

CANTON TOWNSHIP

STARK COUNTY

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
Canton Township
4711 Central Ave SE
Canton, OH 44707

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Canton 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. Canton 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

July 21, 2025

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Canton Township
Stark County
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

Table of Contents

| Title | Page |
|---|-------------|
| Independent Auditor's Report..... | 1 |
| Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) – All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2024..... | 4 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements - 2024..... | 6 |
| Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) – All Governmental Fund Types – For the Year Ended December 31, 2023..... | 14 |
| Notes to the Financial Statements - 2023..... | 15 |
| Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> | 24 |

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Canton Township
Stark County
4711 Central Ave SE
Canton, OH 44707

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

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

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

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

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

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

Basis for Opinions

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we


- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 6, 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.
May 6, 2025

Canton 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

| | Governmental Fund Types | | | Totals (Memorandum Only) |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| | General | Special Revenue | Capital Projects | |
| Cash Receipts: | | | | |
| Property and Other Local Taxes | \$ 333,224 | 5,252,046 | \$ - | \$ 5,585,270 |
| Charges for Services | - | 612,401 | - | 612,401 |
| Licenses, Permits, and Fees | 111,894 | 44,006 | - | 155,900 |
| Fines and Forfeitures | 300 | - | - | 300 |
| Intergovernmental | 281,098 | 1,158,674 | 294,000 | 1,733,772 |
| Special Assessments | - | 106,014 | - | 106,014 |
| Earnings on Investments | 112,913 | 9,382 | - | 122,295 |
| Miscellaneous | 40,843 | 100,498 | - | 141,341 |
| <i>Total Cash Receipts</i> | 880,272 | 7,283,021 | 294,000 | 8,457,293 |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| General Government | 581,669 | 653,028 | - | 1,234,697 |
| Public Safety | - | 3,978,121 | - | 3,978,121 |
| Public Works | - | 2,445,730 | - | 2,445,730 |
| Health | - | 31,750 | - | 31,750 |
| Human Services | - | 71,755 | - | 71,755 |
| Conservation-Recreation | 106,162 | - | - | 106,162 |
| Other | - | 23,187 | - | 23,187 |
| Capital Outlay | - | - | 294,000 | 294,000 |
| Debt Service: | | | | |
| Principal Retirement | - | 138,236 | - | 138,236 |
| Interest and Other Fiscal Charges | - | 19,794 | - | 19,794 |
| <i>Total Cash Disbursements</i> | 687,831 | 7,361,601 | 294,000 | 8,343,432 |
| <i>Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</i> | 192,441 | (78,580) | - | 113,861 |
| Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements): | | | | |
| Advances In | 86,007 | - | 86,007 | 172,014 |
| Advances Out | (86,007) | - | (86,007) | (172,014) |
| <i>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</i> | - | - | - | - |
| <i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i> | 192,441 | (78,580) | - | 113,861 |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1, Restated</i> | 360,836 | 3,593,169 | - | 3,954,005 |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i> | \$ 553,277 | \$ 3,514,589 | \$ - | \$ 4,067,866 |

See Notes to the Financial Statements

Canton 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 Canton 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, fire protection and emergency medical services.

Jointly Governed Organizations and Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in a public entity risk pools (Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA)) and two jointly governed organizations (Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) and Stark Council of Governments (SCOG)). Note 6 and 11 to the financial statement provide additional information for 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, which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Fire Special Levy Funds The Township has two fire funds that accounts for and reports property tax (outside millage) committed for providing fire protection services to the Township.

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 fund:

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

ODNR-Faircrest Park Fund The Township received a grant from the Ohio Department of National Resources for capital improvements. The proceeds are restricted for the construction of a new shelter at Faircrest Park.

Basis of Accounting

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

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

Budgetary Process

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

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

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

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

A summary of 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

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.

Leases

The Township is the lessee in a lease (as defined by GASB 87) related to copier equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Settlement Monies

Ohio has reached settlement agreements with various distributors of opioids which are subject to the OneOhio memorandum of understanding. The original settlement was reached in 2021 with annual payments anticipated through 2038. For 2024, distributions of \$19,087 are reflected as miscellaneous revenue in the OneOhio Special Revenue Fund in the accompanying financial statements.

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.

