

PLAIN TOWNSHIP

STARK COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023





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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Board of Trustees
Plain Township
2600 Easton Street N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44721

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Plain Township, Stark County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. Plain Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

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

January 07, 2026

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PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Plain Township
Stark County
2600 Easton Street N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44721

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio (the Township), which comprise the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, or the changes in financial position or cash flows, thereof for the years then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Township, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Township on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

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 July 25, 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.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
July 25, 2025

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 978,762	\$ 14,110,820	\$ -	\$ 15,089,582
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	808,525	299,083	-	1,107,608
Charges for Services	-	1,311,002	-	1,311,002
Fines and Forfeitures	3,403	-	-	3,403
Intergovernmental	402,058	1,912,675	-	2,314,733
Special Assessments	5,711	124,236	-	129,947
Earnings on Investments	403,637	-	-	403,637
Miscellaneous	18,918	277,283	-	296,201
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>2,621,014</u>	<u>18,035,099</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,656,113</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	1,684,767	-	-	1,684,767
Public Safety	-	10,882,265	-	10,882,265
Public Works	-	5,035,423	-	5,035,423
Health	201,959	2,326	-	204,285
Human Services	-	903	-	903
Conservation-Recreation	-	1,175,015	-	1,175,015
Capital Outlay	420,188	1,120,456	368,720	1,909,364
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>2,306,914</u>	<u>18,216,388</u>	<u>368,720</u>	<u>20,892,022</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	314,100	(181,289)	(368,720)	(235,909)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Capital Assets	-	54,401	-	54,401
Transfers In	-	-	2,032,000	2,032,000
Transfers Out	-	(2,032,000)	-	(2,032,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,977,599)</u>	<u>2,032,000</u>	<u>54,401</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	314,100	(2,158,888)	1,663,280	(181,508)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>1,539,410</u>	<u>9,941,509</u>	<u>3,022,875</u>	<u>14,503,794</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,853,510</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,782,621</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,686,155</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 14,322,286</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Proprietary Fund Type
	<u>Internal Service</u>
Operating Cash Receipts	
Charges for Services	\$ 1,780,023
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,780,023</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Purchased Services	368,935
Claims	<u>1,287,760</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>1,656,695</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	123,328
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>349,413</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 472,741</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONS, DEDUCTIONS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

	Fiduciary Fund Type
	Other Custodial
Additions	
Other Amounts Collected for Distribution	\$ 50,000
<i>Total Additions</i>	<u>50,000</u>
Deductions	
Distributions as Fiscal Agent	<u>60,894</u>
<i>Total Deductions</i>	<u>60,894</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(10,894)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>73,617</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 62,723</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Plain Township, Stark 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, several parks and zoning. The Township Contracts with the Stark County Sheriff for police services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool for the Township's property and casualty insurance. This is a local government risk- sharing pool to provide risk management services, risk sharing facilities, and protection for every member of the Pool. The Township also joined the Ohio Association Group Retro Plan (GRP) for workers' compensation. This risk pool helps minimize the Township's workers' compensation premium. Notes 7 and 11 to the financial statements provide additional information about these entities. 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, a statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the proprietary fund type and a statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the fiduciary fund type, which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

Zoning Fund - This fund receives payments from contractors, utility companies and individuals for providing permits for construction located within the Township.

Underground Storage Tank Fund - This fund is maintained by the Township for underground storage tank compliance purposes.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

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

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives non-voted millage and permit fees for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Police District Fund - This fund receives millage from voted tax levies to provide security for persons and property located within the Township.

Fire District Fund – This fund receives voted millage, donations and fees to provide and maintain firefighting equipment, buildings, sites and services for the operation of the Township Fire Department.

Road District Fund - This fund receives voted millage for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Park District Fund - This fund receives millage from a voted tax levy for parks and recreational purposes within the Township.

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services - This fund receives payments from insurance companies and individuals for providing medical treatment and transportation of people for medical purposes.

