus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,188	\$ 42,188
Outstanding Encumbrances	5,121	1,285	-	6,406
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ 5,121</u>	<u>\$ 1,285</u>	<u>\$ 42,188</u>	<u>\$ 48,594</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service 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 and permanent funds include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

**Note 13 – Subsequent Events**

Subsequent to the December 31, 2022 date of the financial statements presented within, an Equipment Bond, Series 2023 in the amount of \$63,000 was issued for the purchase of a Kubota skid steer for the Utility department.

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

Village of Bellville  
Richland County  
142 Park Place  
Bellville, OH 44813

To the Village Council:

We have audited, in accordance with 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, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type of the Village of Bellville, Richland County, (the Village) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 30, 2024, wherein we noted the Village followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 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 Village'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 Village's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village'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 Village'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 a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2023-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.



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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Village'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*.

We also noted certain other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Village's management in a separate letter dated September 30, 2024.

***Village's Response to Finding***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Village's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The Village's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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



***Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.***  
September 30, 2024

*Village of Bellville*  
*Richland County*

Schedule of Findings  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

**Findings Related to the Financial Statements  
Required to be Reported in Accordance with GAGAS**

**Finding Number: 2023-001 – Material Weakness**

**Financial Reporting - Posting Receipts and Disbursements**

The Village should have procedures and controls in place to prevent and detect errors in financial reporting. During 2023 and 2022, receipts and disbursements were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

During 2022:

- Ohio Public Works Commission loan proceeds and capital outlay were not posted to the financial statements in the amounts of \$80,081 in the Street Levy fund and \$ 289,657 in the Storm Sewer Fund;
- The loan proceeds in the amount of \$44,360 moved from Other Financing Uses in Police Levy Fund to Loan Issued in Police Levy Fund;
- Loan payment in the Street Levy fund in the amount of \$10,352 added to Principal payments and reclassified from Capital Outlay;
- Grant funds in the General Fund for \$102,177 was posted to Miscellaneous Revenue instead of Intergovernmental Revenue.
- Grant funds in the Street Construction fund for \$75,564 were posted to Miscellaneous Revenue instead of Intergovernmental Revenue.
- Revenues in the Police Levy Fund for \$3,860 was posted to Other Financing Sources instead of Miscellaneous Revenue.
- Special Revenue Fund (Income Tax Fund) Adjustment made to move \$53,628 to Intergovernmental funds in the following funds in the amounts of \$27,012 General Fund, \$9,239 Cemetery Fund, \$ 11,141 Police Fund and \$6,236 Street Fund.
- A correction of an error related to Municipal Income Tax revenues was posted to Transfers -In in the General Fund and Transfer-Out into the Municipal Income Tax Fund in the amount of \$21,754; and
- There is a donation of \$15,000 incorrectly posted to the Street Construction, Maintenance and Repair Fund instead of the General Fund. To correct the mis-posting a transfer out of the Street, Construction, and Repair Fund and Transfer-In into the General Fund was made by the fiscal officer.

During 2023:

- Grant funds for \$17,760, in the Police Levy fund were posted to Miscellaneous Revenue instead of Intergovernmental Revenue;
- Contract Revenue in the Police Levy fund reclassified \$34,647 from Miscellaneous Revenue to Charges for Services; and
- Prior Audit Adjustments were not made during prior audit in the General Fund: decrease of \$15,877, Special Revenue Street fund: decrease of \$ 11,539, and Fiduciary fund increase of \$27,416.

*Village of Bellville*  
*Richland County*

Schedule of Findings  
December 31, 2023 and 2022

<p><b>Findings Related to the Financial Statements</b> <b>Required to be Reported in Accordance with GAGAS – (Continued)</b></p>
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**Finding Number: 2023-001 – Material Weakness – (Continued)**

Not posting receipts and disbursements correctly resulted in the financial statements requiring reclassification and adjusting entries. The financial statements and Village's records reflect all reclassifications and adjustments.

Also, during 2023 and 2022 aspects of the notes to the financial statements were corrected from the Hinkle filing to agree to the financial statements in the audit report and to include all necessary note disclosures. We made corrections to the following note disclosures:

- Summary of Significant Accounting Policies Footnote
- Budgetary Footnote
- Deposit and Investments
- Risk Management
- Fund Balances
- Budgetary Footnote
- Debt

We recommend the Fiscal Officer refer to the Village Officers' Handbook, Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) Manual and Auditor of State guidance to determine the proper establishment of disbursement accounts and proper posting. Also, to help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements and notes to the financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all receipts and disbursements are properly identified and classified on the financial statements. We recommend the Village use the most current available templates for financial statements and notes to the financial statements on the Auditor of State's website <http://www.ohioauditor.gov/references/shells/regulatory.html> to prepare an accurate annual financial report.

**Management's Response:**

See Corrective Action Plan

**VILLAGE OF BELLVILLE**  
**RICHLAND COUNTY**  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR FINDINGS – Prepared by Management

FINDING NUMBER	FINDING SUMMARY	STATUS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
2021-001	Audit Reclassifications and Notes to the Financial Statements	Not Corrected	None

**VILLAGE OF BELLVILLE  
RICHLAND COUNTY**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN – PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

FINDING NUMBER	PLANNED CORRECTIVE ACTION	ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE	RESPONSIBLE CONTACT PERSON
2023-001	Prior period audit adjustments for 2018-2019 audit and 2020-2021 audit are reflected within this report and they do not reflect on the current fiscal officer, yet are necessary to present accurately. Fiscal Officer will follow the guidance obtained during the current audit and Village Officer’s Handbook to post Village accounting activity.	Immediately	Amanda Perry, Fiscal Officer

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**VILLAGE OF BELLVILLE**

**RICHLAND 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 12/3/2024**

65 East State 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)