

ERIE TOWNSHIP

OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021





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Township Trustees
Erie Township
PO Box 312
Lacarne, OH 43439-0312

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Erie Township, Ottawa 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 Erie Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 21, 2023

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**ERIE TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA COUNTY
Regular Audit
For the Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Erie Township
Ottawa County
P.O. Box 312
Lacarne, Ohio

To the Township Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Erie Township, Ottawa County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 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 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 11 to the 2022 and 2021 financial statements, 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 June 16, 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.

June 16, 2023

**ERIE TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA 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**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 147,372	\$ 137,573	\$ -	\$ 284,945
Charges for Services	-	31,596	-	31,596
Licenses, Permits and Fees	37,762	4,056	-	41,818
Intergovernmental	41,731	225,406	-	267,137
Earnings on Investments	94	150	-	244
Miscellaneous	4,189	1,525	-	5,714
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>231,148</u>	<u>400,306</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>631,454</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	226,438	-	-	226,438
Public Safety	2,906	134,750	-	137,656
Public Works	6,042	76,182	-	82,224
Health	-	940	-	940
Human Services	-	57	-	57
Capital Outlay	10,000	5,730	4,316	20,046
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>245,386</u>	<u>217,659</u>	<u>4,316</u>	<u>467,361</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	(14,238)	182,647	(4,316)	164,093
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Capital Assets	877	-	-	877
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>877</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(13,361)	182,647	(4,316)	164,970
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>269,105</u>	<u>426,396</u>	<u>4,316</u>	<u>699,817</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 255,744</u>	<u>\$ 609,043</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 864,787</u>

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

Erie Township
Ottawa 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 Erie Township, Ottawa County, Ohio (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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township has a continuing levy which support a volunteer fire department. In November 2016, the Township resident passed an additional continuing levy, which because of different language in the levy, was set up as a separate fund in 2017.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 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 Fund:

Additional Special Fire Levy Tax Fund The Additional Special Fire Levy fund was presented to the voters in November 2016 and was passed. Funds from this additional levy were first received in 2017.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Capital Project Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

Fire Truck and Equipment Fund The Fire Truck and Equipment fund was established in 2010 after the residents of Erie Township passed a five (5) year levy to purchase a fire truck and other equipment. The final payment was made in November 2015, but the fund has a remaining balance of \$4,316.10 as of December 31, 2021. These funds will be expended as necessary for equipment relating to the new fire truck.

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 disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments.

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 re-appropriated.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township.

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. 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 10.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 202,200	\$ 232,025	\$ 29,825
Special Revenue	373,460	400,306	26,846
Capital Projects	-	-	-

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 326,575	\$ 245,841	\$ 80,734
Special Revenue	403,692	271,265	132,427
Capital Projects	4,316	4,316	-

Note 4 – 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. A summary of the Township's deposits are as follows:

	2022
Demand deposits	\$ 779,787
Certificates of deposit	85,000
Total deposits	\$ 864,787

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 not holding any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository 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.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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 homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback 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 in December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20. Specific due dates are set by the County.

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

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.

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, 2021 (latest information available):

	<u>2021</u>
Cash and investments	\$34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	10,601,444

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All of the Township's 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% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Social Security

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

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

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which 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% during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% 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.

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matter will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 10 – 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:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 455	\$53,606	\$54,061

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

Note 11 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2022, the Township received COVID-19 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.

**ERIE TOWNSHIP
OTTAWA 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**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 128,845	\$ 128,496	\$ -	\$ 257,341
Charges for Services	-	28,044	-	28,044
Licenses, Permits and Fees	37,017	3,175	-	40,192
Intergovernmental	41,776	229,091	-	270,867
Earnings on Investments	101	94	-	195
Miscellaneous	8,278	1,175	-	9,453
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>216,017</u>	<u>390,075</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>606,092</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	251,659	-	-	251,659
Public Safety	5,765	171,833	-	177,598
Public Works	5,986	22,363	-	28,349
Health	102	547	-	649
Capital Outlay	-	8,697	-	8,697
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>263,512</u>	<u>203,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>466,952</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(47,495)	186,635	-	139,140
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>316,600</u>	<u>239,761</u>	<u>4,316</u>	<u>560,677</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 269,105</u>	<u>\$ 426,396</u>	<u>\$ 4,316</u>	<u>\$ 699,817</u>

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

Erie Township
Ottawa 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 Erie Township, Ottawa County, Ohio (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, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township has a continuing levy which support a volunteer fire department. In November 2016, the Township resident passed an additional continuing levy, which because of different language in the levy, was set up as a separate fund in 2017.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 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:

Additional Special Fire Levy Tax Fund The Additional Special Fire Levy fund was presented to the voters in November 2016 and was passed. Funds from this additional levy were first received in 2017.

Coronavirus Relief ARPA Fund The Coronavirus Relief ARPA Fund was set up during 2021, to account for funds provided through the State of Ohio. Township Trustees approved these funds to be used for personal protective equipment and supplies.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Capital Project Funds These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant capital project fund:

Fire Truck and Equipment Fund The Fire Truck and Equipment fund was established in 2010 after the residents of Erie Township passed a five year levy to purchase a fire truck and other equipment. The final payment was made in November 2015, but the fund has a remaining balance of \$4,316 as of December 31, 2021. These funds will be expended as necessary for equipment relating to the new fire truck.

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 disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments.

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

Encumbrances The Ohio Revised Code requires the 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 3.

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.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township.

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. 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 10.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity (Continued)

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 199,200	\$ 216,017	\$ 16,817
Special Revenue	371,647	390,075	18,428
Capital Projects	-	-	-

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 515,726	\$ 263,887	\$251,839
Special Revenue	611,824	238,482	373,342
Capital Projects	4,300	-	4,300

Note 4 – Deposits

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. A summary of the Township's deposits are as follows:

	2021
Demand deposits	\$ 614,817
Certificates of deposit	85,000
Total deposits	\$ 699,817

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 not holding any unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation; collateralized by specifically pledged securities; 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.

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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 homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback 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 by December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20. Specific due dates are set by the County.

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

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.

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, 2021:

	<u>2021</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 34,880,599
Actuarial liabilities	10,601,444

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All of the Township's 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% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Social Security

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

Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

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% during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2021.

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matter will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

Note 10 – 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 facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end, the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 375	\$35,042	\$35,417

Erie Township
Ottawa County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 10 – Fund Balances (Continued)

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

Note 11 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021, while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the Township received COVID-19 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 emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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

Erie Township
Ottawa County
P.O. Box 312
Lacarne, Ohio

To the Township 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 the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of 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 of Erie Township, Ottawa County, (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated June 16, 2023, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will 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 the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

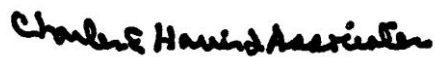
Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

However, we noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 16, 2023.

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.
June 16, 2023

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ERIE TOWNSHIP

OTTAWA 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 8/3/2023

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