

# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 - 2022



65 East State Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov 800-282-0370

Board of Trustees Lafayette Township 6776 Wedgewood Road Medina, Ohio 44256

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Lafayette Township, Medina County, prepared by Perry & Associates, Certified Public Accountants, A.C., for the audit period January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023. 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. Lafayette Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

April 08, 2025



# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA COUNTY

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

IIILE	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, 2023	4
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023	5
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	12
Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2022	13
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards	20
Schedule of Audit Findings	22
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	24





# **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Lafayette Township Medina County 6776 Wedgewood Road Medina, Ohio 44256

To the Board of Trustees:

# Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

# **Unmodified and Adverse Opinions**

We have audited the financial statements of Lafayette Township, Medina County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements.

# **Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting**

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions which Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

# Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Township, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, or the changes in financial position thereof for the years then ended.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the 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.

Marietta, OH St. Clairsville, OH Cambridge, OH Wheeling, WV Vienna, WV

Lafayette Township Medina County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

# 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.

Lafayette Township Medina County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

# Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 2, 2024, 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.

Perry & Associates

Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

Lery Marcutes CABS A. C.

Marietta, Ohio

December 2, 2024

# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA 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		Debt Service		Capital Projects		Combined Total	
Cash Receipts		Jeneral		rtevenue		Delvice		Tojecis		Total
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$	152,931	\$	990,838	\$	=	\$	=	\$	1,143,769
Charges for Services		, -		10,994		-		-		10,994
Licenses, Permits and Fees		41,762		-		-		-		41,762
Fines and Forfeitures		20		=		-		-		20
Intergovernmental		66,756		276,061		-		-		342,817
Earnings on Investments		38,005		12,560		-		-		50,565
Miscellaneous		66,779		46,863						113,642
Total Cash Receipts		366,253		1,337,316				<u>-</u>		1,703,569
Cash Disbursements										
Current:										
General Government		321,269		317		6,500		-		328,086
Public Safety		-		446,051		-		-		446,051
Public Works		-		925,027		-		-		925,027
Health		-		31,829		-		-		31,829
Human Services		2,500		=		-		-		2,500
Other		21,662		<u> </u>				-		21,662
Total Cash Disbursements		345,431		1,403,224		6,500				1,755,155
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		20,822		(65,908)		(6,500)		-		(51,586)
Fund Cash Balances, January 1 (Restated - See Note 11)		159,877		1,626,786		6,500		23,133		1,816,296
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	180,699	\$	1,560,878	\$		\$	23,133	\$	1,764,710

Medina 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 Lafayette Township, Medina County Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides cemetery maintenance, road and bridge maintenance. Fire and emergency medical services are provided to the Township by Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District. Police protection is provided by the Medina County Police Department.

# **Public Entity Risk Pool**

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio Townships. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. The Township's management believe 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:

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

**Debt Service Funds** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

**Bond Retirement Fund** - The special assessment bond retirement fund accounts for and reports resources restricted for the retirement of debt issued to finance public improvements deemed to benefit the properties against which special assessments are levied.

**Capital Project Fund** This fund was provided by borrowed funds to construct a Safety Services Building that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

Bond Safety Service Building - This fund accounts for the building of a Safety Services Building.

Medina 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 Board recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved).

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

#### **Budgetary Process**

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

**Appropriations** Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

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.

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 a 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.

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

# Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### **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.

#### 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 \$1,864 are reflected as Intergovernmental revenue in the OneOhio Opioid 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 and the nonspendable portion of the corpus in permanent funds.

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

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

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

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

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

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 10.

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

# Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

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

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts		Receipts		V	/ariance
General	\$	417,835	\$	366,253	\$	(51,582)
Special Revenue		1,169,488		1,337,316		167,828
Total	\$	1,587,323	\$	1,703,569	\$	116,246

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	A	Appropriation		Budgetary		
Fund Type		Authority		Expenditures		/ariance
General Fund	\$	425,000	\$	345,553	\$	79,447
Special Revenue		2,147,325		1,565,385		581,940
Debt Service		6,500		6,500		6,500
Total	\$	2,578,825	\$	1,917,438	\$	667,887

## Note 4 - Deposits and Investments

The Township maintains a deposit and investment pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	 2023
Demand deposits	\$ 811,281
Total deposits	811,281
STAR Ohio	 953,429
Total investments	 953,429
Total deposits and investments	\$ 1,764,710

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2023, the Township is holding \$2,552 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 repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

