YORK TOWNSHP BELMONT COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021





88 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 IPAReport@ohioauditor.gov (800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees York Township 53420 York Dr Powhatan Point, OH 43942

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

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

August 08, 2023



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

York Township **Belmont County** 53420 York Drive Powhatan Point, OH 43972

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of York Township, Belmont 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.

York Township Belmont County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements for 2022 and 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.

York Township Belmont County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

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 12, 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 Having Association

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. May 12, 2023

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	\$ 66,846	\$ 313,996	\$ 380,842
Intergovernmental	46,860	794,084	840,944
Earnings On Investments	537	1,074	1,611
Miscellaneous	9,826	153,557	163,383
Total Cash Receipts	124,069	1,262,711	1,386,780
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	87,839	88,479	176,318
Public Safety	-	250,295	250,295
Public Works	-	873,155	873,155
Human Services	5,055	-	5,055
Capital Outlay	43,161		43,161
Total Cash Disbursements	136,055	1,211,929	1,347,984
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(11,986)	50,782	38,796
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Advances In	47,000	47,000	94,000
Advances Out	(47,000)	(47,000)	(94,000)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			<u>-</u> _
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(11,986)	50,782	38,796
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	121,222	623,302	744,524
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 109,236	\$ 674,084	\$ 783,320

Belmont 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 York Township, Belmont 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, and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Powhatan Point Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire and emergency protection.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund This fund receives gasoline tax monies to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

Road and Bridge Fund This fund receives property tax monies to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

FEMA Fund This fund receives federal funds from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to fund FEMA approved projects in the Township limits.

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

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:

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

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

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 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 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 9.

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

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

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts						
	Budgeted Actual		Actual			
Fund Type	ype Receipts		Receipts		Variance	
General	\$	150,949	\$	124,069	\$	(26,880)
Special Revenue		1,213,892		1,262,711		48,819

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements

	Ap	propriation	E	Budgetary		
Fund Type		Authority	Dis	bursements	Variance	
General	\$	272,584	\$	136,055	\$	136,529
Special Revenue		1,516,481		1,211,929		304,552

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in various funds. Also, contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), certain disbursements were not properly certified prior to commitment to expend the funds.

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

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 and investments. A summary of the Township's deposit accounts are as follows:

Cash Management Pool:
Demand deposits \$ 783,320

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 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 trustee and pledged of the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 - Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

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

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 6 – Risk Management (Continued)

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 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some 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 8 – Postemployment Benefits

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

Note 9 - 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. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned. There were no encumbrances at year end.

Belmont County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 10 - 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 \$47,620 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.

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 (Memorandur Only)	n
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 63,887	\$ 313,546	\$ 377,43	13
Intergovernmental	45,116	965,603	1,010,71	9
Earnings On Investments	159	318	47	-
Miscellaneous	29,852	639	30,49	11
Total Cash Receipts	139,014	1,280,106	1,419,12	20
			.,,	<u> </u>
Cash Disbursements Current:				
General Government	80,229	124,229	204,45	8
Public Safety	-	213,066	213,06	6
Public Works	-	1,007,723	1,007,72	23
Capital Outlay	77,038	17,976	95,01	4
Total Cash Disbursements	157,267	1,362,994	1,520,26	61_
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(18,253)	(82,888)	(101,14	1)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	139,475	706,190	845,66	35
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$ 121,222	\$ 623,302	\$ 744,52	<u>'4</u>

Belmont 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 York Township, Belmont 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, and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Powhatan Point Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire and emergency protection.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in 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:

Road and Bridge Fund This fund receives property tax monies to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

FEMA Fund This fund receives federal funds from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to fund FEMA approved projects in the Township limits.

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).

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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

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:

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.

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Balance (Continued)

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 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 9.

Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

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

2021	Budgeted	vs. Actual	Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	_
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 113,271	\$ 139,014	\$ 25,743
Special Revenue	1,131,653	1,280,106	148,453

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements

	Appropriation		Е	Budgetary				
Fund Type	Authority		Disbursements		Variance			
General	\$	221,400	\$	157,267	\$	64,133		
Special Revenue		1,818,373		1,362,994		455,379		

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded estimated resources in various funds. Also, contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D), certain disbursements were not properly certified prior to commitment to expend the funds.