Capital Project Funds - These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant capital project funds:

Fire Truck & Related Equipment Fund – This fund receives transfers from the Fire District Fund for the purchase of a fire truck and related equipment for the Fire Department.

Police Vehicles & Equipment Fund – This fund receives transfers from the Police District Fund for the purchase of new police vehicles and equipment for the Township contracted police services.

Fire & EMS Equipment Fund - This fund receives transfers from the Fire District Fund for the purchase of emergency vehicles, medical devices, and related equipment for the Fire Department.

Capital Equipment -Road Vehicles & Equipment Fund - This fund receives transfers from the Motor Vehicle Fund, Gasoline Tax Fund, Road & Bridge Fund and the Road District Fund for the purpose of accumulating resources for acquiring, constructing or improving fixed assets including motor vehicles.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

Internal Service Fund - This fund accounts for services provided by one department to other departments of the government unit. The Township had the following Internal Service Fund:

Self-funded Medical Insurance Fund - This self-funded medical insurance fund accounts for insurance premium payments from other funds and to pay medical claims of employees enrolled in the health insurance plan.

Fiduciary Funds - Fiduciary funds include Custodial Funds. Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to hold resources for individuals, organizations or other governments. The Township disburses these funds as directed by the individual, organization, or other government. The Township custodial funds hold insurance escrow deposits for fire losses.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report on budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

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

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

Encumbrances - The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Capital Fund encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over. All other encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled and reappropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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.

The Township values investments at cost. During the year, investments were limited to U.S. Treasury notes, U. S. Government agencies, certificates of deposit, commercial paper, and STAR Ohio, an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office. The 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.

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

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

Settlement Monies

Ohio has reached settlement agreements with various distributors of opioids which are subject to the OneOhio memorandum of understanding. The original settlement (Janssen Settlement Agreement) was reached in 2021 with annual payments anticipated through the year 2038. For 2024, distributions of \$32,953 are reflected as Miscellaneous revenue in the OneOhio Special Revenue Fund 2902 in the accompanying financial statements.

SBITAs

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

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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:

Non-spendable The Township classifies assets as *non-spendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, non-spendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township.

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

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

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

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

The Township applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used. For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 12.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 2,591,561	\$ 2,621,014	\$ 29,453
Special Revenue	19,474,165	18,089,500	(1,384,665)
Capital Projects	2,032,000	2,032,000	-
Internal Service	1,780,024	1,780,023	(1)

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 4,161,916	\$ 2,306,914	\$ 1,855,002
Special Revenue	29,415,675	20,248,388	9,167,287
Capital Projects	5,054,875	782,859	4,272,016
Internal Service	2,129,437	1,656,695	472,742

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2024
Demand deposits	\$ 2,110,351
Escrow Account	56,540
Total deposits	<u>2,166,891</u>
STAR Ohio	2,834,261
Fixed Income Securities	9,856,598
Total investments	<u>12,690,859</u>
Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool	<u><u>\$ 14,857,750</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. As of December 31, 2024, the Township is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC); 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.

Investments

A financial institution's trust department holds the Township's investment securities in book-entry form in the Township's name. 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. 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– Interfund Balances

There are no outstanding advances as of December 31, 2024.

Note 7 – 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 the Township's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Faithful performance liability
- Cyber liability
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles & equipment
- General Property & equipment
- Legal Defense
- Equipment breakdown

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 7 – Risk Management (Continued)

The Pool reported the following summary of actuarially measured liabilities as of December 31, 2023, (Most Current Information Available).

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and investments	\$33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$10,855,549

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. For the rating period January 1, 2024 through January 1, 2025 the Township was included in a group-retrospective rating through BWC and received the Safety Council rebate in addition to an early payment rebate.