#### Investments

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

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

#### Note 5 - Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

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

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

# Note 6 - Risk Management

#### 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.

# Risk Pool Membership

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. 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 breakdowns

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

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

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

#### Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

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

## Social Security

All part-time and seasonal Township employees 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

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans. OPERS offers a health reimbursement arrangement (HRA) allowance to benefit recipients meeting certain age and service credit requirements. The HRA is an account funded by OPERS that provides tax-free reimbursement for qualified medical expenses such as monthly post-tax insurance premiums, deductibles, co-insurance, and co-pays incurred by eligible benefit recipients and their dependents. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

# Note 9 - Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matter will materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

## Note 10 - Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end the balances of these amounts were as follows:

Fund Balances	Ge	neral	Special Revenue	Total		
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$	122	\$ 162,161	\$	162,283	
Total	\$	122	\$ 162,161	\$	162,283	

Medina County Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

# Note 10 - Fund Balances (Continued)

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

# Note 11 - Restatement of Fund Balances

Beginning fund balance at January 1, 2023 was restated for the Township's Special Revenue Funds due to voided checks.

	Spe	Special Revenue			
December 31, 2022 audited balances	\$	1,624,828			
Adjustment for voided checks	_	1,958			
January 1, 2023 balances	\$	1,626,786			

# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA COUNTY

# COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (REGULATORY CASH BASIS) ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

	General		Special eral Revenue		Debt Service		Capital Projects		Combined Total	
Cash Receipts Property and Other Local Taxes Charges for Services	\$	110,241	\$	854,000 11,894	\$	-	\$	-	\$	964,241 11,894
Licenses, Permits and Fees		72,402		-		_		-		72,402
Fines and Forfeitures		50		-		-		-		50
Intergovernmental		81,357		563,103		-		-		644,460
Earnings on Investments		11,729		3,945		-		-		15,674
Miscellaneous		27,247		2,080						29,327
Total Cash Receipts		303,026		1,435,022						1,738,048
Cash Disbursements Current:										
General Government		241,869		147		-		-		242,016
Public Safety		-		357,149		-		-		357,149
Public Works		-		948,710		-		-		948,710
Health		-		701		-		-		701
Other		413		-		-		-		413
Capital Outlay				61,755						61,755
Total Cash Disbursements		242,282		1,368,462						1,610,744
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements		60,744		66,560						127,304
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements) Other Financing Sources				8,703	-					8,703
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)		<u>-</u>		8,703						8,703
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances		60,744		75,263		-		-		136,007
Fund Cash Balances, January 1		99,133		1,549,565		6,500		23,133	-	1,678,331
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$	159,877	\$	1,624,828	\$	6,500	\$	23,133	\$	1,814,338

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

# Note 1 - Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Lafayette Township, Medina County Ohio (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides cemetery maintenance, road and bridge maintenance. Fire and emergency medical services are provided to the Township by Lafayette Township Fire and Rescue District. Police protection is provided by the Medina County Police Department.

# Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a risk-sharing pool available to Ohio Townships. Note 6 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. The Township's management believe these financial statements present all activities for which the Township is financially accountable.

# Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

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

### **Fund Accounting**

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

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

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

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

**Medina City Police Department** – This fund receives tax money from a levy in excess of the 10 mill limit for the specific purpose of providing police protection services for the Township.

**American Rescue Plan** – The American Rescue Plan fund accounts for and reports grant monies to help alleviate financial pressures caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

**Debt Service Funds** These funds account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest. The Township had the following significant Debt Service Fund:

**Bond Retirement Fund** - The special assessment bond retirement fund accounts for and reports resources restricted for the retirement of debt issued to finance public improvements deemed to benefit the properties against which special assessments are levied.

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

## Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

### Fund Accounting (Continued)

**Capital Project Fund** This fund was provided by borrowed funds to construct a Safety Services Building that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. The Township had the following significant Capital Project Fund:

**Bond Safety Service Building** – This fund receives borrowed money to fund the building of the Safety Services Building.

# Basis of Accounting

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

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

#### **Budgetary Process**

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

**Appropriations** Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function, or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Board of Trustees must annually approve appropriation measures and subsequent amendments. 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. The Township did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2022 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

#### **Deposits and Investments**

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

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 a NAV per share that approximates fair value.

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

### Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

#### 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.

#### Fund Balance

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 10.

