

AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Board of Trustees
Ames Township
15900 Henry Road
Amesville, OH 45711

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Ames Township, Athens County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022. 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 Ames Township 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

June 12, 2023

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**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ames Township
Athens County
15900 Henry Road
Amesville, OH 45711

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Ames Township, Athens County, Ohio (the Township), which comprise the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, 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, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position, thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the 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 Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements for 2022 and Note 12 to the financial statements for 2021, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. We did not modify our opinions regarding this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the 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 the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

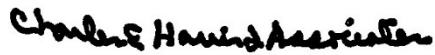
In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 May 5, 2023, 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.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
May 5, 2023

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 45,087	\$ 242,654	\$ 287,741
Intergovernmental	16,017	225,412	241,429
Earnings On Investments	134	-	134
Miscellaneous	500	1,666	2,166
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>61,738</u>	<u>469,732</u>	<u>531,470</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	52,067	4,559	56,626
Public Safety	-	16,793	16,793
Public Works	-	331,061	331,061
Health	1,497	47,634	49,131
Capital Outlay	2,000	20,031	22,031
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	1,446	29,000	30,446
Interest and Fiscal Charges	2,814	-	2,814
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>59,824</u>	<u>449,078</u>	<u>508,902</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements</i>	<u>1,914</u>	<u>20,654</u>	<u>22,568</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Advances In	18,308	26,034	44,342
Advances Out	(26,034)	(18,308)	(44,342)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(7,726)</u>	<u>7,726</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(5,812)	28,380	22,568
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>33,768</u>	<u>158,502</u>	<u>192,270</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u>\$ 27,956</u>	<u>\$ 186,882</u>	<u>\$ 214,838</u>

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

Ames Township
Athens 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 Ames Township, Athens County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, and fire protection. The Township contracts with the Ames-Bern Amesville Volunteer Firefighters to provide fire protection. The Township has a levy to support this contract.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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 is 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund The Gasoline 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 The Road and Bridge Fund accounts for and reports that portion of inside millage restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

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 liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Basis of Accounting (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 (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. Unencumbered appropriations lapse at year end.

Estimated Resources Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The County Budget Commission must approve estimated resources.

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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.

Accumulated Leave

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

Leases

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

Fund Balance

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

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

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 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 12.

Note 3 - Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in various funds for the year ended December 31, 2022. Also, contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), funds were not properly certified prior to commitment to expend the funds.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

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

Fund Type	2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 42,179	\$ 61,738	\$ 19,559
Special Revenue	474,424	469,732	(4,692)

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 64,911	\$ 60,388	\$ 4,523
Special Revenue	626,247	453,163	173,084

Note 5 – Deposits and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all funds 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:

	2022
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	\$ 204,538
Certificates of deposit	10,300
<i>Total</i>	\$ 214,838

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, 2022, the Township is holding no unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are either 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 Township.

Note 7 – Interfund Balances

Outstanding advances at December 31, 2022, consisted of \$7,726 advanced to the Gasoline Tax fund from the General fund to provide working capital for operations or projects.

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 8 – Risk Management

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: Most Current Information Available

	2021
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,601,444

Note 9 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All 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.

Note 10 – 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 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 11 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2022 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Financed purchase	\$ 63,654	2.95%

Financed purchase

The Township has entered into a financed purchase for a tractor and mower where ownership of the underlying assets transfer to the Township by the end of the contract. The Township disbursed \$33,260 to pay these costs for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	Financed Purchases
2023	\$ 33,260
2024	33,260
Total	\$ 66,520

Note 12 – 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 and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the balances of these amounts were as follows:

	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 564	\$ 4,085	\$ 4,649

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

Note 13 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2022, the Township received \$54,800 American Rescue Plan Act funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 43,809	\$ 234,565	\$ 278,374
Intergovernmental	15,398	230,421	245,819
Earnings On Investments	164	-	164
Miscellaneous	438	1,146	1,584
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>59,809</u>	<u>466,132</u>	<u>525,941</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	59,057	3,351	62,408
Public Safety	-	33,052	33,052
Public Works	-	315,158	315,158
Health	1,463	41,960	43,423
Capital Outlay	12,630	1,298	13,928
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	58,267	58,267
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	8,254	8,254
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>73,150</u>	<u>461,340</u>	<u>534,490</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(13,341)	4,792	(8,549)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>47,109</u>	<u>153,710</u>	<u>200,819</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$ 33,768</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 158,502</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 192,270</u></u>

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

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Ames Township, Athens County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection. The Township contracts with the Ames-Bern Amesville Volunteer Firefighters to provide fire protection. The Township has a levy to support this contract.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity.

