



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP
MADISON COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Somerford Township
Madison County
PO box 861
London , Ohio 43140

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the Somerford Township, Madison County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, or the changes in financial position thereof for the year 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.

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 March 18, 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
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 18, 2025

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

	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$166,524	\$0	\$0	\$166,524
Licenses, Permits and Fees	8,440	0	0	8,440
Intergovernmental	41,560	329,229	0	370,789
Earnings on Investments	114	0	0	114
Miscellaneous	10,364	28,200	0	38,564
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>227,002</u>	<u>357,429</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>584,431</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	148,156	75,885	0	224,041
Public Works	3,042	104,105	0	107,147
Health	0	25,225	0	25,225
Capital Outlay	1,130	867	0	1,997
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>152,328</u>	<u>206,082</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>358,410</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>74,674</u>	<u>151,347</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>226,021</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>74,674</u>	<u>151,347</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>226,021</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>274,649</u>	<u>636,886</u>	<u>1,910</u>	<u>913,445</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$349,323</u>	<u>\$788,233</u>	<u>\$1,910</u>	<u>\$1,139,466</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

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

Joint Ventures, Jointly Governed Organizations, Public Entity Risk Pools and Related Organizations

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. Note 9 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.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

American Rescue Plan Fund The American Rescue Plan Fund accounts for Federal receipts and disbursements used in an effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic within the Township.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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:

The Cemetery Bequest Fund- The cemetery endowment fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted 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 Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

Budgetary Process

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

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not use the encumbrance method of accounting

A summary of 2022 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.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Money market mutual funds are recorded at share values the mutual funds report. Investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

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.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$166,060	\$227,002	\$60,942
Special Revenue	319,288	357,429	38,141
Total	\$485,348	\$584,431	\$99,083
2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$377,000	\$152,328	\$224,672
Special Revenue	800,921	206,082	594,839
Total	\$1,177,921	\$358,410	\$819,511

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2022
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	\$1,136,624
Certificates of deposit	2,418
Total deposits	<u>1,139,042</u>
STAR Ohio	424
Total investments	424
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool (ties to FS)</i>	<u><u>\$1,139,466</u></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, 2022, the Township is holding \$0.00 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; [or] collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township; 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.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)

Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 –Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (the Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of Somerford 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 actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 6 –Risk Management (Continued)

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and investments	\$32,288,098
Actuarial liabilities	\$9,146,434

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All Township employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2022.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. 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 2022, 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 2022, 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 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Permanent Fund			1,910	1,910
Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,910	\$1,910

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

Note 9 – Fund Balances (Continued)

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed.

Note 10 –COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated. The Township's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined.

Somerford Township received from the American Rescue Plan Act. These amounts are reflected as intergovernmental expenditures in the applicable American Rescue Act Fund. Somerford Township also received a total of \$313,825.04 from the American Rescue Plan Act between 2021-2022. \$75,885.18 has been spent from this fund. The remaining balance of \$237,939.86 will be appropriated for Fiscal Year 2023.

Somerford Township*Madison County, Ohio**Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)**All Governmental Fund Types**For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$165,752	\$0	\$0	\$165,752
Licenses, Permits and Fees	6,769	0	0	6,769
Intergovernmental	45,519	330,066	0	375,585
Earnings on Investments	117	0	0	117
Miscellaneous	13,682	31,670	0	45,352
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>231,839</u>	<u>361,736</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>593,575</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	152,258	131,087	0	283,345
Public Works	2,909	74,727	0	77,636
Health	302	24,099	0	24,401
Capital Outlay		1,150	0	1,150
Debt Service:			0	
Principal Retirement		148,400	0	148,400
Payment to Refunded Bond Escrow Agent		4,452	0	4,452
Interest and Fiscal Charges			0	0
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>155,469</u>	<u>383,915</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>539,384</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>76,370</u>	<u>(22,179)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,191</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>76,370</u>	<u>(22,179)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,191</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>198,279</u>	<u>659,065</u>	<u>1,910</u>	<u>859,254</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$274,649</u>	<u>\$636,886</u>	<u>\$1,910</u>	<u>\$913,445</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

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The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA) public entity risk pool. Note 10 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.

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

Corona Virus Relief Fund The Corona Virus Relief Fund accounts for Federal receipts and disbursements used in an effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic within the Township.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Permanent Funds This 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:

The Cemetery Bequest Fund- The cemetery endowment fund accounts for and reports interest earned on the nonexpendable corpus from a trust agreement restricted for the general maintenance and upkeep of the Township's cemetery.

Basis of Accounting

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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. 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. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Township did not use the encumbrance method of accounting.

A summary of 2021 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.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Money market mutual funds are recorded at share values the mutual funds report. Investment in STAR Ohio is measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

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.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$150,910	\$231,839	\$80,929
Special Revenue	148,000	361,736	213,736
Total	\$298,910	\$593,575	\$294,665

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$343,000	\$155,469	\$187,531
Special Revenue	676,431	383,915	292,516
Total	\$1,019,431	\$539,384	\$480,047

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2021
<i>Cash Management Pool:</i>	
Demand deposits	\$910,609
Certificates of deposit	2,418
Total deposits	913,027
STAR Ohio	418
Total investments	418
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool (ties to FS)</i>	\$913,445

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2021, the Township is holding \$0.00 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; [or] collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township; 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.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)

Investments

Investments in STAR Ohio and mutual funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

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

Note 6 –Risk Management

Risk Pool Membership

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (the Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of Somerford 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 actuarially-measured liabilities and the assets available to pay those liabilities as of December 31:

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 6 –Risk Management (Continued)

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

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

All Township employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2021.

