

BUTLER TOWNSHIP
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO
REGULAR AUDIT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022





65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Board of Trustees
Butler Township
6514 North Adario Road
Shiloh, Ohio 44878

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Butler Township, Richland County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. 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. Butler Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

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

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

April 04, 2025

This page intentionally left blank.

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP
RICHLAND COUNTY
Regular Audit
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditors' Report	1-3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2023.....	4
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	5-10
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2022.....	11
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	12-17
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	18-19
Schedule of Findings.....	20-21
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings (Prepared by Management).....	22
Corrective Action Plan (Prepared by Management).....	23

This page intentionally left blank.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Butler Township
Richland County
6514 North Adario Road
Shiloh, OH 44904

To the Township Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Butler Township, Richland 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, 2023 and 2022 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, 2023 and 2022, 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, 2023 and 2022, 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.

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 December 13, 2024, 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

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.

December 13, 2024

Butler Township
Richland County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$29,528	\$90,676	\$120,204
Charges for Services	22,500	-	22,500
Licenses, Permits and Fees	229,452	3,400	232,852
Intergovernmental	36,464	132,015	168,479
Earnings on Investments	7,211	2,261	9,472
Miscellaneous	<u>7,856</u>	<u>1,809</u>	<u>9,665</u>
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>333,011</u>	<u>230,161</u>	<u>563,172</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	112,628	638	113,266
Public Safety	77,650	-	77,650
Public Works	47,000	253,083	300,083
Health	91,749	1,896	93,645
Capital Outlay	<u>31,324</u>	<u>46,439</u>	<u>77,763</u>
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>360,351</u>	<u>302,056</u>	<u>662,407</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>(27,340)</u>	<u>(71,895)</u>	<u>(99,235)</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>252,851</u>	<u>709,809</u>	<u>962,660</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$225,511</u></u>	<u><u>\$637,914</u></u>	<u><u>\$863,425</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Butler Township, Richland County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Franklin Township Fire Department, CB&S Joint Fire District, and Savannah Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection and medical services.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide 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:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

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 Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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) 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 2023 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.

SBITAs

The Township has entered into noncancelable Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software including contracts related to financial systems. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Fund Balance

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

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

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (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 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 ending December 31, 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	Receipts	Receipts	
General	\$ 242,040	\$ 333,011	\$ 90,971
Special Revenue	222,050	230,161	8,111

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Budgetary	Budgetary	Variance
	Appropriation	Disbursements	
General	\$ 400,000	\$ 362,542	\$ 37,458
Special Revenue	462,989	378,106	84,883

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 4 – Deposits

To improve cash management, cash received by the Township is pooled. Monies for all fund are maintained in this pool. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. A summary of the Township's deposit accounts are as follows:

	2023
Demand deposits	\$ 533,196
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	330,229
Total deposits	\$ 863,425

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, 2023, the Township is holding \$0 in 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 to 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

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.

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 6 – Risk Management (continued)

Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and has remained unchanged. OPRM had 801 members as of December 31, 2023.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, with the exception of a qualified opinion related to recording premiums and membership fees earned in full as of December 31, 2023. Those premiums and fees should be earned pro-rata over the individual coverage and membership periods of each policy. The financial statements reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2023.

Assets	\$ 23,113,696
Liabilities	<u>(16,078,587)</u>
Members' Equity	<u><u>\$ 7,035,109</u></u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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% 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, 2023.

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0% for members in the traditional pension plan and 2% for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4%; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

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

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend. 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:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 2,191	\$ 76,050	\$ 78,241

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. These restricted and committed amounts in the special revenue 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 ended in April 2023. The Township will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

Butler Township
Richland County, Ohio
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	General	Special Revenue	Combined Total
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 33,327	\$ 85,604	\$ 118,931
Charges for Services	18,750	-	18,750
Licenses, Permits and Fees	230,071	3,907	233,978
Intergovernmental	21,466	204,156	225,622
Earnings on Investments	1,760	766	2,526
Miscellaneous	1,134	44,823	45,957
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>306,508</u>	<u>339,256</u>	<u>645,764</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	134,276	172	134,448
Public Safety	61,150	-	61,150
Public Works	75,000	189,632	264,632
Health	74,087	3,581	77,668
Capital Outlay	-	41	41
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	10,513	21,078	31,591
Interest and Fiscal Charges	644	2,268	2,912
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>355,670</u>	<u>216,772</u>	<u>572,442</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(49,162)</u>	<u>122,484</u>	<u>73,322</u>
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In	-	22,888	22,888
Transfers Out	<u>(22,888)</u>	-	<u>(22,888)</u>
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(22,888)</u>	<u>22,888</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>(72,050)</u>	<u>145,372</u>	<u>73,322</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>324,901</u>	<u>564,437</u>	<u>889,338</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 252,851</u>	<u>\$ 709,809</u>	<u>\$ 962,660</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