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 is organized on a fund type basis.

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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:

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Road and Bridge Fund The Road and Bridge Fund accounts for and reports that portion of inside millage restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

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 liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Basis of Accounting (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 (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 carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2021 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

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.

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

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

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 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.

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 11.

Note 3 - Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in various funds for the year ended December 31, 2021. Also, contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), funds were not properly certified prior to commitment to expend the funds.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2021 follows:

Fund Type	2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 56,653	\$ 59,809	\$ 3,156
Special Revenue	470,588	466,132	(4,456)

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 93,748	\$ 73,150	\$ 20,598
Special Revenue	623,217	461,340	161,877

Note 5 – Deposits and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all funds 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:

	2021
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	\$ 181,970
Certificates of deposit	10,300
<i>Total</i>	\$ 192,270

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, 2021, the Township is holding no unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are either 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 Township.

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 7 – Risk Management

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:

	2021
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,601,444

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All 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, 2021.

Note 9 – 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 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2021.

Note 10 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2021, was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Capital Lease	\$ 94,100	2.95%

Ames Township
Athens County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 10 – Debt (Continued)

Capital Lease

The Township has entered into a capital lease for a tractor and mower where ownership of the underlying assets transfer to the Township by the end of the contract. The Township disbursed \$66,521 to pay these costs for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.

Amortization

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

Year Ending December 31:	Financed Purchases
2022	\$ 33,260
2023	33,260
2024	33,260
Total	<u>\$ 99,780</u>

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 and to facilitate effective cash planning and control.

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted or committed amounts in the special revenue funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances would be considered assigned. There were no encumbrances at year end.

Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio’s state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the Township received \$54,366 American Rescue Plan Act funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township’s future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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

Ames Township
Athens County
15900 Henry Road
Amesville, OH 45711

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type of Ames Township, Athens County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated May 5, 2023, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the Township.

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 purposes 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.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph 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. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness and a significant deficiency.

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. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-001 to be a material weakness.

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. We consider the deficiency described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2022-002 to be a significant deficiency.

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*, which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2022-002 and 2022-003.


We also noted other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 5, 2023.

Township's Responses 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 corrective action plan. 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.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
May 5, 2023

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING 2022-001 - Material Weakness

Financial Reporting - Posting Receipts and Disbursements

The Township should have procedures and controls in place to prevent and detect errors in financial reporting. During 2022 and 2021, receipts and disbursements were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

For 2022

- Reclassification from the General Fund to Coronavirus Relief Fund to properly record an American Rescue Plan Act receipt for \$217.
- Reclassification of revenue from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental in the General Fund \$843, Road and Bridge Fund \$3,616, Cemetery Fund \$810, Special Levy Fire Fund \$1,102, and Special Levy Road \$2,607 to properly record state rollback receipts.
- Reclassification of disbursements in the General Fund \$1,446, Gasoline Tax Fund \$22,814, Special Levy Road Fund \$9,000 to properly record debt payments.
- Reclassification of disbursements from Other Financing Uses to Public Works for \$21,570 in the Coronavirus Relief Fund to properly record highway expenditures.
- Reclassification of a disbursement from Public Works to Capital Outlay for \$7,500 in the Special Levy Road Fund to properly record a capital outlay expenditure.

For 2021

- Reclassification to correct beginning fund balance in the General Fund for \$57.
- Reclassification of Intergovernmental revenue from the General Fund to the Road and Bridge Fund \$3,624, Cemetery Fund \$801, Special Levy Fire Fund \$1,104, and Special Levy Road Fund \$2,583 to properly allocate state rollback receipts.
- Reclassification of revenue from Property and Other Local Taxes to Intergovernmental in the General Fund \$835, Road and Bridge Fund \$3,533, Cemetery Fund \$801, Special Levy Fire Fund \$1,076, and Special Levy Road \$2,552 to properly record state rollback receipts.
- Reclassification of a disbursement from Debt Service to Capital Outlay for \$9,000 in the General Fund for the purchase of a truck.
- Reclassification of disbursements in the Gasoline Tax Fund \$53,521, Special Levy Road Fund \$13,000 to properly record debt payments.

Not posting receipts and disbursements correctly resulted in the financial statements requiring reclassification entries. The financial statements reflect all reclassifications.

Additionally, some transactions were not timely posted to the accounting system in 2022 and 2021, which lead to other adjusting factors (receipts and payments not posted in UAN) on 22 out of 24 reconciliations during the audit period. Failure to post transactions in a timely manner resulted in reconciliation factors and can lead to errors or irregularities going uncorrected for extended periods of time.

