

**VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON
MONROE COUNTY**

**REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**



GUEYE & ASSOCIATES, CPA, INC.

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Village Council
Village of Clarington
210 Neff Street
Powhatan Point, OH 43942

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Village of Clarington, Monroe County, prepared by Gueye & Associates, CPA, 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 Clarington is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 17, 2024

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**VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON
MONROE COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Village of Clarington
Monroe County
PO Box 215
Clarington, Ohio 43915

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 Clarington, Monroe County, Ohio (the Village), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental and proprietary fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023, and December 31, 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 and proprietary fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and December 31, 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 December 31, 2022, or the changes in financial position, or, where applicable, 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 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.

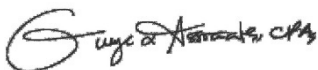
In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- 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 December 1, 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.



Columbus, Ohio
December 1, 2024

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe 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	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 7,217	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,217
Intergovernmental	26,715	29,594	-	56,309
Charges for Services	75	6,600	-	6,675
Earnings on Investments	4,894	730	-	5,624
Miscellaneous	41,163	1,558	-	42,721
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>80,064</u>	<u>38,482</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>118,546</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
Public Health Services	-	15,070	-	15,070
Leisure Time Activities	11,058	-	-	11,058
Transportation	-	3,052	-	3,052
General Government	95,769	-	-	95,769
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>106,827</u>	<u>18,122</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,949</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(26,763)	20,360	-	(6,403)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,190,107</u>	<u>60,867</u>	<u>90,059</u>	<u>1,341,033</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 1,163,344</u>	<u>\$ 81,227</u>	<u>\$ 90,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,334,630</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Combined 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 Type</u>
	<u>Enterprise</u>
Operating Cash Receipts	
Charges for Services	\$ 375,434
Miscellaneous	5,882
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>381,316</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Personal Services	192,974
Employee Fringe Benefits	29,518
Contractual Services	30,029
Supplies and Materials	64,374
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>316,895</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<u>64,421</u>
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
Principal Retirement	(19,317)
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(19,317)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	45,104
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,109,091</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,154,195</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The Village of Clarington (the Village), Monroe 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 general government services, water and sewer utilities, and contracts with the Monroe County Sheriff's department to provide security of persons and property.

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, and a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary 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 - The street construction maintenance and repair 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 streets within the Village.

Cemetery Operating Fund - This fund receives fees for opening cemetery plots and maintaining the cemetery.

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. The earnings are used for maintaining and preserving the cemetery.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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.

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 Board 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 be budgeted annually.

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

Estimated Resources - Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus 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. The Village did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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.

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 Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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 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 unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Village and 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). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned - Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The 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 11.

Note 3 – Compliance

Contrary to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), the Village made expenditures without prior certifications.

Contrary to the Ohio Administrative Code 117-2-2(C)(1), the Village did not integrate its budgetary accounts, at the level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	Receipts	Receipts	
General	\$200,000	\$80,064	(\$119,936)
Special Revenue	35,000	38,482	3,482
Enterprise	336,000	381,316	45,316
Total	<u>\$571,000</u>	<u>\$499,862</u>	<u>(\$71,138)</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation	Budgetary	Variance
	Authority	Expenditures	
General	\$600,000	\$106,827	\$493,173
Special Revenue	102,000	18,122	83,878
Enterprise	828,000	336,212	491,788
Total	<u>\$1,530,000</u>	<u>\$461,161</u>	<u>\$1,068,839</u>

Note 5 – 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:

	2023
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	\$621,917
Certificates of deposit	700,708
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	<u>1,166,200</u>
Total deposits	<u>\$2,488,825</u>

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Village, or by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 6 – 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.

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

Note 7 – Risk Management

The Village is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Village'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, (the latest information available):

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 43,996,442
Actuarial liabilities	\$19,743,401

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Four (4) 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.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Social Security

Other Village 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 Village contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers 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. 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.

