



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

A small, thin-lined map of the state of Ohio is positioned to the right of the text, showing the state's outline.

**GERMAN TOWNSHIP
FULTON COUNTY
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

German Township
Fulton County
P.O. Box 68
Archbold, Ohio 43502-0068

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, 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, 2024 and 2023, 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, 2024 and 2023, 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 the Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023, the Township restated the 2023 beginning fund cash balances for the Special Revenue and Capital Project fund types to properly report American Rescue Plan Act revenues received in prior audit periods. Our opinion is not modified with respect to 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 *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 November 24, 2025, 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.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

November 24, 2025

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German Township
Fulton County
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

| | General | Special Revenue | Permanent | Combined Total |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cash Receipts | | | | |
| Property and Other Local Taxes | \$172,508 | \$966,688 | | \$1,139,196 |
| Intergovernmental | 100,333 | 490,781 | | 591,114 |
| Earnings on Investments | 150,561 | 9,958 | \$1,710 | 162,229 |
| Miscellaneous | 16,904 | 11,050 | | 27,954 |
| <i>Total Cash Receipts</i> | <i>440,306</i> | <i>1,478,477</i> | <i>1,710</i> | <i>1,920,493</i> |
| Cash Disbursements | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 163,305 | | | 163,305 |
| Public Safety | 1,682 | 546,043 | | 547,725 |
| Public Works | | 641,464 | | 641,464 |
| Health | | 10,385 | 2,277 | 12,662 |
| Capital Outlay | | 436,837 | | 436,837 |
| Debt Service: | | | | |
| Principal Retirement | | 30,000 | | 30,000 |
| <i>Total Cash Disbursements</i> | <i>164,987</i> | <i>1,664,729</i> | <i>2,277</i> | <i>1,831,993</i> |
| <i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i> | <i>275,319</i> | <i>(186,252)</i> | <i>(567)</i> | <i>88,500</i> |
| Other Financing Receipts | | | | |
| Loans Issued | | 93,989 | | 93,989 |
| <i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i> | <i>275,319</i> | <i>(92,263)</i> | <i>(567)</i> | <i>182,489</i> |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i> | <i>1,349,353</i> | <i>1,479,591</i> | <i>32,058</i> | <i>2,861,002</i> |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i> | <i>\$1,624,672</i> | <i>\$1,387,328</i> | <i>\$31,491</i> | <i>\$3,043,491</i> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Archbold to provide fire services and with Fulton County to provide ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pool

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:

Fire District Fund This fund receives property tax money for purchasing and maintaining fire equipment and fire services.

Road District Fund This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Permanent Funds These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant Permanent fund:

Goll Cemetery Maintenance Fund This fund accounts for and reports a bequest for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

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

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

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

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

Township employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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, 2024 follows:

| 2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fund Type | Budgeted Receipts | Actual Receipts | Variance |
| General | \$388,872 | \$440,306 | \$51,434 |
| Special Revenue | 1,678,746 | 1,572,466 | (106,280) |
| Capital Projects | 487,500 | | (487,500) |
| Permanent | 1,000 | 1,710 | 710 |
| Total | <u>\$2,556,118</u> | <u>\$2,014,482</u> | <u>(\$541,636)</u> |

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

| Fund Type | Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Expenditures | Variance |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| General | \$610,126 | \$166,180 | \$443,946 |
| Special Revenue | 2,314,189 | 1,666,816 | 647,373 |
| Capital Projects | 487,500 | | 487,500 |
| Permanent | 5,000 | 2,277 | 2,723 |
| Total | \$3,416,815 | \$1,835,273 | \$1,581,542 |

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:

| 2024 | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Cash Management Pool:</i> | |
| Demand deposits | <u>\$3,043,491</u> |

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, 2024, the Township is holding \$3,707 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

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.

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 (local entity's) policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

- General liability
- Automobile Liability
- Automobile Physical Damage
- Public Officials Liability
- Property and Inland Marine
- Law enforcement liability
- Fidelity and Crime
- Employment Practices Liability
- Cyber Breach and Liability

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

| | 2024 |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Cash and investments | \$32,822,076 |
| Actuarial liabilities | \$12,568,762 |

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

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 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, 2024.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers 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 2024, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

Note 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2024 was as follows:

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

| | Principal | Interest Rate |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| OPWC Loan #CE35Z | \$146,250 | 0% |
| OPWC Loan #CE31W | 82,500 | 0% |
| OPWC Loan #CE09AB | 93,989 | 0% |
| Total | \$322,739 | |

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loan #CE35Z relates to the Road 24 Resurfacing project. The Township borrowed \$162,500 for this project in 2023. The Township will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$8,125 over 10 years.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loan #CE31W relates to the Road 24 and Road B Resurfacing project. The Township borrowed \$137,500 for this project in 2020. The Township will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$6,875 over 10 years.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loan #CE09AB relates to the Road 24 from E to F Resurfacing project. The Township borrowed \$93,989 for this project in 2024. The Township will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$4,699.42 over 10 years, beginning in 2025.

