



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**WALNUT TOWNSHIP
GALLIA COUNTY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Walnut Township
Gallia County
2161 Flagspring Road
Patriot, Ohio 45658

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Walnut Township, Gallia County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 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 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

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

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

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 17, 2025, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 17, 2025

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Walnut Township*Gallia County, Ohio**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	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$13,333	\$2,049		\$15,382
Intergovernmental	35,076	158,657		193,733
Earnings on Investments	973	1,692		2,665
Miscellaneous	343	300		643
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>49,725</u>	<u>162,698</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>212,423</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	43,890	47,165		91,055
Public Works	0	162,521		162,521
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	0	12,000		12,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	84	1,113		1,197
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>43,974</u>	<u>222,799</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>266,773</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>5,751</u>	<u>(60,101)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(54,350)</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Other Financing Sources	<u>1,625</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>1,625</u>
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>1,625</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,625</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>7,376</u>	<u>(60,101)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(52,725)</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>92,424</u>	<u>309,851</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>402,334</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$99,800</u></u>	<u><u>\$249,750</u></u>	<u><u>\$59</u></u>	<u><u>\$349,609</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Walnut Township, Gallia County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with Harrison and Greenfield Township to provide fire services and rescue services.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

FEMA Fund The FEMA fund accounts for FEMA funding for eligible response and recovery efforts associated with domestic major disasters and emergencies.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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, function or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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 Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for material items that should have been encumbered.

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Fund Balance

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

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

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

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

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

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	Receipts	Receipts	
General	\$46,636	\$51,350	\$4,714
Special Revenue	155,770	162,698	6,928
Debt Service	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$202,406</u>	<u>\$214,048</u>	<u>\$11,642</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation	Budgetary	Variance
	Authority	Expenditures	
General	\$65,747	\$43,974	\$21,773
Special Revenue	353,050	222,799	130,251
Debt Service	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$418,797</u>	<u>\$266,773</u>	<u>\$152,024</u>

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	<u>2023</u>
Demand deposits	\$349,609

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) (the Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Walnut Township 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 actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and investments	\$33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,885,549

Workers' Compensation

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

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses and injuries to employees.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Social Security

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

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

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which includes 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 was 0 percent and 2 percent for members in the Combined Plan during calendar year 2023. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS Members in the member-directed plan was a 4.0 percent during calendar year 2023.

Walnut Township
Gallia 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>
23,780	4.25%
<u>\$23,780</u>	

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	General Obligation Notes - Grader
2024	12,961
2025	12,172
Total	<u>\$25,133</u>

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the 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. There were no outstanding encumbrances at year end.

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, and capital projects funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

Walnut Township*Gallia County, Ohio**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	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$13,650	\$6,049		\$19,699
Intergovernmental	33,949	254,021		287,970
Earnings on Investments	378	0		378
Miscellaneous	140	50		190
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>48,117</u>	<u>260,120</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>308,237</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	36,817	50,934		87,751
Public Works	0	194,538		194,538
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	0	12,000		12,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	0	1,714		1,714
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>36,817</u>	<u>259,186</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>296,003</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	11,300	934	0	12,234
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>81,124</u>	<u>308,917</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>390,100</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$92,424</u>	<u>\$309,851</u>	<u>\$59</u>	<u>\$402,334</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Walnut Township, Gallia County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with Harrison and Greenfield Township to provide fire services and rescue services.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

ARPA Fund The ARPA fund accounts for and reports ARPA funding disbursed by the Ohio Office of Budget & Management (OBM). This act is to help emerge from the public health crisis.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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, function or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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 Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. Management has included audit adjustments in the accompanying budgetary presentations for material items that should have been encumbered.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Fund Balance

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

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

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Restricted Fund balance is *restricted* when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

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

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

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	Receipts	Receipts	
General	\$42,583	\$48,117	\$5,534
Special Revenue	201,838	260,120	58,282
Debt Service	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$244,421</u>	<u>\$308,237</u>	<u>\$63,816</u>

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation	Budgetary	Variance
	Authority	Expenditures	
General	\$76,769	\$36,817	\$39,952
Special Revenue	339,681	259,186	80,495
Debt Service	0	0	0
Total	<u>\$416,450</u>	<u>\$296,003</u>	<u>\$120,447</u>

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	<u>2022</u>
Demand deposits	\$402,334

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) (the Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Walnut Township 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 actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

Walnut Township
Gallia County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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

Workers' Compensation

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

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses and injuries to employees.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

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

Social Security

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

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

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which includes 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 Combine 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 a 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Walnut Township
Gallia 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>
35,780	4.25%
<u>\$35,780</u>	

Amortization

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

<u>Year Ending December 31:</u>	<u>General Obligation Notes - Grader</u>
2023	\$13,206
2024	12,691
2025	<u>12,172</u>
Total	<u>\$38,069</u>

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the 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. There were no outstanding encumbrances at year end.

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, and capital projects funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER

65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

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

Walnut Township
Gallia County
2161 Flagspring Road
Patriot, Ohio 45658

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of Walnut Township, Gallia County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated March 17, 2025, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2023-003 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed 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 and 2023-002.

Township's Response to Findings

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

Purpose of this Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 17, 2025

**WALNUT TOWNSHIP
GALLIA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 133 authorizes certain methods by which subdivisions may incur debt.