Note 10 – Debt

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

	Principal	Interest Rate
Ohio Public Works Commissions Loan #CT69H	\$86,365	0%
Total	<u>\$86,365</u>	

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loans relate to street resurfacing, a waterline extension for Sykes Ridge, and a water system replacement project. The loans will be repaid in semiannual installments over 20 years. The Village's taxing authority collateralized the loan relating to street resurfacing. Water receipts collateralize the loans relating to the waterline extension and water system replacement projects. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OPWC debt service requirements.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	OPWC CT69H
2024	\$12,338
2025	\$12,338
2026	\$12,338
2027-2031	49,352
Total	<u>\$86,365</u>

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Village cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies which cannot be spent for five years and 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:

		Special		
Fund Balances	General	Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Unclaimed Monies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Corpus	-	-	90,059	90,059
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 90,059</u>	<u>\$ 90,059</u>

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

Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. The Village will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe 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	Permanent	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 8,712	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,712
Intergovernmental	19,416	48,502	-	67,918
Charges for Services	75	9,500	-	9,575
Earnings on Investments	4,673	151	-	4,824
Miscellaneous	169,648	4,534	-	174,182
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>202,524</u>	<u>62,687</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>265,211</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
Public Health Services	-	53,721	-	53,721
Leisure Time Activities	25,432	-	-	25,432
Transportation	-	50,207	-	50,207
General Government	71,023	-	-	71,023
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>96,455</u>	<u>103,928</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,383</u>
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under)</i> <i>Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>106,069</u>	<u>(41,241)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,828</u>
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Capital Assets	-	4,000	-	4,000
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	106,069	(37,241)	-	68,828
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,084,038</u>	<u>98,108</u>	<u>90,059</u>	<u>1,272,205</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 1,190,107</u>	<u>\$ 60,867</u>	<u>\$ 90,059</u>	<u>\$ 1,341,033</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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

	<u>Proprietary Fund Type</u>
	<u>Enterprise</u>
Operating Cash Receipts	
Charges for Services	\$ 359,198
Miscellaneous	4,984
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>364,182</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Personal Services	152,984
Employee Fringe Benefits	23,541
Contractual Services	40,830
Supplies and Materials	55,377
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>272,732</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<u>91,450</u>
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
Principal Retirement	(37,561)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	(824)
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(38,385)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	53,065
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,056,026</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,109,091</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The Village of Clarington (the Village), Monroe 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 general government services, water and sewer utilities, and contracts with the Monroe County Sheriff's department to provide security of persons and property.

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, and a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary 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 - The street construction maintenance and repair 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 streets within the Village.

Cemetery Operating Fund - This fund receives fees for opening cemetery plots and maintaining the cemetery.

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 - This fund receives interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement. These earnings are used for maintaining and preserving the cemetery.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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.

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 Board 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 be budgeted annually.

Appropriations - Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Village Council must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. The County Budget Commission must also approve the annual appropriation measure. Appropriations lapse at year end.

Estimated Resources - Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus 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. The Village did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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.

Capital Asset

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 Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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 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 unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Village and 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). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned - Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as *restricted* or *committed*. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not included in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The 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.

Note 3 – Compliance

Contrary to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.36, the Village made expenditures without prior certifications.

Contrary to the Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.39, the Village made expenditures without prior certifications.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2022 follows:

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$200,000	\$202,524	\$2,524
Special Revenue	\$54,100	\$66,687	\$12,587
Enterprise	\$371,500	\$364,182	(\$7,318)
Total	<u>\$625,600</u>	<u>\$633,393</u>	<u>\$7,793</u>

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$500,000	96,455	\$403,545
Special Revenue	\$111,000	103,928	7,072
Enterprise	\$808,000	311,117	496,883
Total	<u>\$1,419,000</u>	<u>\$511,500</u>	<u>\$907,500</u>

Note 5 – 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
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	\$587,670
Certificates of deposit	\$697,058
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	1,165,396
Total deposits	<u>2,450,124</u>

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Village, or by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 6 – 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.