Butler Township
Richland 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 the Butler Township, Richland County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance. The Township contracts with the Franklin Township Fire Department, CB&S Joint Fire District, and Savannah Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire protection and medical services.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide 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:

Gas Tax Fund The gas tax fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax restricted for maintenance and repair of roads within the Township.

Road and Bridge Fund The road and bridge fund accounts for and reports property tax revenue from inside millage committed for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Butler Township
Richland 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 Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

Budgetary Process

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

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

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

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

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 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:

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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

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

Committed Trustees can commit amounts via formal action (resolution). The Township must adhere to these commitments unless the Trustees amend the resolution. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed to satisfy contractual requirements.

Assigned Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. For regulatory purposes, assigned fund balance in the general fund is limited to encumbrances outstanding at year end.

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

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

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

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted	Actual	Variance
	Receipts	Receipts	
General	\$ 306,145	\$ 306,508	\$ 363
Special Revenue	342,057	362,144	20,087

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation	Budgetary	Variance
	Authority	Disbursements	
General	\$ 516,300	\$ 380,543	\$ 135,757
Special Revenue	419,085	217,107	201,978

Butler Township
Richland 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 fund 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:

	2022
Demand deposits	\$ 641,902
Other time deposits (savings and NOW accounts)	320,758
Total deposits	\$ 962,660

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 \$0 in 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 to 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

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.

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 6 – Risk Management (continued)

Risk Pool Membership

The Township belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

Effective November 1, 2016, the OPRM elected to participate in a property loss corridor deductible. The property corridor includes losses paid between 70% and 75%. In 2018, the casualty loss corridor was eliminated and the property corridor was adjusted to losses paid between 65% and 70%. Effective November 1, 2019, the property loss corridor was adjusted to losses between 60% and 67.5% and has remain unchanged. OPRM had 773 members as of December 31, 2022.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2022.

Assets	\$ 21,662,291
Liabilities	<u>(18,158,351)</u>
Members' Equity	<u><u>\$ 3,503,940</u></u>

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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% 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.

Butler Township
Richland County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 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 suits, management believe that the resolution of any matters will not materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend. 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:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$ 1,985	\$ 335	\$ 2,320

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

Note 11 – Transfers

During 2022, transfers were made from the General Fund to the Cemetery Maintenance fund of \$22,888 to subsidize operations in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During 2022, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The Township will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

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

Butler Township
Richland County
6514 North Adario Road
Shiloh, OH 44904

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type of Butler Township, Richland County, (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 13, 2024, 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.

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. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2023-001 and 2023-002, that we consider to be material weaknesses.

*Butler Township
Richland County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards**
Page 2

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 instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We also noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated December 13, 2024.

Township's Responses to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Township's responses to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The Township's responses were not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and accordingly, we express no opinion on the responses.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Charles E. Harris & Associates

Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
December 13, 2024

BUTLER TOWNSHIP
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
For the Years Ending December 31, 2023 and 2022

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

Finding Number 2023-001 – Material Weakness

Adjustments and Reclassifications

The Township erroneously recorded numerous transactions during 2023 and 2022. The more significant adjustments are as follows:

- In 2022, the Township posted a \$16,150 fire contract in general government rather than public safety in the General fund.
- In 2022, the Township posted a \$22,500 fire contract in public works in the Gasoline fund rather than public safety in the General fund.
- In 2022, the Township posted a \$22,500 fire contract in public works in the Permissive Sales Tax fund rather than public safety in the General fund.
- In 2022, the Township recorded \$10,513 in principal payments and \$644 in interest payments in general government rather than in principal retirement and interest and other fiscal charges.
- In 2022, the Township recorded \$21,078 in principal payments and \$2,268 in interest payments in public works rather than in principal retirement and interest and other fiscal charges.
- In 2022, the Township posted \$75,000 of road work in general government rather than public works.
- In 2022, the Township posted a \$18,750 fire contract in licenses, permits, and fees rather than charges for services.
- In 2022, the Township posted \$8,322 of OPERS payments in public safety rather than general government.
- In 2023, the Township posted \$24,750 of fire contracts in public works in the Gasoline fund rather than public safety in the General fund.
- In 2023, the Township posted \$44,950 of fire contracts in general government rather than public safety in the General fund.
- In 2023, the Township posted a \$5,500 fire contract in public works in the Road and Bridge fund rather than in public safety in the General fund.
- In 2023, the Township posted a \$2,450 fire contract in public works in the Permissive Sales Tax fund rather than in public safety in the General fund.
- In 2023, the Township posted \$47,000 of road work in general government rather than public works.
- In 2023, the Township posted a \$31,324 backhoe in general government rather than capital outlay.

The accompanying financial statements and Township records have been adjusted to properly reflect these transactions.

Sound financial reporting is the responsibility of the Township and is essential to ensure the information provided to the readers of the financial statements is complete and accurate. We recommend the Township adopt policies and procedures to identify and correct errors and omissions in a timely manner. Management can use the Uniform Accounting Network manual, the Ohio Township Handbook and other Auditor of State guidance to aid in properly identifying account classifications and preparing annual financial statements.

Management's Response: See Corrective Action Plan.

BUTLER TOWNSHIP
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS-Continued
For the Years Ending December 31, 2023 and 2022

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

Finding Number 2023-002 – Material Weakness

Bank Reconciliations

Sound accounting practices require that when designing the public office's system of internal control and specific control activities, management should ensure adequate security and records, and verify the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records. The reconciliation of cash (bank) balances to accounting system records (books) is the most basic and primary control process performed. Lack of completing an accurate and timely reconciliation may allow for accounting errors, theft, and fraud to occur without timely detection. The Fiscal Officer is responsible for reconciling the book (fund) balance to the total bank balance on a monthly basis. The Board is responsible for reviewing the reconciliation and related support.

In 2022 and 2023, the Township had unreconciled differences varying between \$22,000 to \$41,007. The annual reports for each year were filed with the Auditor of State with these unresolved differences. In 2023, the Township hired an outside consultant to perform bank reconciliations for 2020 and 2021 and found significant adjustments to the Township's records and financial statements. These bank reconciliations significantly corrected the differences in 2022 and 2023 but additional adjustments were found on subsequent review. As a result of the bank reconciliation and subsequent analysis of 2022 and 2023 activity, additional adjustments made and the financial statements were resubmitting to the Hinkle system for 2022 and 2023.

Failure to reconcile book balances monthly increases the possibility the Township will not be able to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, and record its transactions correctly or to document compliance with finance related legal and contractual requirements. Further, the lack of accurate monthly reconciliations, including support for adjustments, increases the risk of theft/fraud over the cash cycle and could lead to inaccurate reporting in the annual financial statements.

The Fiscal Officer should ensure all transactions are recorded and prepare monthly bank to book cash reconciliations, which include all bank accounts and all fund balances. Variances should be timely investigated, documented and corrected. In addition, the Board should review the monthly cash reconciliations including the related support (such as reconciling items).

Management's Response: See Corrective Action Plan.

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP
RICHLAND COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022
Prepared by Management**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2021-001	Material Weakness- Bank Reconciliation	Not Corrected	
2021-002	Noncompliance- Payroll Taxes	Corrected	
2021-003	Noncompliance- Budgetary Law Violations/ Budgetary Entries in UAN System	Corrected	

**BUTLER TOWNSHIP
RICHLAND COUNTY**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022
Prepared by Management**

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2023-001	Fiscal Officer will review receipts and disbursements more closely to ensure correct coding using UAN Chart of Account documents for reference.	Immediately	Kathryn Hout, Fiscal Officer
2023-002	The Township will review the recommended documents and review their procedures for preparing financial statements.	Immediately	Kathryn Hout, Fiscal Officer

This page intentionally left blank.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BUTLER TOWNSHIP

RICHLAND 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 4/17/2025

65 East State 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