Ohio Rev. Code § 133.22 provides a subdivision may issue anticipatory-securities if it meets the requirements outlined in the statute.

Ohio Rev. Code § 133.10 permits a subdivision to issue anticipation securities in anticipation of current property tax revenues or in anticipation of current revenues in and for any fiscal year from any source or combination of sources, including distributions of any federal or state monies, other than the proceeds of property taxes levied by the subdivision.

Ohio Rev. Code § 133.15 provides a subdivision is authorized to issue securities for the purpose of paying all or any portion of the costs of any permanent improvement that the subdivision is authorized, alone or in cooperation with other persons, to acquire, improve, or construct.

Ohio Rev. Code § 133.18 provides the taxing authority of a subdivision, may by legislation submit to the electors of the subdivision the question of issuing any general obligation bonds, for one purpose, that the subdivision has power or authority to issue.

During 2023 and 2022, the Township made principal payments on outstanding promissory notes in the amount of \$12,000 each year. The promissory notes were used by the Township to purchase a road grader. Because this type of debt is a promissory note between a banking institution and the Township, the note does not meet the requirements set forth in the Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 133.

This type of debt is not authorized in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 133. The Township had no statutory authority to incur debt through either installment loans or promissory notes with any banking institutions. Inadequate policies and procedures related to debt issuance can result in illegal expenditures by the Township.

The Township should consult with legal counsel before incurring debt to determine if the debt is authorized by statute.

Officials' Response: The Township will consult with legal counsel moving forward.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-002

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) provides that no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer certifying that the amount required to meet the obligation or, in the case of a continuing contract to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing fiscal year, the amount required to meet the obligation in the fiscal year in which the contract is made has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

**WALNUT TOWNSHIP
GALLIA 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 (Continued)

Noncompliance - Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that treasurer'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 Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively.

1. "Then and Now" certificate – If the chief fiscal officer can certify both at the time the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collections, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Board of Trustees can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Board of Trustees has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts less than \$100 in counties and less than \$3,000 in all other subdivisions or taxing units may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.

2. Blanket Certificate – The auditor or fiscal officer may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money, not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority, against any specific line-item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line-item appropriation.
3. Super Blanket Certificate – The Governing Board 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, gasoline, food items, roadway materials, utilities, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. This certification is not to extend beyond the current fiscal year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line-item appropriation.

Due to deficiencies in internal controls, 20% and 43% of the transactions tested at 2023 and 2022 year-end, respectively, were not certified by the fiscal officer at the time of commitment was incurred, and there was no evidence the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to help ensure purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Fiscal Officer should certify the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used. The Township should adopt and approve a maximum amount for the use of blanket certificates.

**WALNUT TOWNSHIP
GALLIA 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 (Continued)

Noncompliance - Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) (Continued)

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will talk to the Trustees about making sure there is a PO in place before purchasing anything.

FINDING NUMBER 2023-003

Material Weakness

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

As a result of the audit procedures performed, the financial statements had the following errors that required audit adjustment or reclassification:

For the year ended December 31, 2023:

- General Fund Intergovernmental receipts were understated, and other Financial Sources were overstated \$4,000.
- General Fund General Government expenditures were understated, and Human Services expenditures were overstated \$4,067.
- General Fund Taxes receipts were understated \$9,022, Intergovernmental receipts were understated \$2,781, Miscellaneous receipts were understated \$38, Earnings on Investment receipts were understated \$238, Interest expenditures were understated \$84, and General Government expenditures were understated \$3,415 due to unposted receipts and disbursements as identified in the bank reconciliation.
- Fire Fund Taxes receipts were understated \$3,873 and General Government expenditures were understated \$97 due to unposted receipts and disbursements as identified in the bank reconciliation.
- The FEMA fund was incorrectly classified as a Capital Projects Fund rather than a Special Revenue Fund. Special Revenue – FEMA Fund beginning balance and Public Works expenditures were both understated \$82,670 while Capital Projects – FEMA Fund beginning balance and Other Financing Uses were both overstated \$82,670.

For the year ended December 31, 2022

- General Fund Intergovernmental receipts were understated, and Other Financing Sources were overstated \$4,000.
- General Fund General Government expenditures were understated, and Human Service expenditures were overstated \$2,285.
- General Fund Intergovernmental receipts were understated \$1,542, Earnings on Investment receipts were understated \$378, and General Government expenditures were overstated \$6 due to unposted receipts and disbursements as identified in the bank reconciliation.
- ARPA Fund Intergovernmental receipts were understated \$193 due to an unposted receipt as identified in the bank reconciliation.

**WALNUT TOWNSHIP
GALLIA COUNTY**

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

<p>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</p>

FINDING NUMBER 2023-003 (Continued)

Material Weakness (Continued)

- ARPA Fund Other Expenditures were overstated, and Public Works expenditures were understated \$98,679.
- The FEMA Fund was incorrectly classified as a Capital Projects Fund rather than a Special Revenue Fund. Special Revenue – FEMA Fund beginning balance was understated and Capital Projects – FEMA Fund beginning balance was overstated \$82,670.

The financial statements have been adjusted for the errors listed above. The township has also made corrections to the accounting system.

The Township Fiscal Officer should review the Township handbook for guidance on receipt and disbursement classifications.

Officials' Response: The Fiscal Officer will review the Township Handbook for guidance.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



WALNUT TOWNSHIP

GALLIA 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 4/15/2025

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