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

Note 7 – Risk Management

The Village is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Village'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, (the latest information available):

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 43,996,442
Actuarial liabilities	\$19,743,401

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some 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

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Social Security

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

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers 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. For calendar year 2022, 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 2022, 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.

Note 10 – Debt

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

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
Ohio Public Works Commissions Loan #CT65C	\$6,979	2%
Ohio Public Works Commissions Loan #CT69H	\$98,703	0%
Total	<u>\$105,682</u>	

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loans relate to street resurfacing, a waterline extension for Sykes Ridge, and a water system replacement project. The loans will be repaid in semiannual installments over 20 years. The Village's taxing authority collateralized the loan relating to street resurfacing. Water receipts collateralize the loans relating to the waterline extension and water system replacement projects. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OPWC debt service requirements.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31	OPWC CT65C	OPWC CT69H
2023	\$ 6,979	\$ 12,338
2024	-	12,338
2025	-	12,338
2026	-	12,338
2027	-	12,338
2028-2023	-	37,013
Total	<u>\$ 6,979</u>	<u>\$ 98,703</u>

Village of Clarington, Ohio
Monroe County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 11 – Correction of Prior Year Debt Balances

In the prior year, debt balances were understated due to advance payments that were not made but were accounted for, and resulted in the following corrections:

Description	Prior Year Balances	Debit	Credit	Restated Balances
OPWC CT65C	\$ 13,534	\$ -	\$ 6,330	\$ 19,864
OPWC CT69H	111,039	-	12,339	123,378
	\$ 124,573	\$ -	\$ 18,669	\$ 143,242

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Village cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies which cannot be spent for five years and 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:				
Unclaimed Monies	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Corpus			90,059	90,059
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 90,059</u>	<u>\$ 90,059</u>

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

Note 13 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2022 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2022, the Village received COVID-19 funding. The Village will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.



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

Village of Clarington
Monroe County
PO Box 215
Clarington, Ohio 43915

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 and the proprietary fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Village of Clarington, Monroe County (the Village) and have issued our report thereon dated December 1, 2024, wherein we noted the Village 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 Village's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes 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 Entity'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 No. 2023-001 through 2023-003 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

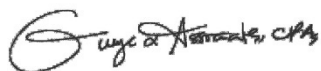
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Village's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2023-001, 2023-002, and 2023-004.

Village's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Village's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings. The Village'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

This 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.



Columbus, Ohio
December 1, 2024

**VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON
MONROE 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

Noncompliance and Material Weakness: Expenditures made without prior certifications

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

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

- If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made ("then") and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Village can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Village has 30 days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution. Amounts less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of the expenditures by the Village.
- Blanket Certificates. Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates if the Village has approved their use and established maximum amounts.
- Super Blanket Certificates. The Village may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonable predictable operation expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one so-called "super blanket" certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line-item appropriation.

The Village did not certify the availability of funds prior to the purchase commitment for 100% of expenditures tested for 2023 and 2022. For these items the Village also did not prepare blanket certificates, super blankets certificates or then and now certificates in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

We recommend the Village certify purchases to which Section 5705.41(D) applies. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should sign the certification at the time the Village incurs a commitment and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Fiscal Officer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper code, to reduce available appropriations.

Client Response: We will begin to use the purchase order system, when we return to the Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) system.

**VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON
MONROE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022
(Continued)**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2023-002

Noncompliance and Material Weakness: Integration of budgetary accounts with accounting system

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-02(C)(1) states in part: "All local public offices should integrate the budgetary accounts, at the legal level of control or lower, into the financial accounting system. This means designing an accounting system to provide ongoing and timely information on unrealized budgetary receipts and remaining uncommitted balances of appropriations."

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

The Village Clerk/Treasurer did not maintain a receipts or appropriations ledger. Therefore, budgeted receipts, and any amendments made to them, were not posted to a receipt ledger. Also, the Village Clerk/Treasurer did not post appropriations to an appropriation ledger. By not maintaining a receipts and appropriation ledger, Village Council does not have an effective system to monitor budget versus actual receipts and disbursements.