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.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

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.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

| 2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Budgeted | Actual | |
| Fund Type | Receipts | Receipts | Variance |
| General | \$ 687,483 | \$ 880,272 | \$ 192,789 |
| Special Revenue | 7,245,150 | 7,283,021 | 37,871 |
| Capital Projects | 300,000 | 294,000 | (6,000) |

| 2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | Appropriation | Budgetary | |
| Fund Type | Authority | Disbursements | Variance |
| General | \$ 904,714 | \$ 687,831 | \$ 216,883 |
| Special Revenue | 9,174,733 | 8,385,364 | 789,369 |
| Capital Projects | 300,000 | 294,000 | 6,000 |

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 accounts are as follows:

| | 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Cash Management Pool:</i> | |
| Demand deposits | \$807,649 |
| Savings accounts | 3,260,217 |
| Total deposits | <u>\$4,067,866</u> |

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

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments *(continued)*

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2024, the Township is holding \$67,581 in unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management *(continued)*

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

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

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Township's elected officials and 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 14 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 10 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

The Township's certified Fire Fighters and full-time Police Officers 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, respectively. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2024.

Social Security

The Township's part-time firefighters contributed to Social Security. 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.

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

Note 8 – 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 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 9 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2024, was as follows:

| | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest Rate</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| General Obligation Bonds | \$499,563 | 3.25% |

The Township issued general obligation bonds to finance the reconstruction and additions to the Canton Township fire department administrative building, and to pay any expenses relating to the close of the bonds. The bonds were issued October 1, 2019 in the amount of \$885,296 to mature on October 1, 2029, at an interest rate of 3.25%. Semiannual principal and interest payments are due on April 1st and October 1st of each year, commencing April 1, 2020. Payment one was for interest only.

The Township leased in October of 2021, a new Road Front Wheel Loader for the Road Department. There was a balance as of December 31, 2023 of \$47,624. The lease is through the KS State Bank Loan Co. was paid in full on September 10, 2024.

Amortization

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

| Year Ending December 31: | General Obligation Bonds |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2025 | \$109,063 |
| 2026 | 109,063 |
| 2027 | 109,064 |
| 2028 | 109,064 |
| 2029 | 109,064 |
| Total | <u><u>\$545,318</u></u> |

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

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits.

Note 11 – Jointly Governed Organizations

A. Stark County Regional Planning Commission

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is a statutorily created political subdivision of Ohio for the purpose of formulating and renewing plans affecting long and short-term social, economic, and governmental development within the region. The Commission is jointly governed among municipalities and townships located in Stark County. Each member's control over the operation of SCRPC is limited to its representation on the Board which consists of 85 members. The Board exercises total control over SCRPC operations. Complete financial statements may be obtained from the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 3rd Street NW, Suite 201, Canton, Ohio 44702.

B. Stark Council of Governments

The Stark Council of Governments (SCOG) is a statutorily created political subdivision of Ohio for purposes of providing a permanent forum for discussion and study of concerns of the county, cities, villages and townships for development of policies and programs for implementation by one or more of the local governing bodies. SCOG is jointly governed among municipalities and townships located in Stark County. The SCOG operates under the direction of a nine-member Executive Committee, which is elected by the General Membership of the SCOG. The General Membership consists of one representative designated by each political subdivision. Complete the financial statements may be obtained from the Stark Council of Governments, P.O. Box 21451, Canton, Ohio 44701-1451.

Note 12 – 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. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

| <u>Fund Balances</u> | <u>General</u> | <u>Special Revenue</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Nonspendable: | | | |
| Unclaimed Monies | \$ 125 | \$ - | \$ 125 |
| Outstanding Encumbrances | - | 1,023,763 | 1,023,763 |
| Total | <u>\$ 125</u> | <u>\$ 1,023,763</u> | <u>\$ 1,023,888</u> |

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

Note 12 – Fund Balances *(continued)*

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of capital projects funds is 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 – Restatement of Fund Cash Balance

The Township increased their beginning fund cash position at January 1, 2024 in the General and Special Revenue fund due to \$877 of prior year voided checks and a payment from the wrong fund in prior year. The effect of the adjustment on beginning fund cash balance is reflected in the chart below.

| | 12/31/2023 | | | 1/1/2024 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| | As Previously Reported | Voided Checks | Paid from wrong fund | As Restated |
| Governmental Funds | | | | |
| General Fund | \$ 360,702 | \$ 259 | \$ (125) | \$ 360,836 |
| Special Revenue Funds | 3,592,426 | 618 | 125 | 3,593,169 |
| Total Governmental Funds | <u>\$ 3,953,128</u> | <u>\$ 877</u> | <u>\$ -</u> | <u>\$ 3,954,005</u> |