Belmont County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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 and investments. A summary of the Township's deposit accounts are as follows:

2021

Cash Management Pool:

Demand deposits

\$ 744,524

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 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 trustee and pledged of the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 - Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

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

Belmont County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 6 - Risk Management (Continued)

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 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Some 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 8 - Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0 percent during calendar year 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 9 - 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. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned. There were no encumbrances at year end.

Note 10 - 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 \$47,242 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.

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

Certified Public Accountants

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

York Township Belmont County 53420 York Drive Powhatan Point, OH 43972

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 by fund type of York Township, Belmont 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 12, 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.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2022-001 through 2022-003 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

York Township
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Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
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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 2022-004 and 2022-005.

We also noted certain other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated May 12, 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 Harris Assaciation

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc. May 12, 2023

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

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

 Permissive Motor Vehicle License – County Levied in the amount of \$4,092 was posted to Taxes instead of the Intergovernmental.

For 2021

- Permissive Motor Vehicle License County Levied in the amount of \$743 was posted to the General Fund and Motor Vehicle License Tax Fund in the amount of \$423 and \$320; respectively.
- Permissive Motor Vehicle License County Levied in the amount of \$3,230 was posted to Taxes instead of the Intergovernmental.
- Road repair expenditures in the amount \$509,383 were posted to General Government Disbursements instead of Public Works Disbursements
- Concrete and building materials for the new hall posted to Public Safety Disbursements instead of Capital Outlay Disbursements.

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

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:

- Deposits and Investments
- Postemployment Benefits
- Fund Balances
- Covid-19

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.

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 (Continued)

FINDING 2022-002 - Material Weakness

Posting of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Activity

Auditor of State Bulletin 98-013 provides guidance on accounting for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants. This Bulletin states that when a portion or all of the work has been completed and paid for at the time the FEMA money is received, the entity must place all funds into a special FEMA fund. For work completed and paid for, the fund(s) used to pay for the goods and/or services (before the FEMA money as received) can be reimbursed. One way to repay the fund is to transfer the FEMA money from the FEMA fund to the fund that made the original payments.

FEMA grant revenue in the amount of \$584,828 in 2022 was improperly posted to the Road and Bridge Fund and should have been posted to the special FEMA Fund. FEMA Grant revenue in the amount of \$209,466 in 2021 was improperly posted to the Road and Bridge Fund as Miscellaneous Revenue and should have been placed into a special FEMA Fund as Intergovernmental then be reimbursed to the funds used to pay for the goods and/or services before the FEMA money was received.

The Township did not have control procedures in place to ensure that grant revenue was posted to the correct funds when the FEMA monies were received. The reclassification of \$209,466, with which Township management agrees, is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

The Township should implement procedures to ensure that the FEMA grant revenue is properly posted to the FEMA Grant Fund as Intergovernmental revenue and should review Auditor of State Bulletin 98-013 to ensure any reimbursements to other funds are allowable and properly posted.

Management's Response - See Corrective Action Plan.

FINDING 2022-003 - Material Weakness

Estimated Receipts

The Township did not have a control procedure in place to ensure that budgetary amounts, as authorized by Township Trustees and approved by the County Budget Commission, were reconciled to the budgetary amounts posted to the accounting system. This resulted in incorrect amounts being recorded in the accounting system and inaccurate budgetary information available to Township officials for their monitoring.

