





MILTON TOWNSHIP  
MAHONING COUNTY

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DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Milton Township  
Mahoning County  
15992 Milton Avenue  
P.O. Box 397  
Lake Milton, Ohio 44429

To the Board of Trustees:

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

We have audited the financial statements of the Milton Township, Mahoning 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, 2024, and 2023 and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of December 31, 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 and proprietary fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, and 2023, and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of December 31, 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 year then ended.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

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

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

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

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

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

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

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 15, 2025, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

May 15, 2025

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**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County, Ohio*  
*Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Governmental Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$247,046	\$1,232,173		\$1,479,219
Charges for Services		55,797		55,797
Licenses, Permits and Fees	33,135	41,079		74,214
Fines and Forfeitures	6,452	6,936		13,388
Intergovernmental	59,795	576,288	\$58,165	694,248
Special Assessments	2,888			2,888
Earnings on Investments	138,151	25,563		163,714
Miscellaneous	11,580	79,363		90,943
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>499,047</u>	<u>2,017,199</u>	<u>58,165</u>	<u>2,574,411</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	245,815	28,507		274,322
Public Safety	134,652	1,178,732		1,313,384
Public Works	52,277	519,889	58,165	630,331
Health	4,540	14,570		19,110
Capital Outlay		259,732		259,732
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement		29,800		29,800
Interest and Fiscal Charges		18,612		18,612
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>437,284</u>	<u>2,049,842</u>	<u>58,165</u>	<u>2,545,291</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>61,763</u>	<u>(32,643)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>29,120</u>
 <i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	 61,763	 (32,643)	 0	 29,120
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>760,299</u>	<u>2,137,108</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>2,898,117</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u><u>\$822,062</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,104,465</u></u>	<u><u>\$710</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,927,237</u></u>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*



**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Milton Township, Mahoning County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services.

**Public Entity Risk Pools**

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

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

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

***Basis of Presentation***

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

***Fund Accounting***

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

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

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

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

**Special Levy Police Fund** – This fund receives tax settlement money for the general operation and equipment of the police department.

**Special Levy Fire Fund** – This fund receives tax settlement money for the general operation and equipment of the Volunteer Fire Department.

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

**Public Works Commission Project 1-** The Township received an Ohio Public Works Commission funded project for paving Pointview Road.

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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***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.

***Accumulated Leave***

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

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**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.

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

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

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$499,047	\$499,047	\$0
Special Revenue	2,017,199	2,017,199	0
Capital Projects	58,165	58,165	0
Total	<u>\$2,574,411</u>	<u>\$2,574,411</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

2024 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$532,206	\$437,878	\$94,328
Special Revenue	2,431,290	2,051,548	379,742
Capital Projects	58,165	58,165	0
Total	<u>\$3,021,661</u>	<u>\$2,547,591</u>	<u>\$474,070</u>

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

	2024
<b><i>Cash Management Pool:</i></b>	
Demand deposits	\$16,305
Sweep Account	2,910,932
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool (ties to FS)</i>	<u><u>\$2,927,237</u></u>

***Deposits***

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

***Investments***

The Township's financial institution transfers into a sweep account at the end of each day.

**Note 5 – Property Taxes**

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

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

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

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**Note 6 – Risk Management**

**Risk Pool Membership**

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of 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 (Latest information available):

2023

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

**Workers' Compensation**

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**

Some 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. Law enforcement employee contributed 13% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 18.1% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

**Social Security**

The 15 Township 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.

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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**Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS 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. 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 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.

**Note 9 – Debt**

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

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
USDA Fire Station Obligation Bonds	\$383,800	5%
Total	<u>\$383,800</u>	

The Township issued bonds to finance the construction of a new fire station building for Township fire protection. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

**Amortization**

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

<u>Year Ending December 31:</u>	<u>General Obligation Bonds</u>
2025	48,571
2026	48,463
2027	48,496
2028	48,461
2029	48,559
2030-2034	242,483
	<u>\$485,032</u>

**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:

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2024*

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<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	\$594	\$1,706	\$2,300
Total	\$594	\$1,706	\$2,300

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

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County, Ohio*  
**Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements**  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Governmental Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects	Combined Total
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$172,175	\$1,193,082		\$1,365,257
Charges for Services		55,709		55,709
Licenses, Permits and Fees	33,568	34,703		68,271
Fines and Forfeitures	7,381	7,986		15,367
Intergovernmental	252,346	599,259	\$146,293	997,898
Special Assessments	2,689			2,689
Earnings on Investments	112,238	27,530		139,768
Miscellaneous	20,539	54,878		75,417
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>600,936</u>	<u>1,973,147</u>	<u>146,293</u>	<u>2,720,376</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	281,174	24,864		306,038
Public Safety		1,118,558		1,118,558
Public Works	29,171	275,637	146,293	451,101
Health	38,699	10,339		49,038
Capital Outlay	2,448	180,167		182,615
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement		28,600		28,600
Interest and Fiscal Charges		19,899		19,899
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>351,492</u>	<u>1,658,064</u>	<u>146,293</u>	<u>2,155,849</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>249,444</u>	<u>315,083</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>564,527</u>
<b>Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</b>				
Sale of Capital Assets		4,255		4,255
<i>Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,255</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,255</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	<u>249,444</u>	<u>319,338</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>568,782</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>510,855</u>	<u>1,817,770</u>	<u>710</u>	<u>2,329,335</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$760,299</u>	<u>\$2,137,108</u>	<u>\$710</u>	<u>\$2,898,117</u>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*



**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County, Ohio*  
*Combined Statement of Additions, Deductions*  
*and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)*  
*All Fiduciary Fund Types*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

	Fiduciary Fund Types
	Custodial
	Other Custodial
<b>Additions</b>	
Other Amounts Collected for Distribution	\$36,453
<i>Total Additions</i>	<i>36,453</i>
<b>Deductions</b>	
Other Distributions	36,453
<i>Total Deductions</i>	<i>36,453</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<i>\$0</i>

*See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements*

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Note 1 – Reporting Entity**

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Milton Township, Mahoning County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides road and bridge maintenance, cemetery maintenance, fire protection and emergency medical services.