Canton 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

| | Governmental Fund Types | | Totals |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| | General | Special Revenue | (Memorandum Only) |
| Cash Receipts: | | | |
| Property and Other Local Taxes | \$ 297,064 | \$ 4,047,230 | \$ 4,344,294 |
| Charges for Services | - | 557,914 | 557,914 |
| Licenses, Permits, and Fees | 51,303 | 95,901 | 147,204 |
| Intergovernmental | 282,710 | 1,073,906 | 1,356,616 |
| Special Assessments | - | 91,755 | 91,755 |
| Earnings on Investments | 105,272 | 9,775 | 115,047 |
| Miscellaneous | 54,771 | 215,624 | 270,395 |
| <i>Total Cash Receipts</i> | 791,120 | 6,092,105 | 6,883,225 |
| Cash Disbursements: | | | |
| Current: | | | |
| General Government | 522,300 | 263,740 | 786,040 |
| Public Safety | - | 3,842,045 | 3,842,045 |
| Public Works | - | 2,508,046 | 2,508,046 |
| Conservation-Recreation | 105,758 | - | 105,758 |
| Other | - | 20,763 | 20,763 |
| Debt Service: | | | |
| Principal Retirement | - | 134,056 | 134,056 |
| Interest and Other Fiscal Charges | - | 23,975 | 23,975 |
| <i>Total Cash Disbursements</i> | 628,058 | 6,792,625 | 7,420,683 |
| <i>Excess of Receipts Over/(Under) Disbursements</i> | 163,062 | (700,520) | (537,458) |
| Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements): | | | |
| Transfers In | - | 1,639 | 1,639 |
| Transfers Out | (1,639) | - | (1,639) |
| Sale of Capital Assets | 58,255 | - | 58,255 |
| <i>Total Other Financing Receipts/(Disbursements)</i> | 56,616 | 1,639 | 58,255 |
| <i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i> | 219,678 | (698,881) | (479,203) |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1, Restated</i> | 141,024 | 4,291,307 | 4,432,331 |
| <i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i> | \$ 360,702 | \$ 3,592,426 | \$ 3,953,128 |

See notes to the financial statements

Canton 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 establish the rights and privileges of the Canton 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, fire protection and emergency medical services.

Jointly Governed Organizations and Public Entity Risk Pools

The Township participates in a public entity risk pools (Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA)) and two jointly governed organizations (Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) and Stark Council of Governments (SCOG)). Note 6 and 11 to the financial statement provide additional information for 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, which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

Fire Special Levy Funds The Township has two fire funds that accounts for and reports property tax (outside millage) committed for providing fire protection services to the Township.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Basis of Accounting

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

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

Budgetary Process

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

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

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

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

A summary of 2023 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Deposits and Investments

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

Capital Assets

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

Accumulated Leave

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.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Leases

The Township is the lessee in a lease (as defined by GASB 87) related to copier equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Settlement Monies

Ohio has reached settlement agreements with various distributors of opioids which are subject to the OneOhio memorandum of understanding. The original settlement was reached in 2021 with annual payments anticipated through 2038. For 2023, distributions of \$8,763 are reflected as miscellaneous revenue in the OneOhio Special Revenue Fund in the accompanying financial statements.

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.

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.

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

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies *(continued)*

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

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

| 2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Fund Type | Budgeted Receipts | Actual Receipts | Variance |
| General | \$655,685 | \$849,375 | \$193,690 |
| Special Revenue | 5,790,130 | 6,093,744 | 303,614 |
| Capital Projects | 300,000 | - | (300,000) |

| 2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Fund Type | Appropriation Authority | Budgetary Disbursements | Variance |
| General | \$775,766 | \$630,197 | \$145,569 |
| Special Revenue | 9,615,347 | 6,792,625 | 2,822,722 |
| Capital Projects | 300,000 | - | 300,000 |

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 accounts are as follows:

| | 2023 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Cash Management Pool:</i> | |
| Demand deposits | \$814,365 |
| Savings accounts | 3,138,763 |
| Total deposits | <u>\$3,953,128</u> |

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2023, the Township has remitted all employee payroll withholdings.

Canton 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.

Note 5 – Property Taxes

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management

The Township is exposed to various risks of property and casualty losses, and injuries to employees.

The Township insures against injuries to employees through the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation.