Self-funded Insurance

The Township is self-insured for employee health insurance. The Self Insurance Fund pays covered claims to service providers and recovers these costs from charges to other funds based on an actuarially determined cost per employee. A comparison of Self Insurance Fund cash and investments to the actuarially measured liability as of December 31, 2024, as follows:

	<u>12/31/2024</u>
Cash and Investments	\$ 472,741
Actuarial Liabilities	\$ 136,209

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Sixty-eight (68) employees belonged to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) in 2024. OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Continued)

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

Fifty-two (52) full-time Township certified Fire Fighters belonged to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) in 2024. OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The Township contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Social Security

Thirty-two (32) of the Township's employees contributed to Social Security in 2024. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants. Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

Both OPERS and OP&F offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) 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. OP&F uses a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F is placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses. For calendar year 2024, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2024, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

The amounts grantor agencies pay to the Township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require a refund of any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Note 11 – Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township joined the Ohio Association Group Retro Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation in July 2019, effective January 1, 2020, and is still a member of this group. The pool's business and affairs are administered by Sedgewick to achieve premium discounts or refunds based on the Townships exposures, claims performance, and claims to minimize the Townships workers' compensation premium.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Included in the fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years. 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 2024, the balances of these funds were as follows:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
Unclaimed Monies	\$ 3,395	\$ -	\$ 3,395
Outstanding Encumbrances	<u>-</u>	<u>414,139</u>	<u>414,139</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,395</u>	<u>\$ 414,139</u>	<u>\$ 417,534</u>

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

Note 13 – Interfund Transfers

During 2024, the Township completed interfund transfers in the amount of \$2,032,000 from Special Revenue funds to Capital Projects funds. All transfers were made in accordance with Ohio Revised Code.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 1,005,795	\$ 14,119,104	\$ -	\$ 15,124,899
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	710,973	302,764	-	1,013,737
Charges for Services	-	1,161,186	-	1,161,186
Fines and Forfeitures	5,323	-	-	5,323
Intergovernmental	138,961	2,027,384	-	2,166,345
Special Assessments	29,576	75,961	-	105,537
Earnings on Investments	340,326	165,915	-	506,241
Miscellaneous	68,717	280,519	-	349,236
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>2,299,671</u>	<u>18,132,833</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20,432,504</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	1,674,156	2,060,087	-	3,734,243
Public Safety	-	9,294,224	-	9,294,224
Public Works	-	4,376,059	-	4,376,059
Health	197,671	2,251	-	199,922
Conservation-Recreation	-	1,248,875	-	1,248,875
Capital Outlay	1,048,187	979,547	365,822	2,393,556
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>2,920,014</u>	<u>17,961,043</u>	<u>365,822</u>	<u>21,246,879</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	(620,343)	171,790	(365,822)	(814,375)
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)				
Sale of Capital Assets	-	37,657	-	37,657
Transfers In	-	246,342	1,843,193	2,089,535
Transfers Out	-	(1,843,193)	(246,342)	(2,089,535)
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,559,194)</u>	<u>1,596,851</u>	<u>37,657</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(620,343)	(1,387,404)	1,231,029	(776,718)
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated)</i>	<u>2,159,753</u>	<u>11,328,913</u>	<u>1,791,846</u>	<u>15,280,512</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 1,539,410</u>	<u>\$ 9,941,509</u>	<u>\$ 3,022,875</u>	<u>\$ 14,503,794</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Proprietary Fund Type
	<u>Internal Service</u>
Operating Cash Receipts	
Charges for Services	\$ 1,397,236
<i>Total Operating Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,397,236</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Purchased Services	348,705
Claims	<u>1,035,761</u>
<i>Total Operating Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>1,384,466</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	12,770
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated)</i>	<u>336,643</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 349,413</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**STATEMENT OF ADDITIONS, DEDUCTIONS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS)
FIDUCIARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023**

	Fiduciary Fund Type
	<u>Other Custodial</u>
Additions	
Other Amounts Collected for Distribution	\$ 62,333
<i>Total Additions</i>	<u>62,333</u>
Deductions	
Distributions as Fiscal Agent	<u>45,764</u>
<i>Total Deductions</i>	<u>45,764</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	16,569
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated)</i>	<u>57,048</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$ 73,617</u></u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio established in 1809 the rights and privileges of the Plain Township, Stark 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, several parks and zoning. The Township contracts with the Stark County Sheriff for police services.

Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool for the Township's property and casualty insurance. This is a local government risk-sharing pool to provide risk management services, risk sharing facilities, and protection for every member of the Pool. The Township also joined the Ohio Association Group Retro Plan (GRP) for workers' compensation. This risk pool helps minimize the Township's workers' compensation premium. Notes 7 and 12 to the financial statements provide additional information about these entities. 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, a statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the proprietary fund type and a statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the fiduciary fund type, which are organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

Zoning Fund - This fund receives payments from contractors, utility companies and individuals for providing permits for construction located within the Township.

Underground Storage Tank Fund - This fund is maintained by the Township for underground storage tank compliance purposes.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

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

Road and Bridge Fund - This fund receives non-voted millage and permit fees for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Police District Fund - This fund receives millage from voted tax levies to provide security for persons and property located within the Township.

Fire District Fund - This fund receives voted millage, donations and fees to provide and maintain firefighting equipment, buildings, sites and services for the operation of the Township Fire Department.

Road District Fund - This fund receives voted millage for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads and bridges.

Park District Fund - This fund receives millage from a voted tax levy for parks and recreational purposes within the Township.

Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services - This fund receives payments from insurance companies and individuals for providing medical treatment and transportation of persons for medical purposes.

Capital Project Funds - These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant capital project funds:

Fire Building Repair Fund - This fund receives transfers from the Fire District Fund for the purpose of acquiring, constructing or improving buildings.

Police Vehicles & Equipment Fund - This fund receives transfers from the Police District Fund for the purchase of new police vehicles and equipment for the Police Department.

Fire Land/Building Acquisition/Construction Fund - This fund receives transfers from the Fire District Fund for the purpose of accumulating resources to acquire or construct new buildings and/or land.

Internal Service Fund - This fund accounts for services provided by one department to other departments of the government unit. The Township had the following Internal Service Fund:

Self-funded Medical Insurance Fund - This self-funded medical insurance fund accounts for insurance premium payments from other funds and to pay medical claims of employees enrolled in the health insurance plan.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Fund Accounting (Continued)

Fiduciary Fund - Fiduciary funds include Custodial Funds. Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to hold resources for individuals, organizations or other governments. The Township disburses these funds as directed by the individual, organization, or other government. The Township's Custodial funds hold insurance escrow deposits for fire losses.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Township recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

Budgetary Process

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

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

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

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

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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.

The Township values investments at cost. During the year, investments were limited to U.S. Treasury notes, U. S. Government agencies, certificates of deposit, commercial paper, and STAR Ohio, an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office. The 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.

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

Settlement Monies

Ohio has reached settlement agreements with various distributors of opioids which are subject to the OneOhio memorandum of understanding. The Janssen Settlement Agreement was reached in 2021 with annual payments anticipated through 2038. For 2023, distributions of \$10,485 are reflected as miscellaneous revenue in the OneOhio Special Revenue Fund 2902 in the accompanying financial statements.

SBITAs

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

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

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:

Non-spendable The Township classifies assets as *non-spendable* when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact. For regulatory purposes, non-spendable fund balance includes unclaimed monies that are required to be held for five years before they may be utilized by the Township.

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

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

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

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

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

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 13.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ending 2023 follows:

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 2,403,694	\$ 2,299,671	\$ (104,023)
Special Revenue	19,866,635	18,416,832	(1,449,803)
Capital Projects	1,843,193	1,843,193	-
Internal Service	1,300,000	1,397,236	97,236

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 4,560,052	\$ 3,183,642	\$ 1,376,410
Special Revenue	31,195,128	20,632,034	10,563,094
Capital Projects	3,635,039	818,241	2,816,798
Internal Service	1,733,816	1,384,466	349,350

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2023
Demand deposits	\$ 552,722
Escrow Account	67,434
Total deposits	620,156
STAR Ohio	4,680,779
Fixed Income Securities	9,625,889
Total investments	14,306,668
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool</i>	<u>\$ 14,926,824</u>

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The disbursements included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. As of December 31, 2023, the Township is holding \$0 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments (Continued)

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.

