



**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
Regular Audit
For the Years Ended December 31, 2020 and 2019**

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Marietta, OH 45750
740 373 0056

1907 Grand Central Ave.
Vienna, WV 26105
304 422 2203

150 W. Main St., #A
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KEITH FABER



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Board of Trustees
Big Walnut Joint Fire District
P.O. Box 217
Marengo, Ohio 43334

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Big Walnut Joint Fire District, Morrow County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020. 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 Big Walnut Joint Fire District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

October 05, 2021

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**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

August 27, 2021

Big Walnut Joint Fire District
Morrow County
P.O. Box 217
Marengo, OH 43334

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type, as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and related notes of Big Walnut Joint Fire District, Morrow County, Ohio (the District).

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit; 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the District's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the District prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the District does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

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* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the 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, 2020 and 2019, and related notes of Big Walnut Joint Fire District, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 12 to the financial statements in 2020 and Note 11 to the financial statements in 2019, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. As discussed in Note 14 to the 2020 financial statements, the District adopted a change in accounting principle to their cash basis reporting model. We did not modify our opinions regarding these matters.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 27, 2021, on our consideration of the District'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. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on 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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Perry & Associates

**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 351,427	\$ -	\$ 351,427
Charges for Services	81,643	-	81,643
CARES ACT	-	491,606	491,606
Intergovernmental	25,244	-	25,244
Earnings on Investments	534	-	534
Donation	5,538	-	5,538
Miscellaneous	37,940	-	37,940
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>502,326</u>	<u>491,606</u>	<u>993,932</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
Salaries	21,751	94,012	115,763
Fringe Benefits	2,370		2,370
Materials and Supplies	6,700	38,375	45,075
Equipment	13,158	343,686	356,844
Utilities	19,905	-	19,905
Insurance	24,385	-	24,385
Professional Services	62,798	1,768	64,566
Property Services/Repairs and Maintenance	69,094	-	69,094
Other	17,901	-	17,901
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	72,367	-	72,367
Interest and Fiscal Charges	2,054	-	2,054
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>312,483</u>	<u>477,841</u>	<u>790,324</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	189,843	13,765	203,608
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated, See note 13)</i>	<u>478,502</u>	-	<u>478,502</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 668,345</u>	<u>\$ 13,765</u>	<u>\$ 682,110</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Big Walnut Joint Fire District, Morrow County, Ohio (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one Trustee. Those subdivisions are Bennington Township, Chester Township, Village of Marengo, and Village of Chesterville. In addition, a representative is appointed from Harmony Township which contracts with Big Walnut Joint Fire District. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside of the District.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

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

Fund Accounting

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

Special Revenue Fund 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 District had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

CARES ACT Fund This fund accounts for the CARES Act funds which were received by Bennington Township, Chester Township, Village of Marengo, Village of Chesterville and Harmony Township and sub-granted to Big Walnut Joint Fire District.

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 (D). 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 (D) permit.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The District maintains demand deposit accounts and a savings account.

Capital Assets

The District 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 District must observe constraints imposed upon the use of its governmental-fund resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The District 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 District and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District 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.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

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 District 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 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2020 follows:

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 380,184	\$ 502,326	\$ 122,142
Special Revenue	555,164	491,606	(63,558)
Total	\$ 935,348	\$ 993,932	\$ 58,584

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 401,847	\$ 312,483	\$ 89,364
Special Revenue	491,606	477,841	13,765
Total	\$ 893,453	\$ 790,324	\$ 103,129

Note 4 – Deposits

The District maintains a deposits pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

Demand deposits	\$ 486,019
Other time deposits (savings)	196,091
Total deposits	\$ 682,110

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 5 – Taxes

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 District.

Note 6 – Risk Management

Workers' Compensation

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

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the District contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

Social Security

Some District 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 District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2020. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2020.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Fire Engine Loan	\$ 42,999	2.40%
Total	\$ 42,999	

In July of 2016, the District issued a general obligation note for the purchase of a new Fire Engine. The note was issued in the amount of \$350,000. Payments will be made in 60 monthly installments.

Amortization

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

	Fire Engine Loan
Year ending December 31: 2021	\$ 43,132
Total	\$ 43,132

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

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

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability to facilitate effective cash planning and control. The District had no outstanding encumbrances at December 31, 2020.

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

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020

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. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. In addition, the impact on the District’s future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

CARES Act Funds- During 2020 the District received CARES Act funding. \$491,606 was subgranted to the District from Bennington Township, Chester Township, Village of Marengo, Village of Chesterville, and Harmony Township. \$477,841 was spent by the District in 2020. These amounts are reflected as capital outlay, payroll, professional services, and supplies expenditures in the Special Revenue Fund on the accompanying financial statements. The remaining \$13,675 has been committed for expenses in 2021.

Note 13 – Prior Period Restatement

The following adjustment is reflected in the January 1, 2020 fund balances:

	General Fund
December 31, 2019 audited balances	\$ 478,320
Adjustment to account for canceled checks	182
January 1, 2020 balances	\$ 478,502

The District canceled checks that were outstanding and reissued new checks.

Note 14 – Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the District has made changes to their cash basis reporting model. These changes include modifications to the definition of fiduciary funds, adding a separate combined statement of additions, deductions, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all fiduciary fund types, and removing the fund balance classifications from the combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all governmental fund types.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Big Walnut Joint Fire District, Morrow County, (the District) as a body corporate and politic. A five-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Bennington Township, Chester Township, Village of Marengo, and the Village of Chesterville. In addition, a representative is appointed from Harmony Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District.

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The District'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 District 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 District 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 District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Capital Projects Fund This fund accounts for and reports financial resources that are restricted to expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The District had the following significant Capital Projects Funds:

MARC Grant This fund received money through a the Ohio Department of Commerce MARC Grant program administered by the Division of State Fire Marshall. Funds are used to purchase MARCS radio equipment. The balance of this grant is recorded as restricted on the financial statements.