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

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

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

Note 6 – Risk Management *(continued)*

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

Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Township's elected officials and 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 14 percent of their gross salaries, and the Township contributed an amount equaling 10 percent of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Ohio Police and Fire Retirement System

The Township's certified Fire Fighters and full-time Police Officers 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, respectively. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

Social Security

The Township's part-time firefighters contributed to Social Security. 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 8 – 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

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

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits *(continued)*

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 9 – Debt

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

| | <u>Principal</u> | <u>Interest Rate</u> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| General Obligation Bonds | \$590,175 | 3.25% |
| KS State Bank Financed Purchase | 47,624 | 2.82% |
| Total | <u><u>\$637,799</u></u> | |

The Township issued general obligation bonds to finance the reconstruction and additions to the Canton Township fire department administrative building, and to pay any expenses relating to the close of the bonds. The bonds were issued October 1, 2019 in the amount of \$885,296 to mature on October 1, 2029, at an interest rate of 3.25%. Semiannual principal and interest payments are due on April 1st and October 1st of each year, commencing April 1, 2020. Payment one was for interest only.

The Township leased in October of 2021, a new Road Front Wheel Loader for the Road Department. There is a balance as of December 31, 2023 of \$47,624, which will be repaid in annual installments of principal and interest. The financed purchase through the KS State Bank Loan Co. will be repaid by October of 2024.

Amortization

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

| Year Ending December 31: | General Obligation Bonds | KS State Bank Financed Purchase |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2024 | \$109,063 | \$48,967 |
| 2025 | 109,063 | |
| 2026 | 109,064 | |
| 2027 | 109,063 | |
| 2028 | 109,064 | |
| 2029 | 109,064 | |
| Total | <u><u>\$654,381</u></u> | <u><u>\$48,967</u></u> |

Note 10 – Contingent Liabilities

Management believes there are no pending claims or lawsuits.

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

Note 11 - Jointly Governed Organizations

A. Stark County Regional Planning Commission

The Stark County Regional Planning Commission (SCRPC) is a statutorily created political subdivision of Ohio for the purpose of formulating and renewing plans affecting long and short-term social, economic, and governmental development within the region. The Commission is jointly governed among municipalities and townships located in Stark County. Each member's control over the operation of SCRPC is limited to its representation on the Board which consists of 85 members. The Board exercises total control over SCRPC operations. Complete financial statements may be obtained from the Stark County Regional Planning Commission, 201 3rd Street NW, Suite 201, Canton, Ohio 44702.

B. Stark Council of Governments

The Stark Council of Governments (SCOG) is a statutorily created political subdivision of Ohio for purposes of providing a permanent forum for discussion and study of concerns of the county, cities, villages and townships for development of policies and programs for implementation by one or more of the local governing bodies. SCOG is jointly governed among municipalities and townships located in Stark County. The SCOG operates under the direction of a nine-member Executive Committee, which is elected by the General Membership of the SCOG. The General Membership consists of one representative designated by each political subdivision. Complete the financial statements may be obtained from the Stark Council of Governments, P.O. Box 21451, Canton, Ohio 44701-1451.

Note 12 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the balance of this account was as follows.

| <u>Fund Balances</u> | <u>General</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Outstanding Encumbrances | \$ 500 |

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

Note 13 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During 2023, the Township did not receive COVID-19 funding or American Rescue Plan funding. The Township will continue to spend available American Rescue Plan funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines

The 2023 activity includes \$263,102 in American Rescue Plan Fund disbursements reflected in the Special Revenue Fund type.

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

Note 14 – Fund Balance Adjustment

The Township increased their beginning fund cash position at January 1, 2023 in the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund due to \$8,250 of voided prior period warrants. The effect of the adjustment on beginning fund cash balance is reflected in the chart below.

| | <u>General</u> | <u>Special Revenue</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fund Cash Balance | | | |
| December 31, 2022 | \$139,393 | \$4,284,688 | \$4,424,081 |
| Voided Prior Year Warrants | <u>1,631</u> | <u>6,619</u> | <u>8,250</u> |
| Adjusted Fund Cash Balance | | | |
| January 1, 2023 | <u><u>\$141,024</u></u> | <u><u>\$4,291,307</u></u> | <u><u>\$4,432,331</u></u> |

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

Canton Township
Stark County
4711 Central Ave SE
Canton, OH 44707

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 the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of Canton Township, Stark County, (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated May 6, 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 purposes of expressing our opinions 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.

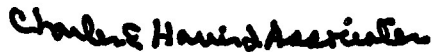
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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*.

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.
May 6, 2025

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



CANTON 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 7/31/2025

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