



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**VILLAGE OF MOWRYSTOWN  
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Village of Mowrytown  
Highland County  
50 Maple Street  
Mowrytown, Ohio 45155

To the Village Council:

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Unmodified and Adverse Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the Village of Mowrytown, Highland County, Ohio (the Village), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental and proprietary fund type combined total 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 and proprietary fund type combined total 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 Village, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, 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 Village, 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 Village 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 Village'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 Village'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 Village's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Village of Mowrystown  
Highland County  
Independent Auditor's Report  
Page 3

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 11, 2024, on our consideration of the Village'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 Village'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 Village's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
December 11, 2024

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**Village of Mowrystown**  
*Highland 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*

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	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 20,776	\$ 22,349	\$ 43,125
Intergovernmental	35,229	37,215	72,444
Charges for services	7,406	0	7,406
Fines, Licenses and Permits	500	0	500
Earnings on Investments	117	83	200
Miscellaneous	187	0	187
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<i>64,215</i>	<i>59,647</i>	<i>123,862</i>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property	0	16,179	16,179
Leisure Time Activities	4,509	0	4,509
Basic Utility Services	15,067	14,270	29,337
Transportation	0	7,122	7,122
General Government	19,717	766	20,483
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>39,293</i>	<i>38,337</i>	<i>77,630</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<i>24,922</i>	<i>21,310</i>	<i>46,232</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<i>24,915</i>	<i>321,069</i>	<i>345,984</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<i>\$ 49,837</i>	<i>\$ 342,379</i>	<i>\$ 392,216</i>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Mowrystown**  
**Highland County**  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements  
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Proprietary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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	<u>Proprietary Fund Types</u>
	<u>Enterprise</u>
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 181,575</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>181,575</u>
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Personal Services	13,702
Employee Fringe Benefits	2,117
Contractual Services	30,945
Supplies and Materials	3,717
Other	<u>73,701</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>124,182</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<u>57,393</u>
<b>Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</b>	
Earnings on investments (proprietary funds only)	1
Special Assessments	13,913
Miscellaneous Receipts	300
Principal Retirement	(49,668)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	<u>(9,582)</u>
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(45,036)</u>
<i>Income (Loss) before Transfers</i>	12,357
Transfers In	5,000
Transfers Out	<u>(5,000)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	12,357
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>118,722</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 131,079</u>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The Village of Mowrystown (the Village), Highland County, is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides water and sewer utilities and park operations. The Village contracts with the Highland County Sheriff's department to provide security of persons and property. The Village contracts with South Highland Joint Fire District to receive fire protection services.

***Public Entity Risk Pools***

The Village participates in public entity risks pools. Notes 6 and 10 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village is financially accountable.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

The Village 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

***Street Construction Maintenance and Repair*** This fund receives gasoline tax, motor vehicle license tax for constructing, maintaining & repairing Village streets.

***Police Levy Fund*** This fund receives tax money to provide police protection services to the Village.

***Coronavirus Relief Fund*** This fund receives the American Rescue Plan Act Funding and is restricted to the guidelines set in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act.

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Enterprise Funds** These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Fund:

**Sewer Fund** This fund receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

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

***Fund Balance***

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

**Nonspendable** The Village classifies assets as *nonspendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes nonspendable fund balance includes

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Village and the nonexpendable 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** Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends 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 Village 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 – Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2023 was as follows:

Fund Type	2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$54,497	\$64,215	\$9,718
Special Revenue	40,565	59,647	19,082
Enterprise	199,000	200,788	1,788
Total	<u>\$294,062</u>	<u>\$324,650</u>	<u>\$30,588</u>

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$59,750	\$42,119	\$17,631
Special Revenue	112,261	53,233	59,028
Enterprise	268,149	208,646	59,503
Total	<u>\$440,160</u>	<u>\$303,998</u>	<u>\$136,162</u>

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

	2023
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	<u>\$523,295</u>

The Village does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflect net payroll plus all remitted 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 – Taxes**

***Property Taxes***

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Council 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 Village.