Investments

A financial institution's trust department holds the Township's investment securities in book-entry form in the Township's name. 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– Interfund Balances

There are no outstanding advances as of December 31, 2023.

Note 7 – 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 the Township policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

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

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 7 – Risk Management (Continued)

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

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 33,494,457
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 10,885,549

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs. For the rating period January 1, 2023 through January 1, 2024 the township was included in a group-retrospective rating through BWC and received Drug Free Safety discounts by having all employees participate in the Drug Free Safety training program.

Self-funded Insurance

The Township is self-insured for employee health insurance. The Self Insurance Fund pays covered claims to service providers and recovers these costs from charges to other funds based on an actuarially determined cost per employee. A comparison of Self Insurance Fund cash and investments to the actuarially measured liability as of December 31, 2023, as follows:

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 349,413
Actuarial liabilities	\$ 127,787

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

Sixty-two (62) employees belong to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer plan. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes this plan's benefits, which include postretirement health care and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. OPERS members contributed 10 percent of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 14 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Continued)

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

Fifty-one (51) Township certified Fire Fighters belong to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F). OP&F 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. OP&F participants contributed 12.25 percent of their wages. The Township contributed to OP&F an amount equal to 24 percent of full-time fire fighters' wages. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Social Security

Thirty-two (32) of the Township's employees contributed to Social Security in 2023. This plan provides retirement benefits, including survivor and disability benefits to participants. Employees contributed 6.2 percent of their gross salaries. The Township contributed an amount equal to 6.2 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Note 9 – Postemployment Benefits

Both OPERS and OP&F offer cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. OP&F uses a stipend-based health care model. A stipend funded by OP&F is placed in individual Health Reimbursement Accounts that retirees use to be reimbursed for health care expenses. 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. OP&F contributes 0.5 percent to fund these benefits.

Note 10 – Construction and Contractual Commitments

The Township entered into a contractual agreement with St Clair/Pavlis Group, Inc in 2022 for the construction of a Township amphitheater. Construction was completed in late spring of 2023.

Note 11 – Contingent Liabilities

The amounts grantor agencies pay to the Township are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require a refunding of any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 12 – Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township joined the Ohio Association Group Retro Plan (GRP) for worker's compensation in July 2019, effective January 1, 2020, and is still a member of this group. The pool's business and affairs are administered by Sedgewick to achieve premium discounts or refunds based on the Townships exposures, claims performance, and claims to minimize the Townships workers' compensation premium.

Note 13 – Fund Balances

Included in the fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years. Included in the fund balance are encumbrances that 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:

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nonspendable:				
Unclaimed Monies	\$ 3,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,395
Outstanding Encumbrances	263,628	827,798	206,077	1,297,503
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$ 267,023</u>	<u>\$ 827,798</u>	<u>\$ 206,077</u>	<u>\$ 1,300,898</u>

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

Note 14 – Interfund Transfers

During 2023, the Township completed interfund transfers in the amount of \$1,843,193 from Special Revenue funds to Capital Projects funds to fund projects. The Township also completed an interfund transfer from the Capital Projects funds to the Special Revenue Funds, where the monies originated, in the amount of \$246,342. This transfer was approved by the county budget commission. All transfers were made in accordance with Ohio Revised Code.

Note 15 – Restatement of Fund Cash Balances

The Township has adjusted their General Fund, Special Revenue, Proprietary and Custodial fund balances due to a combination of unrecorded transactions and unclaimed monies from pre-UAN conversation and stale outstanding checks that were voided during 2023. The effect of the adjustment on beginning cash balances is reflected in the chart below.

