



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Brighton Township
Lorain County
21451 St Rt 511
Wellington, Ohio 44090

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 year ended December 31, 2020 and for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and related notes of Brighton Township, Lorain County, Ohio (the Township).

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 Township'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 Township'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.

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the Township 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 Township 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 Township 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 year ended December 31, 2020 and for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and related notes the Township, 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 2020 financial statements and Note 10 to the 2019 financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Township. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 22, 2021, 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. 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 Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 22, 2021

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Brighton Township
Lorain 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, 2020*

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$75,677	\$64,728	\$140,405
Licenses, Permits and Fees	3,300	2,250	5,550
Intergovernmental	30,055	209,726	239,781
Earnings on Investments	1,531	2,071	3,602
Miscellaneous	3,710	1,200	4,910
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>114,273</u>	<u>279,975</u>	<u>394,248</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	91,733	0	91,733
Public Works	0	91,503	91,503
Health	8,126	1,368	9,494
Other	0	62,037	62,037
Capital Outlay	0	43,743	43,743
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>99,859</u>	<u>198,651</u>	<u>298,510</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements</i>	<u>14,414</u>	<u>81,324</u>	<u>95,738</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	14,414	81,324	95,738
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>167,658</u>	<u>415,429</u>	<u>583,087</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$182,072</u>	<u>\$496,753</u>	<u>\$678,825</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Brighton Township
Lorain 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 Brighton Township, Lorain 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 Wellington Fire District to provide fire services and Southern Lorain County Ambulance District to provide ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pools and Jointly Governed Organizations

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool and jointly governed organizations. Notes 6 and 9 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 all 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.

Corona Virus Relief Fund The Coronavirus Relief fund reports the receipt of federal grants for the purpose of providing public safety services to the Township.

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (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.

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 unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2020 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.

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

Capital Assets

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

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the 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.

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 The 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*.

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

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

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

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$109,588	\$114,273	\$4,685
Special Revenue	247,436	279,975	32,539
	\$357,024	\$394,248	\$37,224

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$111,314	\$99,859	\$11,455
Special Revenue	250,152	198,651	51,501
	\$361,466	\$298,510	\$62,956

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:

	2020
Demand deposits	\$ 132,210
Money market	46,578
Total deposits	178,788
STAR Ohio	500,037
Total investments	500,037
Total deposits and investments	\$ 678,825

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2020, the Township does not have any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

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

Investments

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

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	<u>2020</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 36,348,066
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 10,894,146

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.

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All 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 Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

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 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 – Jointly Governed Organizations

Rural Lorain County Water Authority (RLCWA) RLCWA is a regional water district and political subdivision of the State of Ohio created by order of the Lorain County Common Pleas Court. RLCWA was incorporated in the State of Ohio on August 23, 1973 as a public use to users within, and without, the district. RLCWA is exempt from federal income tax. The RLCWA operates under a Board of Trustees which consists of as many members as equals the total number of villages, and townships, within the regional water district

Southern Lorain County Ambulance District (SLCAD) SLCAD is an ambulance district organized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.71 and is directed by an appointed seven-member Board of trustees representing the Village of Wellington, and Wellington, Huntington, Penfield, Rochester, Brighton and Pittsfield Townships. The SLCAA provides emergency medical services to the residents within the District which includes Brighton Township.

Wellington Community Fire District The Fire District is a joint community fire district organized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.371 and is directed by an appointed six-member Board of Trustees representing the Village of Wellington, and Brighton, Huntington Penfield, Pittsfield and Wellington Townships. The Fire District provides fire protection and rescue services within the Fire District which includes Brighton Township.

Lorain County General Health District The Health District is a joint community health district organized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code. An eight –member Board, including a Health Commissioner, govern the District which provides health services to the community including education and prevention of disease.

Note 10 – Fund Balances

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed.

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 11 – Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the Township has made changes to their cash basis reporting model. These changes include removing the fund balance classifications from the combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all governmental fund types.

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 Township. In addition, the impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

During 2020, the Township received CARES Act funding. Of the amounts received, \$62,037 was sub-granted to other governments.