Also, during 2022 and 2021 aspects of the notes to the financial statements were corrected from the Hinkle filing to agree to the financial statements in the audit report and to include all necessary note disclosures. We made corrections to the following note disclosures:

- Budgetary Activity
- Risk Management
- Debt
- Fund Balances
- Covid-19

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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

FINDING 2022-001 - Material Weakness (Continued)

Financial Reporting - Posting Receipts and Disbursements (Continued)

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

Management's Response – See Corrective Action Plan.

FINDING 2022-002 – Significant Deficiency/Noncompliance

Budgetary Controls

The budget is an instrument of public policy: A governing board expresses its desires for using a government's limited resources through its appropriations. Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705 deals with a variety of budgetary requirements that all subdivisions must comply with in order to ensure fiscal responsibility.

We noted several violations of budgetary law which, although they do not in and of themselves, result in errors in financial reporting, may lead to the Township making financial decisions based on incorrect or incomplete information.

Violations of 5705.39 stating that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total estimated resources.

2022			
Fund	Total Estimated Resources	Total Appropriations	Variance
Gasoline Tax	\$ 157,634	\$ 157,752	\$ (118)
Permissive Motor Vehicle	15,575	16,183	(608)

2021			
Fund	Total Estimated Resources	Total Appropriations	Variance
Gasoline Tax	\$ 140,025	\$ 196,419	\$ (56,394)
Road and Bridge	77,749	82,572	(4,823)
Cemetery	80,672	80,729	(57)

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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

FINDING 2022-002 – Significant Deficiency/Noncompliance (Continued)

Budgetary Controls (Continued)

In addition, the Township did not have a control procedure in place to ensure that appropriations, as authorized by the County Auditor, were reconciled to the appropriations posted to the accounting system.

2022			
Fund	Posted in the Accounting System	Approved by Resolution	Variance
Gasoline Tax	\$ 157,634	\$ 157,752	\$ (118)
Road and Bridge	56,013	56,406	(393)
Cemetery	88,634	93,594	(4,960)
Special Levy Fire	24,280	25,377	(1,097)
Permissive Motor Vehicle	15,575	16,183	(608)

2021			
Fund	Posted in the Accounting System	Approved by Resolution	Variance
Special Levy Fire	\$ 33,487	\$ 40,100	\$ (6,613)

This resulted in incorrect amounts being posted to the accounting system and information available to Township officials to monitor year-to-date total comparison of budgeted amounts versus actual amounts was not accurate. The budgetary footnote reflects all adjustments. We recommend the Township implement procedures to ensure appropriations are accurately posted to the accounting system and reconciled to the amounts approved by the County Auditor after each amendment and regularly compare appropriations to estimated resources to ensure budgetary compliance.

Management’s Response – See Corrective Action Plan.

Finding 2022-003 - Noncompliance

Certifying the Availability of Funds

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required meeting any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Only the subdivision’s fiscal officer need sign the certificate. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

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

Finding 2022-003 – Noncompliance (Continued)

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

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

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution 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 taxing authority.

2. Blanket Certificate – Fiscal officers may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution 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 Township may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. Only one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any one line-item appropriation.

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 41% and 18% of the expenditures tested for 2022 and 2021, respectively.

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 assure that 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, we recommend that the Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

Management's Response – See Corrective Action Plan.

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR FINDINGS –
PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2020-001	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.14 and .16 for improperly approved transfers.	Corrected	N/A
2020-002	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 for appropriations exceeded estimated resources.	Not Corrected	Same issue as the prior audit
2020-003	Material Weakness noted for budgetary information posted to accounting system not agreeing to approved budgetary amounts.	Not Corrected	Same issue as the prior audit
2020-004	Material Weakness noted relating to Equity classifications and audit Adjustments.	Not Corrected	Same issue as the prior audit

**AMES TOWNSHIP
ATHENS COUNTY**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN - PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2022-001	Fiscal Officer will follow the guidance obtained during the current audit process to complete upcoming annual financial reports filed on the Hinkle System.	Immediately	Anita Weed – Fiscal Officer
2022-002	The Fiscal Officer will reconcile the appropriations approved by Council to the appropriations posted to the accounting system and will review Ohio Revised Code Section 5705 to ensure compliance with applicable sections.	Immediately	Anita Weed – Fiscal Officer
2022-003	The Fiscal Officer will follow the guidelines outlined in the Ohio Compliance Supplement concerning certification of funds.	Immediately	Anita Weed – Fiscal Officer

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



AMES TOWNSHIP

ATHENS 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 6/22/2023

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