Amortization

Amortization of the above debt is scheduled as follows:

| Year Ending December 31: | OPWC Loan #CE35Z | OPWC Loan #CE31W | OPWC Loan #CE09AB |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 2025 | \$16,250 | \$13,750 | \$9,399 |
| 2026 | 16,250 | 13,750 | 9,399 |
| 2027 | 16,250 | 13,750 | 9,399 |
| 2028 | 16,250 | 13,750 | 9,399 |
| 2029 | 16,250 | 13,750 | 9,399 |
| 2030-2034 | <u>65,000</u> | <u>13,750</u> | <u>46,994</u> |
| Total | <u>\$146,250</u> | <u>\$82,500</u> | <u>\$93,989</u> |

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

| Fund Balances | General | Special Revenue | Total |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding Encumbrances | <u>\$1,193</u> | <u>\$2,087</u> | <u>\$3,280</u> |

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

German Township
Fulton County
*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 | Permanent | Combined Total |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cash Receipts | | | | |
| Property and Other Local Taxes | \$143,112 | \$962,240 | | \$1,105,352 |
| Intergovernmental | 69,956 | 164,109 | | 234,065 |
| Earnings on Investments | 140,451 | 8,550 | \$1,604 | 150,605 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,360 | 1,425 | | 3,785 |
| <i>Total Cash Receipts</i> | <u>355,879</u> | <u>1,136,324</u> | <u>1,604</u> | <u>1,493,807</u> |
| Cash Disbursements | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 154,099 | | | 154,099 |
| Public Safety | 2,985 | 381,220 | | 384,205 |
| Public Works | 1,060 | 738,465 | | 739,525 |
| Health | | 1,000 | | 1,000 |
| Capital Outlay | | 2,086 | | 2,086 |
| Debt Service: | | | | |
| Principal Retirement | | 13,750 | | 13,750 |
| <i>Total Cash Disbursements</i> | <u>158,144</u> | <u>1,136,521</u> | | <u>1,294,665</u> |
| <i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i> | <u>197,735</u> | <u>(197)</u> | <u>1,604</u> | <u>199,142</u> |
| Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements) | | | | |
| Sale of Capital Assets | | 6,596 | | 6,596 |
| Transfers In | | 315,000 | | 315,000 |
| Transfers Out | (315,000) | | | (315,000) |
| Other Financing Sources | 219,577 | | | 219,577 |
| Other Financing Uses | | (219,577) | | (219,577) |
| <i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i> | <u>(95,423)</u> | <u>102,019</u> | | <u>6,596</u> |
| <i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i> | <u>102,312</u> | <u>101,822</u> | <u>1,604</u> | <u>205,738</u> |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated)</i> | <u>1,247,041</u> | <u>1,377,769</u> | <u>30,454</u> | <u>2,655,264</u> |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i> | <u>\$1,349,353</u> | <u>\$1,479,591</u> | <u>\$32,058</u> | <u>\$2,861,002</u> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

German Township
Fulton 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 German Township, Fulton County, Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services. The Township contracts with the Village of Archbold to provide fire services and with Fulton County to provide ambulance services.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. The Township's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

The Township uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Township are presented below:

General Fund The General fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General fund balance is available to the Township for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Special Revenue Funds These funds account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The Township had the following significant Special Revenue funds:

Road and Bridge Fund This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Fire District Fund This fund receives property tax money for purchasing and maintaining fire equipment and fire services.

Road District Fund This fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Permanent Funds These funds account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs (for the benefit of the government or its citizenry). The Township had the following significant Permanent fund:

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Goll Cemetery Maintenance Fund This fund accounts for and reports a bequest for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

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 (except certain custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

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

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

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

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

Township employees earn sick and vacation time that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The Township classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, nonspendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note 3 – Compliance

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriation authority exceeded estimated resources in the Road District fund by \$404,974 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

Note 4 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2024 follows:

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

| Fund Type | Budgeted Receipts | Actual Receipts | Variance |
|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| General | \$264,000 | \$575,456 | \$311,456 |
| Special Revenue | 1,205,000 | 1,457,920 | 252,920 |
| Capital Projects | 487,500 | | (487,500) |
| Permanent | 400 | 1,604 | 1,204 |
| Total | \$1,956,900 | \$2,034,980 | \$78,080 |

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

| Fund Type | Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Expenditures | Variance |
|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| General | \$575,687 | \$474,770 | \$100,917 |
| Special Revenue | 1,828,333 | 1,358,798 | 469,535 |
| Capital Projects | 707,077 | | 707,077 |
| Total | \$3,111,097 | \$1,833,568 | \$1,277,529 |

Note 5 – 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:

| | | <u>2023</u> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| <i>Cash Management Pool:</i> | | |
| Demand deposits | | \$2,860,502 |
| Certificates of deposit | | 500 |
| <i>Total carrying amount of deposits (ties to FS)</i> | | <u>\$2,861,002</u> |

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 \$3,398 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Note 6 – Property Taxes

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

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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

Note 7 – Risk Management

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

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

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

| | 2023 |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Cash and investments | \$33,494,457 |
| Actuarial liabilities | \$10,885,549 |

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plan

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 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, 2023.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

Both 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 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent 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 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 10 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2023 was as follows:

| | Principal | Interest Rate |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| OPWC Loan #CE35Z | \$162,500 | 0% |
| OPWC Loan #CE31W | 96,250 | 0% |
| Total | <u>\$258,750</u> | |

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loan #CE35Z relates to the Road 24 Resurfacing project. The Township borrowed \$162,500 for this project in 2023. The Township will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$8,125 over 10 years, beginning in 2024.