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

# Note 3 - Budgetary Activity

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

	Budgeted		Actual			
Fund Type	Receipts		F	Receipts	V	ariance
General	\$	278,901	\$	303,026	\$	24,125
Special Revenue		1,398,619		1,443,725		45,106
Total	\$	1,677,520	\$	1,746,751	\$	69,231

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation		Budgetary			
Fund Type	Authority		Expenditures		Variance	
General Fund	\$	350,363	\$	242,282	\$	108,081
Special Revenue	2,444,993		2,444,993 1,368,462			1,076,531
Total	\$	2,795,356	\$	1,610,744	\$	1,184,612

# Note 4 - Deposits and Investments

The Township maintains a deposit and investment pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at December 31 was as follows:

	2022	
Demand deposits	\$	909,367
Total deposits		909,367
STAR Ohio		904,971
Total investments		904,971
Total deposits and investments		1,814,338

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2022, the Township is holding \$4,041 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 repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

#### Investments

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

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

#### Note 5 - Taxes

# **Property Taxes**

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

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

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

# Note 6 - Risk Management

### 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.

#### Risk Pool Membership

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. 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 breakdowns

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

	2022
Cash and investments	\$32,288,098
Actuarial liabilities	\$9,146,434

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

#### Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

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

## Social Security

All part-time and seasonal Township employees 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, 2022.

#### Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits

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

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

# Note 9 - Contingent Liabilities

The Township may be a defendant in lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of any suit, management believes that the resolution of any matter will materially adversely affect the Township's financial condition.

Medina County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

#### Note 10 - Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Township cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies, which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. 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 zero:

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of debt service funds and capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, debt service, capital projects, and permanent funds would including the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.

#### **Note 11 - COVID-19**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended June, 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During 2022, the Township received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The impact on the Township's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.



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

Lafayette Township Medina County 6776 Wedgewood Road Medina, Ohio 44256

#### To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 and the related notes to the financial statements of Lafayette Township, Medina County, (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated December 2, 2024, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

## Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Marietta, OH St. Clairsville, OH Cambridge, OH Wheeling, WV Vienna, WV

Lafayette Township Medina County Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

# Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of audit findings as item 2023-002.

# Township's Response to Findings

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

# **Purpose of This Report**

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

**Perry and Associates** 

Certified Public Accountants, A.C.

Kerry & associates CAS A. C.

Marietta, Ohio

December 2, 2024

# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA COUNTY

# SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2023-001**

#### **Material Weakness**

## **Financial Reporting**

The Township is responsible for establishing procedures and controls to help prevent and detect errors in financial reporting.

Receipts and disbursements were not always posted or classified correctly. The following errors were noted:

- Rollback receipts were not properly allocated to the correct funds per the County Auditor Settlement Sheets in 2023 and 2022;
- Rollback receipts were incorrectly posted at net instead of gross in 2023;
- A federal grant receipt was posted to the General Fund instead of the OneOhio Opioid Fund in 2023; and
- Various receipts were misclassified as Intergovernmental instead of Miscellaneous in the General Fund in 2022.

Not posting receipts and disbursements accurately resulted in the financial statements requiring several adjustments and reclassifications. The Township has made the adjustments to their accounting system. The financial statements reflect all adjustments and reclassifications.

To help ensure accuracy and reliability in the financial reporting process, we recommend management perform a detailed review of its draft financial statements. Such review should include procedures to ensure that all sources of revenues are properly identified and classified on the financial statements.

We also recommend the Fiscal Officer refer to the Ohio Township Handbook for guidance to determine the proper establishment of receipt and disbursement accounts and posting of receipts and disbursements.

Official's Response – Corrected.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2023-002**

# **Noncompliance**

#### **Prior Certification of Disbursements**

Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(D) requires that no subdivision or taxing unit shall make any contract or give any order involving the expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required meeting any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Only the subdivision's fiscal officer need sign the certificate. Every contract made without such a certificate shall be void, and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA COUNTY

# SCHEDULE OF AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

# FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS (CONTINUED)

# **FINDING NUMBER 2023-002 (CONTINUED)**

## **Prior Certification of Disbursements (Continued)**

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

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

The Township did not properly certify the availability of funds prior to purchase commitment for 26% and 29% of the expenditures tested for 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Unless the exceptions noted above are used, prior certification is not only required by statute but is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval.

To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the Township's funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Fiscal Officer certify that the funds are or will be available prior to an obligation being incurred by the Township. When prior certification is not possible, "then and now" certification should be used.

Official's Response – Corrected.

# LAFAYETTE TOWNSHIP MEDINA COUNTY

# SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2022

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2021-001	Financial Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2023-001
2021-002	Budgetary Controls	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2023-002



# **MEDINA COUNTY**

#### **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

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



Certified for Release 4/22/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370