During 2020, the Township received \$1,000 as an on-behalf of grant from another government. These amounts are recorded in the Coronavirus Relief Special Revenue Fund

Brighton Township
 Lorain 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, 2019

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$68,274	\$62,903	\$131,177
Licenses, Permits and Fees	1,050	2,650	3,700
Intergovernmental	32,254	121,624	153,878
Earnings on Investments	4,153	4,689	8,842
Miscellaneous	7,709	1,200	8,909
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>113,440</u>	<u>193,066</u>	<u>306,506</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	109,218	0	109,218
Public Works	0	133,639	133,639
Health	23,501	650	24,151
Capital Outlay	0	24,069	24,069
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>132,719</u>	<u>158,358</u>	<u>291,077</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(19,279)</u>	<u>34,708</u>	<u>15,429</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(19,279)	34,708	15,429
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>186,937</u>	<u>380,721</u>	<u>567,658</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	415,429	415,429
Unassigned	167,658	0	167,658
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$167,658</u>	<u>\$415,429</u>	<u>\$583,087</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Brighton Township
Lorain 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 Brighton Township, Lorain 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 Wellington Fire District to provide fire services and Southern Lorain County Ambulance District to provide ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pools and Jointly Governed Organizations

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool and jointly governed organizations. Notes 6 and 9 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 all 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.

Road and Bridge Fund This fund receives property tax money for costs involved in constructing, maintaining and repairing roads and bridges within the Township.

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (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.

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 unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2020 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.

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

Capital Assets

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

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the 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.

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 The 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*. 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 Township Trustees or a Township 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 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 ended December 31, 2019 follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$108,649	\$113,440	\$4,791
Special Revenue	182,401	193,066	10,665
	\$291,050	\$306,506	\$15,456

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Disbursements	Variance
General	\$142,205	\$132,719	\$9,486
Special Revenue	204,271	158,358	45,913
	\$346,476	\$291,077	\$55,399

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2019
Demand deposits	\$ 40,073
Money market	46,507
Total deposits	86,580
STAR Ohio	496,507
Total investments	496,507
Total deposits and investments	\$ 583,087

Deposits

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

Investments

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

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

	<u>2019</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 35,207,320
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 10,519,942

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.

Brighton Township
Lorain County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All 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 Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2019.

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 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 – Jointly Governed Organizations

Rural Lorain County Water Authority (RLCWA) RLCWA is a regional water district and political subdivision of the State of Ohio created by order of the Lorain County Common Pleas Court. RLCWA was incorporated in the State of Ohio on August 23, 1973 as a public use to users within, and without, the district. RLCWA is exempt from federal income tax. The RLCWA operates under a Board of Trustees which consists of as many members as equals the total number of villages, and townships, within the regional water district

Southern Lorain County Ambulance District (SLCAD) SLCAD is an ambulance district organized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.71 and is directed by an appointed seven-member Board of trustees representing the Village of Wellington, and Wellington, Huntington, Penfield, Rochester, Brighton and Pittsfield Townships. The SLCAD provides emergency medical services to the residents within the District which includes Brighton Township.

Wellington Community Fire District The Fire District is a joint community fire district organized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 505.371 and is directed by an appointed six-member Board of Trustees representing the Village of Wellington, and Brighton, Huntington Penfield, Pittsfield and Wellington Townships. The Fire District provides fire protection and rescue services within the Fire District which includes Brighton Township.

Lorain County General Health District The Health District is a joint community health district organized pursuant to Ohio Revised Code. An eight –member Board, including a Health Commissioner, govern the District which provides health services to the community including education and prevention of disease.

Note 10 – Subsequent Events

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Township. In addition, the impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and any recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Brighton Township
Lorain County
21451 St Rt 511
Wellington, Ohio 44090

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 for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and for each governmental fund type as of and the year ended December 31, 2019, and related notes of the Brighton Township, Lorain County (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated December 22, 2021 wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the Township.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Township'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 Township'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. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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 Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 22, 2021

**BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP
LORAIN COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2018-001	Numerous material weaknesses and subsequent corrections were made to the financial statements, footnotes and accounting records by Management.	Partially Corrected.	Similar comment noted in Management Letter.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BRIGHTON TOWNSHIP

LORAIN 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 1/4/2022

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