The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loan #CE31W relates to the Road 24 and Road B Resurfacing project. The Township borrowed \$137,500 for this project in 2020. The Township will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$6,875 over 10 years.

Amortization

Amortization of the above debt is scheduled as follows:

| Year Ending December 31: | OPWC Loan #CE35Z | OPWC Loan #CE31W |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 2024 | \$16,250 | \$13,750 |
| 2025 | 16,250 | 13,750 |
| 2026 | 16,250 | 13,750 |
| 2027 | 16,250 | 13,750 |
| 2028 | 16,250 | 13,750 |
| 2029-2033 | 81,250 | 27,500 |
| Total | <u>\$162,500</u> | <u>\$96,250</u> |

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

| Fund Balances | General | Special Revenue | Total |
|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Outstanding Encumbrances | \$1,626 | \$2,700 | <u>\$4,326</u> |

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

German Township
Fulton County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 12 – Subsequent Events

During 2024, the Township borrowed \$93,989 from the Ohio Public Works Commission at 0% interest for the Road 24 from E to F resurfacing project. The Township will repay the loan in semiannual installments of \$4,699.42 over 10 years, beginning in 2025.

Note 13 – Restatement of Fund Cash Balance

The Township restated the beginning fund balances for the Special Revenue and Capital Project fund types to properly report American Rescue Plan Act revenues received in prior audit periods. The effect of the adjustment on beginning fund cash balances is reflected in the chart below.

| | 12/31/2022 | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | As Previously Reported | Error Correction | 1/1/2023 As Restated |
| Governmental Funds | | | |
| Special Revenue Funds | \$1,158,192 | \$219,577 | \$1,377,769 |
| Capital Projects Funds | <u>219,577</u> | (\$219,577) | <u></u> |
| Total Governmental Funds | <u>\$1,377,769</u> | | <u>\$1,377,769</u> |

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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

German Township
Fulton County
P.O. Box 68
Archbold, Ohio 43502-0068

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements of German Township, Fulton County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated November 24, 2025, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the Township restated the 2023 beginning fund cash balances for the Special Revenue and Capital Project fund types to properly report American Rescue Plan Act revenues received in prior audit periods.

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 purpose 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 a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

German Township
Fulton 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-002.

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.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

November 24, 2025

**GERMAN TOWNSHIP
FULTON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

The following errors were identified in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements:

- Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) loans issued and the related capital outlay disbursements in the amount of \$93,989 in 2024 were not recorded in the Road District fund;
- OPWC on behalf of grants totaling \$325,000 in 2024 were not recorded as intergovernmental receipts and capital outlay disbursements in the Road District fund;
- Homestead and rollback receipts were recorded as property and other local taxes receipts rather than intergovernmental receipts within the General fund in the amounts of \$58,117 and \$26,024 for 2024 and 2023, respectively;
- Other Financing Uses in the amount of \$219,577 attributed to American Rescue Plan Act to be used for revenue loss were improperly accounted for in the Capital Projects fund type rather than the Special Revenue fund type in 2023 due to an error in how these funds were recorded in prior audit periods;
- The notes to the financial statements did not include the Debt and Fund Balances note disclosures in 2024 and 2023.

These errors were not identified and corrected prior to the Township preparing its financial statements and notes to the financial statements due to deficiencies in the Township's internal controls over financial statement monitoring. Failure to complete accurate financial statements could lead to the Board of Trustees making misinformed decisions. The accompanying financial statements and notes to the financial statements have been adjusted to correct these errors. In addition to the adjustments noted above, we also identified additional misstatements ranging from \$400 to \$13,750 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

The Township should adopt policies and procedures, including final review of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements by the Fiscal Officer and Board of Trustees, to help identify and correct errors and omissions.

FINDING NUMBER 2024-002

Noncompliance

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, or in case of appeal, by the board of tax appeals. No appropriation measure shall become effective until the county auditor files with the appropriating authority a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund, taken together with all other outstanding appropriations, do not exceed such official estimate or amended official estimate. For purposes of this section of the Ohio Revised Code, estimated revenue is commonly referred to as "estimated resources" because it includes unencumbered fund balances.

At December 31, 2023 the Township's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Road District fund by \$404,974.

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. In addition to the amount noted above, we also identified additional noncompliance ranging from \$8,994 to \$53,754 that we have brought to the Township's attention.

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.

Officials' Response:

We did not receive a response from Officials to the findings reported above.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



GERMAN TOWNSHIP

FULTON 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 12/18/2025

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