Variances between approved amounts and amounts recorded in the UAN system at December 31, 2022 and 2021 were as follows:

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 (Continued)

FINDING 2022-003 - Material Weakness (Continued)

Estimated Receipts (Continued)

2022			Estima	ted Receipts		
	Estimate	d Receipts per	Pos	sted to the		
Fund	Amend	ed Certificate	Accou	nting System		ariance
Road and Bridge	\$	285,871	\$	506,997	\$	(221,126)
2021			Estima	ted Receipts		
	Estimate	d Receipts per	Pos	sted to the		
Fund	Amend	ed Certificate	Accou	nting System	V	'ariance
General Fund	\$	113,271	\$	118,027	\$	(4,756)
Road and Bridge		173,754		305,984		(132,230)

Township officials should be monitoring the budgetary activity in order to make informed decisions regarding Township finances. The proper recording of budgetary activity in the UAN system provides safeguards as the system is designed to let the fiscal officer know if budgetary violations will occur. Adjustments were made to the budgetary activity reported in notes to the financial statements in order to accurately present estimated receipts as certified by the County Budget Commission.

We recommend the Township implement procedures to ensure budgetary amounts are accurately posted to the accounting system and financial statements and reconciled to the amounts approved by Township Trustees and the budget commission after each amendment.

FINDING NUMBER 2022-004 - Noncompliance

Appropriations Exceeding Estimated Resources

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 provides that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total of the estimated revenue available for expenditure there-from, as certified by the county budget commission.

At December 31, 2022 the Township's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the General, Motor Vehicle License Tax, Gasoline License Tax Funds by \$413, \$411, and \$250; respectively. At December 31, 2021 the Township's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Motor Vehicle License Fund by \$1,541, and Road and Bridge Fund by \$50,571.

Failure to limit appropriations to the amount certified by the budget commission due to deficiencies in the Township's compliance monitoring policies and procedures could result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

The Township should draft, approve, and implement procedures to compare appropriations to estimated resources and, if adequate resources are available for additional appropriations, the Township should submit an amended certificate of estimated resources to the budget commission for certification. If the resources are not available to cover the appropriations, an amendment to the appropriation resolution should be passed by the Board of Trustees to reduce the appropriations.

Management's Response – See Corrective Action Plan.

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 (Continued)

Finding 2022-005 - 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.

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 53% and 39% of the expenditures tested for 2022 and 2021, respectively.

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 (Continued)

Finding 2022-005- Noncompliance (Continued)

Certifying the Availability of Funds (Continued)

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.

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

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2020-001	ORC 507.24(A)(4) Trustees were over paid.	Corrected	N/A
2020-002	ORC 505.24(A)(4) Fiscal Officer was over paid.	Corrected	N/A
2020-003	ORC 507.24(C) method for which township trustees compensation should be allocated.	Corrected	N/A
2020-004	ORC 5705.10 money paid into a fund should only be used for which the fund was established. Homestead and Rollback was posted 100% to General Fund, Permissive Motor Vehicle License Tax was posted to the General Fund and Motor Vehicle License Tax, Cemetery costs were posted to the Gasoline Tax and Road and Bridge Funds instead of the General Fund.	Corrected	N/A
2020-005	ORC 5705.39 Appropriations exceeding estimated resources.	Not Corrected	N/A
2020-006	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds were receipted to the Road and Bridge Fund instead of the FEMA.	Not Corrected	N/A
2020-007	Township receipts and disbursements were not recorded in accordance with the Uniform Accounting Network handbooks.	Not Corrected	N/A.
2020-008	Budgeted receipts and appropriations in the system didn't match the amounts approved by the County Budget Commission.	Not Corrected	N/A
2020-009	Segregation of Duties.	Corrected	N/A

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	Dee Caldwell – Fiscal Officer
2022-002	Fiscal Officer will follow the guidance outlined in the Auditor of State Bulletin 98-013.	Immediately	Dee Caldwell – Fiscal Officer
2022-003	Fiscal Officer will reconcile amounts in the Township's Accounting System to the Certificate of Estimated Resources.	Immediately	Dee Caldwell – Fiscal Officer
2022-004	The Fiscal Officer will follow the guidelines outlined in the Ohio Compliance Supplement concerning budgetary compliance.	Immediately	Dee Caldwell – Fiscal Officer
2022-005	The Fiscal Officer will follow the guidelines outlined in the Ohio Compliance Supplement concerning certification of funds	Immediately	Dee Caldwell – Fiscal Officer





YORK TOWNSHIP

BELMONT 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 8/22/2023