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

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 6 – Risk Management**

***Workers' Compensation***

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Village 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.

***Public Entities Pool of Ohio***

The Village is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Village'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	\$ 43,996,442
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 19,743,401

**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

Some Village 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 Village contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

***Social Security***

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

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Village contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

**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 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 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

**Note 9 – Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2023, was as follows:

	Interest Rate	1/1/2023 Balance	Issued	Retired	12/31/2023 Balance
Ohio Water Development					
Authority Loan (OWDA) #4596	1.00%	174,246	0	10,447	163,799
Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) #CT461	0.00%	84,054	0	11,207	72,847
Ohio Water Development					
Authority Loan (OWDA) #9951	1.11%	626,571	0	28,014	598,557
		\$ 884,871	\$ 0	\$ 49,668	\$ 835,203

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loan #4596 was obtained in the amount of \$314,579 for construction of the new wastewater collection system in 2009. This loan is to be paid in semiannual installments over 30 years. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

The Ohio Public Works Commission loan #CT461 was obtained in the amount of \$224,145 for the construction of the new wastewater collection system in 2009. The Village will repay the loans in semiannual installments over 20 years. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OPWC debt service requirements.

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loan #9951 was obtained in 2022 to refinance the USDA Rural Development Loan #92-02 at a rate of 1.11%. This loan is to be paid in semiannual installments over 20 years. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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***Amortization***

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

Year Ending December 31:	OWDA Loans	OPWC Loan
2024	\$ 24,022	\$ 5,604
2025	48,042	11,207
2026	48,042	11,207
2027	48,042	11,207
2028	48,042	11,207
2029-2033	240,214	22,416
2034-2038	240,214	-
2039-2042	143,518	-
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$840,136</u></b>	<b><u>\$72,848</u></b>

**Note 10 – Public Entity Risk Pool**

The Village participates in the Ohio Municipal League Group Rating Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation. The pool's business and affairs are conducted by a twenty-six member Board of Trustees consisting of fifteen mayors, two council members, three administrators, three finance directors, and three law directors which are voted on by the members for staggered two-year terms. The Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League serves as the coordinator of the Program. Each year the participants pay an enrollment fee to the program to cover the costs of administering the program.

**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	Special		
	General	Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$2,826	\$14,896	\$17,722
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$2,826</u></b>	<b><u>\$14,896</u></b>	<b><u>\$17,722</u></b>

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

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**Village of Mowrystown**  
*Highland County*  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Governmental Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$22,002	\$23,945	\$45,947
Intergovernmental	31,673	47,915	79,588
Charges for services	1,912	0	1,912
Earnings on Investments	98	76	174
Miscellaneous	319	0	319
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<i>56,004</i>	<i>71,936</i>	<i>127,940</i>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property	0	454	454
Leisure Time Activities	6,550	0	6,550
Basic Utility Services	14,446	0	14,446
Transportation	0	15,705	15,705
General Government	23,000	914	23,914
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>43,996</i>	<i>17,073</i>	<i>61,069</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<i>12,008</i>	<i>54,863</i>	<i>66,871</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<i>12,907</i>	<i>266,206</i>	<i>279,113</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<i>\$24,915</i>	<i>\$321,069</i>	<i>\$345,984</i>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Mowrystown**  
**Highland County**  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements  
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Proprietary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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	Proprietary Fund Types
	Enterprise
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Charges for Services	<u>\$174,198</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>174,198</u>
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Personal Services	13,573
Employee Fringe Benefits	2,216
Contractual Services	24,739
Supplies and Materials	2,364
Other	<u>73,700</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>116,592</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<u>57,606</u>
<b>Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</b>	
Special Assessments	15,990
Loans Issued	626,571
Principal Retirement	(645,620)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	<u>(43,077)</u>
<i>Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>(46,136)</u>
<i>Income (Loss) before Transfers</i>	11,470
Transfers In	1,500
Transfers Out	<u>(1,500)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	11,470
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>107,252</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$118,722</u>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The Village of Mowrystown (the Village), Highland County, is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides water and sewer utilities and park operations. The Village contracts with Southern Highland Joint Fire District to receive fire protection services.