***Public Entity Risk Pools***

The Township participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provide additional information for this entity.

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

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

***Basis of Presentation***

The Township's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types, and a combined statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) all fiduciary fund types which are all 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:

***Special Levy Police Fund*** – This fund receives tax settlement money for the general operation and equipment of the police department.

***Special Levy Fire Fund*** – This fund receives tax settlement money for the general operation and equipment of the Volunteer Fire Department.

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

***Public Works Commission Project 1*** - The Township received an Ohio Public Works Commission funded project for paving Pointview Road.

***Public Works Commission Project 2*** – The Township received a CDBG funded project for a sidewalk project on Mahoning Avenue.

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Fiduciary Funds** Fiduciary fund includes a custodial fund.

Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to report fiduciary activity that is not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Township's custodial fund accounts for insurance money that is received by the Township to be held in escrow for the cleanup of burned property.

For regulatory purposes, certain own source revenues are permitted to flow through clearing funds presented as custodial funds. The amounts distributed to the other funds of the entity are identified on the combined statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) all fiduciary fund types. Also, for regulatory purposes, certain deposits and clearing funds are permitted to be presented as custodial funds.

**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 (except certain custodial funds) be budgeted annually.

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

**Estimated Resources** Estimated resources include estimates of cash to be received (budgeted receipts) plus unencumbered cash as of January 1. The 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.

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**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**

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

**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.

**Note 3 – Budgetary Activity**

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

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$600,936	\$600,936	\$0
Special Revenue	1,977,402	1,977,402	0
Capital Projects	146,293	146,293	0
Total	<u>\$2,724,631</u>	<u>\$2,724,631</u>	<u>\$0</u>

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$426,206	\$352,085	\$74,121
Special Revenue	2,059,586	1,661,731	397,855
Capital Projects	146,293	146,293	0
Total	<u>\$2,632,085</u>	<u>\$2,160,109</u>	<u>\$471,976</u>

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

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

	2023
<b><i>Cash Management Pool:</i></b>	
Demand deposits	\$4,576
Sweep Account	<u>2,893,541</u>
<i>Total carrying amount of deposits and investments held in the Pool (ties to FS)</i>	<u><u>\$2,898,117</u></u>

***Deposits***

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

***Investments***

The Township's financial institution transfers into a sweep account at the end of each day.

**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.

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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

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

**Note 6 – Risk Management**

**Risk Pool Membership**

The Township is a member of the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (The Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of 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:

2023

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

**Workers' Compensation**

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Township pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

**Note 7 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System**

Some 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. Law enforcement employee contributed 13% of their gross salaries and the Township contributed an amount equaling 18.1% of participants' gross salaries. The Township has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2023.

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**Social Security**

The 15 Township firefighter 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 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. For calendar year 2023, the portion of OPERS employer contributions allocated to health care was 0 percent for members in the traditional pension plan and 2 percent for members in the combined plan. For 2023, the portion of employer contributions OPERS allocated to health care for members in the member-directed plan was 4.0 percent; however, a portion of the health care rate was funded with reserves.

**Note 9 – Debt**

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

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
USDA Fire Station Obligation Bonds	\$413,600	5%
Total	<u><u>\$413,600</u></u>	

The Township issued bonds to finance the construction of a new fire station building for Township fire protection. The Township's taxing authority collateralized the bonds.

**Amortization**

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

Year Ending December 31:	General Obligation Bonds
2024	\$48,412
2025	48,571
2026	48,463
2027	48,496
2028	48,461
2029-2034	291,042
Total	<u><u>\$533,444</u></u>

**Milton Township**  
*Mahoning County*  
*Notes to the Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2023*

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**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:

<u>Fund Balances</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Outstanding Encumbrances	<u>\$593</u>	<u>\$3,667</u>	<u>\$4,260</u>
Total	<u>\$593</u>	<u>\$3,667</u>	<u>\$4,260</u>

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed. The fund balance of capital projects funds are restricted, committed, or assigned. The fund balance of permanent funds that is not part of the nonspendable corpus is either restricted or committed. These restricted, committed, and assigned amounts in the special revenue, capital projects, and permanent funds would include the outstanding encumbrances. In the general fund, outstanding encumbrances are considered assigned.



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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

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

Milton Township  
Mahoning County  
15992 Milton Avenue  
P.O. Box 397  
Lake Milton, Ohio 44429

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, 2024 and 2023 and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of December 31, 2023 and the related notes to the financial statements of the Milton Township, Mahoning County, Ohio (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated May 15, 2025, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit.

### ***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. 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.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

May 15, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**MILTON TOWNSHIP**

**MAHONING 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 6/10/2025**

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)