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. 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 2021, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan. For 2021, 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

In fiscal year 2016, the Township issued bonds to finance the construction of the Fire/EMS building in the amount of \$700,000. The bonds were re-paid over 5 years at an interest rate of 3.00% to finance construction of the firehouse and paid annually in various amounts. The bonds' interest and principal were paid in full before their maturity date of September 1, 2021.

Somerford Township
Madison County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 10 – Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	General	Special Revenue	Permanent	Total
Nonspendable:				
Permanent Fund			1,910	1,910
Total	\$0	\$0	\$1,910	\$1,910

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed.

Note 11 –COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2021, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated. The Township's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined.

The Township received \$148,387.04 as an on-behalf grant from another government in fiscal year 2020. This amount was recorded in the Coronavirus Relief Special Revenue Fund. All monies were spent by December 31, 2021 and \$0.00 were returned. The Township also received the first tranche \$156,288 of the American Rescue Plan during 2021. These monies were not expensed until fiscal year 2022.



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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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**

Somerford Township
Madison County
PO box 861
London , Ohio 43140

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 combined total as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Somerford Township, Madison, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated March 18, 2025, wherein we noted the Township 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 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 2022-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Somerford Township
Madison 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 2022-002.

Township's Response to Findings

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

Purpose of this Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 18, 2025

**SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP
MADISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2022-001

Material Weakness- Financial Statement Presentation

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.

For the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2021 the following variances were identified and subsequently adjusted on the basic financial statements:

- For the year ending December 31, 2022, Miscellaneous Receipts of \$24,522 within the General Fund were reclassified as Intergovernmental Receipts.
- For the year ending December 31, 2022 and 2021, License, Permits, and Fees Receipts of \$17,500 and 20,550, within the Special Revenue Funds were reclassified as Miscellaneous Receipts.
- For the year ending December 31, 2022, General Government expenditures were reduced by \$624 and the cash balance was increased within the General Fund.
- For the year ending December 31, 2021, Miscellaneous Receipts of \$29,749 within the General Fund were reclassified as Intergovernmental Receipts.
- For the year ending December 31, 2021, Public Safety Expense of \$152,852 within the Special Revenue Funds were reclassified as Principal and Interest expenses.
- For the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2021, the Township classified the Cemetery bequest fund as a private purpose trust fund rather than a Permanent Fund.

We also identified errors and omissions in the footnotes that have been adjusted in the final report.

The lack of controls over the posting of financial transactions decreases the reliability of financial data at year-end and can result in undetected errors and irregularities. The Township Trustees should implement controls to help ensure all transactions are reviewed and reported in the proper funds. Additionally, reporting inaccuracies can impact the decision-making of those charged with governance and the Township's constituents.

Officials' Response:

After this audit we have a better understanding of what constitutes an Intergovernmental receipt and how they should be recorded. We will look at making adjustments moving forward.

**SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP
MADISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2022-002

Material Noncompliance- Improper Certification of Funds

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) provides that no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer certifying that the amount required to meet the obligation or, in the case of a continuing contract to be performed in whole or in part in an ensuing fiscal year, the amount required to meet the obligation in the fiscal year in which the contract is made has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in **Ohio Rev. Code §§ 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3)**, respectively.

1. "Then and Now" certificate – If the chief fiscal officer can certify both at the time the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collections, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Governing Board can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Governing Board has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution .
2. Amounts less than \$100 in counties and less than \$3,000 in all other subdivisions or taxing units may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Township.
3. Blanket Certificate – The auditor or fiscal officer may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money, not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority, against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
4. Super Blanket Certificate – The Governing Board may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel oil, gasoline, food items, roadway materials, utilities, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. This certification is not to extend beyond the current fiscal year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

**SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP
MADISON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2022-002 (Continued)

Material Noncompliance- Improper Certification of Funds (Continued)

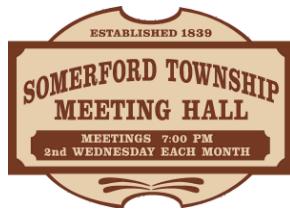
Due to deficiencies in internal controls, for the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2021 we noted eleven out of seventeen or 65% and ten out of twenty or 50%, respectively, were not certified by the Fiscal Officer at the time the commitment was incurred, and there was no evidence the Township followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to help ensure purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, the Fiscal Officer should certify the funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

Officials' Response:

We will evaluate the process for properly encumbering funds from here moving forward.

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SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP
P. O. Box 861
91 State Route 56 NW
London, Ohio 43140

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
DECEMBER 31, 2022 and 2021

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2020-001	Material Weakness-Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Original issued as finding 2018-001, reported as finding 2022-001 for the current report.
2020-002	Material Noncompliance- Proper certification of funds	Not Corrected	Original issued as finding 2018-002, reported as finding 2022-001 for the current report.
2020-003	Material Noncompliance- Annual Financial Statement Filing	Fully Corrected	Original issued as finding 2018-003
2020-004	Material Noncompliance- Appropriations exceeding estimated resources.	Fully Corrected	N/A – No additional information

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SOMERFORD TOWNSHIP

MADISON COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 4/8/2025

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