We recommend the Village Clerk/Treasurer maintain a receipt and appropriation ledger and record all estimated receipts per the Official Certificate of Estimated Resources and appropriations approved by Village Council. The Village Clerk/Treasurer should periodically present budget versus actual information to the Village Council. These procedures will help ensure more useful comparisons of budget versus actual activity, as well as provide management with accurate monitoring tools throughout the year.

Client Response: We will maintain proper ledgers once we return to the UAN system. Quickbooks does not have proper reports.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-003

Material Weakness: Maintaining of appropriate accounting system

All local public offices shall maintain an accounting system and accounting records sufficient to enable the public office to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, record and report its transactions, maintain accountability for the related assets, document compliance with finance-related legal and contractual requirements and prepare financial statements required.

All local public offices may maintain accounting records in a manual or computerized format. The records used should be based on the nature of operations and services that public office provides, and should consider the degree of automation and other factors. Such records should include the following:

1. Cash journal, which typically contains the following information: The amount, date, receipt number, check number, account code, purchase order number, and any other information necessary to properly classify the transaction.
2. Receipts ledger, which may assemble and classify disbursements or expenditure/expenses into separate accounts for each type of receipt of each fund the public office uses. The amount, date, name of the payor, purpose, receipt number, and other information required for the transactions to be recorded on this ledger.

**VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON
MONROE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022
(Continued)**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)
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FINDING NUMBER 2023-003 (Continued)

Material Weakness : Maintaining of appropriate accounting system (Continued)

3. Appropriation ledger, which may assemble and classify disbursements or expenditure/expenses into separate accounts for, at a minimum, each account listed in the appropriation resolution. The amount, fund, date, check number, purchase order number, encumbrance amount, unencumbered balance, amount of disbursement, uncommitted balance of appropriations and any other information required may be entered in the appropriate columns.

The Village did not maintain a cash journal, receipt ledger, or appropriation ledger. Only a general ledger, deposit detail, and check detail report were maintained for both 2023 and 2022.

We recommend that the Village Clerk/Treasurer maintain a cash journal, receipt ledger, and appropriation ledger in accordance with the available authoritative resources and maintain the ledgers at the fund, function, object level of reporting. The receipt ledger and the appropriation ledger should be balanced with the cash journal on a monthly basis and used to prepare the year-end annual financial reports. The annual financial report should be presented using the proper receipt and expenditure classifications according to the Village Officer's Handbook.

Client Response: We will maintain proper ledgers once we return to the UAN system. Quickbooks does not have proper reports.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-004

Non-Compliance: ORC Section 5705.39 – Appropriations exceeding estimated resources

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 provides in part that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total estimated resources. No appropriation measure is effective until the county auditor files a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund do not exceed the total official estimate or amended official estimate

2023 Appropriations for the Street Maintenance and Cemetery funds exceeded estimated resources in violation of Ohio Revised Code 5705.39 by \$6,630 and \$2,383, respectively. In addition, 2022 appropriations for the Cares funds exceeded estimated resources in violation of Ohio Revised Code 5705.39 by \$388.

Failure to limit the appropriations by the estimated resources could result in overspending and actual expenditures in excess of approved appropriations, as well as negative cash balances.

The Village should ensure that appropriations do not exceed the estimated resources in the future.

Client Response: We will ensure appropriations do not exceed estimated resources.

**VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON
MONROE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2021-001	Non-Compliance with ORC 5705.41(D) - Expenditures made without prior certifications	Not Corrected	Reissued. Repeated as Finding # 2023-001
2021-002	Material Weakness – Integration of budgetary accounts with accounting system	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding #2023-002
2021-003	Material Weakness – Maintaining of appropriate accounting system	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding # 2023-003
2021-004	Material Weakness – Incorrect posting of receipts and expenditures	Corrected	N/A

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VILLAGE OF CLARINGTON

MONROE 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 12/31/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

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www.ohioauditor.gov