Plain Township
Stark County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Note 15 – Restatement of Fund Cash Balances (Continued)

	12/31/2022 as Previously Reported	Correction	1/1/2023 as Restated
Governmental Funds			
General Fund	\$ 2,166,760	\$ (7,007)	\$ 2,159,753
Special Revenue Funds	11,317,242	11,671	11,328,913
Proprietary Fund			
Internal Service Fund	335,554	1,089	336,643
Fiduciary Fund			
Other Custodial	44,723	12,325	57,048

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

Plain Township
Stark County
2600 Easton Street N.E.
Canton, Ohio 44721

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary fund type of Plain Township, Stark County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 25, 2025, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Township's Response to Finding

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

Purpose of this Report

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



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
July 25, 2025

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS
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FINDING 2024-001 - Material Weakness

Financial Reporting

The Township should have procedures and controls in place to prevent and detect errors in financial reporting. During 2024 and 2023 receipts, disbursements, and fund balances were not always posted or classified correctly. The following posting errors were noted:

For 2024

- Adjustments were made to move the activity and fund balance of the zoning fund from Special Revenue to the General Fund including: Licenses, Permits, and Fees Revenue and Miscellaneous Revenue, in the amounts of \$55,168 and \$45 respectively; General Government Disbursements in the amount of \$26,717; and Beginning Fund Balance in the amount of \$17,430.
- Adjustment to move the Special Revenue Funds Fire Accumulated Benefits Fund (Fund 4908) and Fire Levy Reserve Revenue (Fund 4909) that were improperly reported as Capital Projects Funds to the correct classification of Special Revenue Funds which including a beginning fund balance adjustment of \$450,000.
- Reclassifications were made to move Charges for Services revenue in the Special Revenue Funds that were improperly recorded as Licenses, Permits, and Fees receipts in the amount of \$1,311,002.
- Reclassifications were made to move Licenses, Permits, and Fees receipts that were improperly recorded as a Special Item in the General Fund in the amount of \$152,780.
- Reclassifications were made to move Charges for Services revenue in the Internal Service fund that were improperly recorded as Miscellaneous Operating and Miscellaneous Non-Operating receipts in the amounts of \$1,688,171 and \$91,852 respectively.

For 2023

- Adjustments were made to move the activity and fund balance of the zoning fund from Special Revenue to the General Fund including: Licenses, Permits, and Fees Revenue and Miscellaneous Revenue, in the amounts of \$63,913 and \$111 respectively; General Government Disbursements in the amount of \$79,113; and Beginning Fund Balance in the amount of \$32,519.
- Adjustment to move the Special Revenue Funds Fire Accumulated Benefits Fund (Fund 4908) and Fire Levy Reserve Revenue (Fund 4909) that were improperly reported as Capital Projects Funds to the correct classification of Special Revenue Funds which including a beginning fund balance adjustment of \$450,000.
- Reclassifications were made to move Charges for Services revenue in the Special Revenue Funds that were improperly recorded as Licenses, Permits, and Fees receipts in the amount of \$1,161,186.
- Reclassifications were made to move Charges for Services revenue in the Internal Service fund that were improperly recorded as Miscellaneous Non-Operating receipts in the amount of \$1,397,236.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

<p>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (Continued)</p>

FINDING 2024-001 - Material Weakness (Continued)

Financial Reporting (Continued)

Not posting receipts, disbursements, and fund balances correctly resulted in the financial statements requiring reclassification and adjusting entries as well as changes to the notes to the financials to reflect these changes. The financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications. The Township has made the adjustments to their accounting system.

We recommend the Fiscal Officer refer to the Ohio Township Handbook, Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) manual and other Auditor of State guidance to determine the proper establishment of receipt accounts and proper posting. Also, to help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements and notes to the financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all receipts and fund balances are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

Management's Response – See Corrective Action Plan.

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR FINDINGS –
PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Material Weakness-Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	N/A

**PLAIN TOWNSHIP
STARK COUNTY**

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN - PREPARED BY MANAGEMENT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023**

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2024-001	Fiscal Officer will follow the guidance obtained during the current audit process to complete upcoming annual financial reports filed on the Hinkle System.	Immediately	Thomas Wolf, CPA – Fiscal Officer

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



PLAIN TOWNSHIP

STARK 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 1/20/2026

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