***Public Entity Risk Pools***

The Village participates in public entity risks pools. Notes 7 and 11 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

The Village's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Village is financially accountable.

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

The Village 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

***Street Construction Maintenance and Repair*** This fund receives gasoline tax, motor vehicle license tax for constructing, maintaining & repairing Village streets.

***Police Levy Fund*** This fund receives tax money to provide police protection services to the Village.

***Coronavirus Relief Fund*** This fund receives the American Rescue Plan Act Funding and is restricted to the guidelines set in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act.

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Enterprise Funds** These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Fund:

**Sewer Fund** This fund receives charges for services from residents to cover the cost of providing this utility.

***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 Village 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 Village Council 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 Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

***Capital Assets***

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

***Fund Balance***

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

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Nonspendable** The Village 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 Village and the nonexpendable 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** Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends 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 Village applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

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

#### **Note 3 – Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Coronavirus Relief fund by \$18,436 and in the Sewer Operating fund by \$570,237 for the year ended December 31, 2022.

#### **Note 4 – Budgetary Activity**

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

Fund Type	2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts		
	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$54,512	\$56,004	\$1,492
Special Revenue	40,562	71,936	31,374
Enterprise	172,550	818,259	645,709
Total	\$267,624	\$946,199	\$678,575

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures**

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$62,636	\$45,361	\$17,275
Special Revenue	86,775	20,464	66,311
Enterprise	848,000	827,388	20,612
Total	<b><u>\$997,411</u></b>	<b><u>\$893,213</u></b>	<b><u>\$104,198</u></b>

**Note 5 – Deposits and Investments**

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

2022	
<b><i>Cash Management Pool:</i></b>	
Demand deposits	<b><u>\$464,706</u></b>

The Village does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statement reflect net payroll plus all remitted 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 6 – Taxes**

***Property Taxes***

Real property taxes become a lien on January 1 preceding the October 1 date for which the Council 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 Village.

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

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 7 – Risk Management**

***Workers' Compensation***

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Village 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.

***Public Entities Pool of Ohio***

The Village is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the Village'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:

2022	
Cash and investments	\$ 42,310,794
Actuarial liabilities	\$15,724,479

**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

***Ohio Public Employees Retirement System***

Some Village 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 Village contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

***Social Security***

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

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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

**Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2022. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Member Directed Plan was 4.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

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

**Note 10 – Debt**

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2022, was as follows:

	Interest Rate	1/1/2022 Balance	Issued	Retired	12/31/2022 Balance
USDA Wastewater System Revenue Bonds	4.13%	\$ 624,069	\$ 0	\$ 624,069	\$ 0
Ohio Water Development Authority Loan (OWDA) #4596	1.00%	184,589	0	10,343	174,246
Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) #CT461	0.00%	95,261	0	11,207	84,054
Ohio Water Development Authority Loan (OWDA) #9951	1.11%	0	626,571	0	626,571
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$ 903,919	\$ 626,571	\$ 645,619	\$ 884,871

The wastewater system mortgage revenue bonds were issued June 13, 2008 in the total amount of \$753,000 to pay a USDA Rural Development Authority Loan #92-02 used to finance the installation of a wastewater collection system in the Village. The revenue of the Village's sewer utility has been pledged to repay the debt. This loan was refinanced through OWDA in November of 2022. As required by the bond covenant, the Village has established a Sewer Reserve Fund. As of December 31, 2022, the Sewer Reserve Fund balance was \$2038.81.

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loan #4596 was obtained in the amount of \$314,579. For construction of the new wastewater collection system in 2009. This loan is to be paid in semiannual

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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installments over 30 years. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

The Ohio Public Works Commission loan #CT461 was obtained in the amount of \$224,145 for the construction of the new wastewater collection system in 2009. The Village will repay the loans in semiannual installments over 20 years. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OPWC debt service requirements.

The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) loan #9951 was obtained in 2022 to refinance the USDA Rural Development Loan #92-02 at a rate of 1.11%. This loan is to be paid in semiannual installments over 20 years. The Village has agreed to set utility rates sufficient to cover OWDA debt service requirements.

***Amortization***

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

Year Ending December 31:	OWDA Loans	OPWC Loan
2023	\$ 24,022	\$ 5,604
2024	48,042	11,207
2025	48,042	11,207
2026	48,042	11,207
2027	48,042	11,207
2028-2032	240,214	33,624
2033-2037	240,214	-
2038-2042	191,560	-
Total	<u><u>\$888,178</u></u>	<u><u>\$84,056</u></u>

**Note 11 – Public Entity Risk Pool**

The Village participates in the Ohio Municipal League Group Rating Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation. The pool's business and affairs are conducted by a twenty-six member Board of Trustees consisting of fifteen mayors, two council members, three administrators, three finance directors, and three law directors which are voted on by the members for staggered two-year terms. The Executive Director of the Ohio Municipal League serves as the coordinator of the Program. Each year the participants pay an enrollment fee to the program to cover the costs of administering the program.

**Village of Mowrystown, Ohio**  
*Highland County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 12 – Fund Balances**

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

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Total
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$1,365	\$3,391	\$4,756
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$1,365</u>	<u>\$3,391</u>	<u>\$4,756</u>

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



65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov](mailto:ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov)  
800-282-0370

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

Village of Mowrystown  
Highland County  
50 Maple Street  
Mowrystown, Ohio 45155

To the Village Council:

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*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental and proprietary fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Village of Mowrystown, Highland County, (the Village) and have issued our report thereon dated December 11, 2024, wherein we noted the Village followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 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 Village'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 Village's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Village'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 Village's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2023-001 and 2023-002 that we consider to be a material weaknesses.

Village of Mowrytown  
Highland 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 Village'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 are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-003.

***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 Village'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 Village's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
December 11, 2024

**VILLAGE OF MOWRYSTOWN  
HIGHLAND COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
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**

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.

Due to deficiencies in the Village's internal controls over financial reporting, the following conditions related to the Village's 2023 financial statements were identified:

- Special Assessments were understated and charges for services were overstated by \$13,913 due to special assessments being posted as sewer billing receipts in the Enterprise Funds.
- Immaterial errors ranging from amounts of \$18 to \$1,441.

Due to deficiencies in the Village's internal controls over financial reporting, the following conditions related to the Village's 2022 financial statements and notes to the financial statements were identified:

- Intergovernmental receipts and cash fund balance were overstated by \$2,730 due to a gas tax receipt being incorrectly recorded as a local government receipt in the General Fund. This receipt should have been allocated and recorded as an intergovernmental receipt in the Street Construction Repair and Maintenance fund in the amount of \$2,525 and in the State Highway fund in the amount of \$205.
- Appropriation Authority in the Budgetary Footnote was overstated by \$2,730 due to duplicate recording of an appropriation amendment in the General Fund.
- Budgetary expenditures in the Budgetary Footnote were overstated by \$2,424 in the General Fund.
- Intergovernmental receipts and cash fund balance were overstated by \$996 in the Street Construction Repair and Maintenance fund and were understated by \$996 in the State Highway fund due to gas tax receipts being incorrectly allocated among the funds.
- Budgeted receipts in the budgetary footnote for the Special Revenue Funds were overstated by \$18,436 due to an error in recording the original certificate of resources in the accounting system. (See Finding Number 2023-002)
- Principal retirement disbursements were understated by \$611,057; interest and other fiscal charges disbursements were understated by \$15,514; and loans issued receipts were understated by \$626,571 due to the Village not recording a loan refinancing in the Enterprise Funds.
- Special assessments were understated and charges for services were overstated by \$15,990 due to special assessments being posted as sewer billing receipts in the Enterprise Funds.
- Appropriation Authority in the budgetary footnote was understated by \$626,571 due to appropriations not being increased in the accounting system for a refinancing approval. (See Finding Number 2023-002)
- Immaterial errors ranging from amounts of \$73 to \$500.

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001**  
**(Continued)**

Failure to accurately post and report transactions could result in material errors in the Village's financial statements and reduces the Village's ability to monitor financial activity and to make sound decisions which affect the overall available cash position of the Village.

The Village's financial statements and accounting records have been corrected for all identified errors, where appropriate.

The Village should review and implement internal controls to ensure financial transactions are accurately recorded and reported

**Officials' Response:**

We did not receive a response from the Village.

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-002**

**Material Weakness**

Sound accounting practices require accurately posting estimated receipts and appropriations to the ledgers to provide information for budget versus actual comparison and to allow the Council to make informed decisions regarding budgetary matters.

The Appropriation resolution and subsequent amendments establish the legal spending authority of the Village, and the appropriation ledger provides the process by which the Village controls spending, it is therefore necessary the amounts appropriated by the Council are precisely stated and accurately posted to the appropriation ledger.

The original certificate and amendments establish the amounts available for expenditures for the Village and the receipts ledger provides the process by which the Village controls what is available, it is therefore necessary the amounts estimated by the County Budget Commission are posted accurately to the receipts ledger.

In 2023, the appropriations initially recorded in the accounting system did not agree to the approved appropriations causing the General fund accounting system appropriations to be less than the approved appropriations by \$1,258; accounting system appropriations in the Computer fund to be less than the approved appropriations by \$521; and accounting system appropriations in the Sewer Operating Fund to be greater than the approved appropriations by \$106.

In 2022, the Village recorded an amendment in the accounting system twice, causing the Village's accounting system to have \$2,730 greater than the approved appropriations in the General Fund. Additionally, the Village approved to obtain debt and appropriate for the refinancing of prior debt in the amount of \$626,571. This additional appropriation for the Sewer Operating Fund was not recorded in the accounting system.

Also in 2022, estimated receipts in amount of \$18,436 were recorded in the accounting system but were not on the Certificate of Estimated Resources in the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

The Village did not have procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The appropriations and/or amendments thereof approved by Council were not properly posted to the accounting system. Additionally, the approved Certificate of Estimated Resources was not posted to the accounting system appropriately.

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-002**  
**(Continued)**

Failure to accurately post the appropriations and estimated resources to the ledgers could result in overspending and negative cash balances. In addition, this could lead to inaccurate reporting of the budgetary information in the financial statements and notes to the financial statements.

To effectively control the budgetary cycle and to maintain accountability over receipts and expenditures, the Village should post to the ledgers, on a timely basis, estimated resources as certified by the budget commission and appropriations approved by the Council. The Village should then monitor budget versus actual reports to help ensure amended certificates of resources and appropriations have been properly posted to the ledgers.

**Officials' Response:**

We did not receive a response from the Village.

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-003**

**Material 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, 2022 the Village's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the amount of \$18,436 and in the Sewer Operating fund by \$570,237.

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

The Village should draft, approve, and implement procedures to compare appropriations to estimated resources and, if adequate resources are available for additional appropriations, the Village 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 Council to reduce the appropriations.

**Officials' Response:**

We did not receive a response from the Village.

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**V**illage of Mowrytown, Ohio

50 Maple Street  
PO Box 25  
Mowrytown, OH 45155

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
2021-001	Material Weakness-Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as 2023-001



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VILLAGE OF MOWRYSTOWN

HIGHLAND 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 1/2/2025

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)