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 (D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The District 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).

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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 (D) 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 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 District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are cancelled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2019 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

Deposits and Investments

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

Accumulated Leave

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

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The District classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

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

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Committed Trustees can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The District 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*. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as *assigned* unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, *assigned* amounts represent intended uses established by District Trustees or a District official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

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 District 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 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriation authority in the Capital Projects fund by \$3,134 in 2019.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the years ending December 31, 2019 follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 396,576	\$ 518,255	\$ 121,679
Capital Projects	-	-	-
Total	\$ 396,576	\$ 518,255	\$ 121,679

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$ 371,311	\$ 333,143	\$ 38,168
Capital Projects	-	3,134	(3,134)
Total	\$ 371,311	\$ 336,277	\$ 35,034

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

Note 5 – Deposits

The District maintains a deposit pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits. The carrying amount of deposits at December 31 was as follows:

	2019
Demand deposits	\$ 282,229
Other time deposits (savings)	196,091
Total deposits	<u>\$ 478,320</u>

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 6 – 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 District.

Note 7 – Risk Management

Commercial Insurance

The District has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles; and
- Errors and omissions.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

One employee belongs 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10% of their gross salaries and the District contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants’ gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2019.

Social Security

Most District 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 District contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants’ gross salaries. The District has paid all contributions required though December 31, 2019.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2019. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2019.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2019 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Fire Engine Loan	\$ 115,366	2.40%
Total	\$ 115,366	

In July of 2016, the District issued a general obligation note for the purchase of a new Fire Engine. The note was issued in the amount of \$350,000. Payments will be made in 60 monthly installments.

BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
KNOX COUNTY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

Note 9 – Debt (Continued)

Amortization

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

Year ending December 31:	<u>Fire Engine Loan</u>
2020	74,420
2021	43,132
Total	<u>\$ 117,552</u>

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

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

Note 11 – 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. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the District. The District’s investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined. In addition, the impact on the District’s future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	General	Capital Projects	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 340,241	\$ -	\$ 340,241
Charges for Services	115,956	-	115,956
Intergovernmental	49,072	-	49,072
Earnings on Investments	719	-	719
Donation	12,267	-	12,267
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>518,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>518,255</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
Salaries	59,776	-	59,776
Fringe Benefits	5,153	-	5,153
Materials and Supplies	7,825	-	7,825
Equipment	22,993	-	22,993
Utilities	9,721	-	9,721
Insurance	27,921	-	27,921
Professional Services	51,461	-	51,461
Property Services/Repairs and Maintenance	59,748	-	59,748
Other	11,466	-	11,466
Capital Outlay	2,659	3,134	5,793
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	70,679	-	70,679
Interest and Fiscal Charges	3,741	-	3,741
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>333,143</u>	<u>3,134</u>	<u>336,277</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	185,112	(3,134)	181,978
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>293,208</u>	<u>3,134</u>	<u>296,342</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Unassigned	<u>478,320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>478,320</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 478,320</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 478,320</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

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

August 27, 2021

Big Walnut Joint Fire District
Morrow County
P.O. Box 217
Marengo, OH 43334

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type of **Big Walnut Joint Fire District**, Morrow County, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 27, 2021 wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit and the financial impact of COVID-19. In addition the District adopted a change in its cash basis reporting model.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the District's financial statements. 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 internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings that we consider a material weakness. We consider finding 2020-001 to be a material weakness.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Districts' financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the financial statements. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2020-002.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Perry & Associates
Certified Public Accountants, A.C.
Marietta, Ohio

**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2020-001

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

Accurate financial reporting is the responsibility of the Fiscal Officer and is essential to ensure information provided to the readers of the financial statements is accurate. Fund balances should be properly classified based on Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54: *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.

During 2020 and 2019, receipts and fund balances were not always posted or classified correctly. The following errors were noted:

- General Fund Balance was not properly classified in 2019.
- There were various receipts included in Property and Other Local Taxes in 2019 that required reclassification. Property and Other Local Taxes was overstated by \$63,397, Intergovernmental was understated by \$27,397 and Charges for Services was understated by \$36,000.

Not posting receipts or classifying fund balances accurately resulted in the financial statements requiring reclassifications. The financial statements reflect all reclassifications.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend that management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all disbursements are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

We also recommend the Fiscal Officer determine the proper establishment of receipt and disbursement accounts and posting of receipts and disbursements. The Fiscal Officer should refer to Auditor of State Technical Bulletin 2011-004 for assistance in properly classifying fund balances.

Management's Response – We did not receive a response from officials to this finding.

**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)**

FINDING NUMBER 2020-002

Non-Compliance

Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.41(B), provides no subdivision shall make any expenditure of money unless it has been lawfully appropriated. In 2019, we noted expenditures exceeding appropriations in the Capital Projects Fund.

- At December 31, 2019 expenditures (\$3,134) exceeded appropriations (\$0) by \$3,134 in the Capital Projects Fund.

The budgeting process is an essential monitoring control that, when properly used, reduces the possibility of the District encountering deficit spending.

The Fiscal Officer should not certify the availability of funds and should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations. The Fiscal Officer may request the Board of Trustees to approve increased expenditure levels by increasing appropriations and amending estimated resources, if necessary.

Management's Response: We did not receive a response from Officials for this finding.

**BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2018-001	Fund Balance Classifications	Not Corrected	Repeated as finding 2020-001
2018-002	Ohio Revised Code, § 5705.41(B)	Not Corrected	Repeated as finding 2020-002

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BIG WALNUT JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

MORROW 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 10/19/2021

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov