

**BUTLER COUNTY
FINANCE AUTHORITY**
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO
(A COMPONENT UNIT OF BUTLER COUNTY,
formerly BUTLER COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY)

REGULAR AUDIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
DECEMBER 31, 2023



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

Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Director
Butler County Finance Authority
130 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Butler County Finance Authority, Butler County, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2023 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. The Butler County Finance Authority is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 28, 2024

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**BUTLER COUNTY FINANCE AUTHORITY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO
(A Component Unit of Butler County)**

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Independent Auditor's Report

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County
130 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

To the Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Director:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Butler County Finance Authority, Butler County, Ohio, a component unit of Butler County, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Butler County Finance Authority's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Butler County Finance Authority, as of December 31, 2023, and the changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 Butler County Finance Authority 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 opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 Butler County Finance Authority'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 opinion. 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 Butler County Finance Authority'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 Butler County Finance Authority'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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 21, 2024 on our consideration of the Butler County Finance Authority's internal control over financial reporting and on 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 Butler County Finance Authority'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 Butler County Finance Authority's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Julian & Grube, Inc.
June 21, 2024

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Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
(Unaudited)

The discussion and analysis of the Butler County Finance Authority (the "Finance Authority") financial performance provides an overall review of the financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Finance Authority's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Finance Authority's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2023 are as follows:

- The Finance Authority generated \$695,030 in charges for services during the year.
- The Finance Authority's cash balance increased \$962,227 during 2023 to \$4,674,092 at December 31, 2023.
- The Finance Authority's net position increased \$781,690 during 2023.

Using this Financial Report

This financial report contains the basic financial statements of the Finance Authority, as well as the Management's Discussion and Analysis and notes to the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements include a statement of net position, statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows. As the Finance Authority reports its operations using enterprise fund accounting, all financial transactions and accounts are reported as one activity, therefore the entity wide and the fund presentation information are the same.

Statement of Net Position

The statement of net position answers the question, "How did we do financially during the year?" This statement includes all assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term debt, using the accrual basis of accounting and the economic resources focus, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
(Unaudited)

Table 1 provides a summary of the Finance Authority's net position for 2023 and 2022.

Table 1 - Net Position

	2023	2022
Assets		
Current and Other Assets	\$ 5,092,100	\$ 4,374,439
Long-Term Assets	18,205,000	17,335,000
Total Assets	23,297,100	21,709,439
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	478,401	542,430
Long-Term Liabilities	18,205,000	17,335,000
Total Liabilities	18,683,401	17,877,430
Net Position		
Unrestricted	4,613,699	3,832,009
Total Net Position	\$ 4,613,699	\$ 3,832,009

The Finance Authority's current assets increased from 2022 to 2023 mainly as a result of increased cash balances which were the result of charges for services that were collected and earned in 2023. Current liabilities decreased from December 31, 2022 to December 31, 2023 as the Finance Authority had more activity ongoing near year-end 2022, and accordingly, accounts payable were greater at December 31, 2022, than at December 31, 2023.

Long-term assets and long-term liabilities increased from 2022 to 2023 as a result of scheduled debt service activity that is funded by an intergovernmental agreement with Butler County. See Note 5 to the financial statements for more information on long-term obligations, and the offsetting intergovernmental receivable from Butler County.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
(Unaudited)

Table 2 - Changes in Net Position

	2023	2022
Operating Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$ 695,030	\$ 529,686
Total Operating Revenues	695,030	529,686
Operating Expenses		
Purchased Services	122,398	31,173
Total Operating Expenses	122,398	31,173
Operating (Loss)	572,632	498,513
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)		
Interest Revenue	209,058	59,335
Intergovernmental Revenue	863,591	1,061,371
Interest Expense	(863,591)	(1,061,371)
Total Nonoperating Revenue (Expense)	209,058	59,335
Change in Net Position	781,690	557,848
Net Position Beginning of Year	3,832,009	3,274,161
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 4,613,699	\$ 3,832,009

During 2023, the Finance Authority realized increased charges for services, compared to 2022, as the Finance Authority continued to be involved with new, potentially advancing, projects within Butler County. This involvement in new, potentially advancing, projects also caused operating expenses to increase in 2023, compared to 2022.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
December 31, 2023
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
(Unaudited)

Capital Assets

The Finance Authority reported no capital assets at December 31, 2023.

Debt

The Finance Authority reported \$18,510,000 of bonds payable at December 31, 2023. See Note 5 for more information on long-term obligations.

Contacting the Finance Authority

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the finances of the Butler County Finance Authority and to show the Finance Authority's accountability for the monies it receives to all vested and interested parties, as well as meeting the annual reporting requirements of the State of Ohio. Any questions about the information contained within this report or requests for additional financial information should be directed to: Butler County Finance Authority, 130 High Street, Hamilton, Ohio 45011.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
December 31, 2023

Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,674,092
Receivables:	
Accounts	28,099
Intergovernmental	<u>389,909</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>5,092,100</u>
Long-Term Assets	
Receivables:	
Intergovernmental	<u>18,205,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>23,297,100</u>
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	88,492
Accrued Interest Payable	84,909
Bonds Payable	<u>305,000</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>478,401</u>
Long-Term Liabilities	
Bonds Payable	<u>18,205,000</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>18,683,401</u>
Net Position	
Unrestricted	<u>4,613,699</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 4,613,699</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenses
and Changes in Net Position
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Operating Revenues	
Charges for Services	\$ 695,030
Total Operating Revenues	<u>695,030</u>
Operating Expenses	
Purchased Services	122,398
Total Operating Expenses	<u>122,398</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>572,632</u>
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	
Interest Revenue	209,058
Intergovernmental Revenue	863,591
Interest Expense	<u>(863,591)</u>
Total Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>209,058</u>
Change in Net Position	781,690
Net Position Beginning of Year	3,832,009
Net Position End of Year	<u>\$ 4,613,699</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Statement of Cash Flows
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 787,700
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	<u>(34,531)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>753,169</u>
 Cash Flows from Non-Capital Financing Activities	
Cash Received from Other Governments	<u>1,156,695</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Non-Capital Financing Activities	<u>1,156,695</u>
 Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities	
Principal Paid	(295,000)
Interest Paid	<u>(861,695)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(1,156,695)</u>
 Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Interest Received	<u>209,058</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Investing Activities	<u>209,058</u>
 Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	962,227
 Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>3,711,865</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 4,674,092</u></u>
 Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 572,632
Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Decrease (Increase) in Accounts Receivable	92,670
(Decrease) Increase in Accounts Payable	<u>87,867</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ 753,169</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
December 31, 2023

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE REPORTING ENTITY

The Butler County Finance Authority (the “Finance Authority”) is a body corporate and politic established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Finance Authority was established in September 2004 pursuant to section 4582.22 of the Ohio Revised Code by resolution of Butler County. The seven voting member Board of Directors directs the Finance Authority.

The Finance Authority provides services that are enumerated in Sections 4582.21 to 4582.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The services include but are not limited to the power to purchase, construct, reconstruct, enlarge, improve, equip, develop, sell, exchange, lease, convey other interest in, and operate Finance Authority facilities.

The Finance Authority is reported as a component unit of Butler County, Ohio, as defined by the provisions of GASB statement numbers 14 and 39. As such, its activities are reported within the County’s Annual Financial Report.

The Finance Authority’s management believes these financial statements represent all activities for which the Finance Authority is financially accountable.

On November 21, 2023, the Butler County Port Authority elected to be renamed the Butler County Finance Authority.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These financial statements of Butler County Finance Authority have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

A. Basis of Presentation

Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges or where it has been decided that periodic determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability or other purposes.

B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all asset and all liabilities are included on the statement of net position. Equity (i.e., net position) consists of retained earnings. The operating statement presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in total net position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the Finance Authority finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise activities.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made.

The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

C. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Finance Authority maintains a cash management program whereby cash is deposited with a banking institution in Butler County. The agreements restrict activity to certain deposits. These deposits are stated at cost which approximates market value. Investment procedures are restricted by the provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. During 2023, the Finance Authority invested in the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio).

STAR Ohio is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. The Finance Authority measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours advance notice for deposits and withdrawals of \$100 million or more is appreciated. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million per day.

For purposes of the statement of cash flows and for the presentation on the statement of net position, the funds in the cash management pool are considered to be cash equivalents.

D. Operating and Non-Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly by the Finance Authority's primary mission. For the Finance Authority, operating revenues include intergovernmental contributions to fund operations and local business contributions to issue debt at a tax-exempt rate, as well as administrative fees charged to cover operating expenses. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to support the Finance Authority's primary mission.

Non-operating revenues and expenses are those that are not generated directly by the Finance Authority's primary mission. Various state grants, local government contributions, interest income and expenses comprise the non-operating revenues and expenses of the Finance Authority.

E. Accrued Liabilities

In general, payables and accrued liabilities are reported as obligations regardless of whether they will be liquidated with current resources.

F. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The Finance Authority applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

G. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

3. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

In accordance with state statute, active deposits are designated as public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the Finance Authority Treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
December 31, 2023

Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Finance Authority will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money have been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the Finance Authority to a successful claim by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

The Finance Authority has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the Finance Authority and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in 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. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

At year-end, the carrying amount of the Finance Authority's deposits was \$238,090 and the bank balance was \$236,140. Federal depository insurance covered \$236,140 of the bank balance.

Investments

As of December 31, 2023, the Finance Authority had investments in STAR Ohio totaling \$4,436,002.

The Finance Authority has no investment policy dealing with investment credit risk beyond the requirements in state statutes. STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAM by Standard and Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Finance Authority is covered by general liability and public official liability insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage in the past three years and there has been no significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

Butler County Finance Authority
 Butler County, Ohio
 Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
 (A Component Unit of Butler County)
 December 31, 2023

5. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Bonds Payable

Changes in the Finance Authority's long-term liabilities for the year ended December 31, 2023, were as follows:

	(Restated) Beginning Balance	Deletions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Bonds Payable - 5.5%	\$ 18,805,000	\$ (295,000)	\$ 18,510,000	\$ 305,000

The bonds payable were originally issued in 2014 for the purposes of acquiring and constructing certain public infrastructure improvements, in relation to the Liberty Center Project. The Finance Authority had an intergovernmental agreement with the Butler County Board of County Commissioners that provides for the County to make the semi-annual payments to the debt service trustee in the exact amounts of the debt service that is due.

In April 2022, the Finance Authority entered into a new funding agreement with the Liberty Community Authority and the Butler County Board of County Commissioners for the issuance of public infrastructure refunding revenue bonds in the amount of \$19,350,000 for the primary purpose of refunding the 2014 bonds. The bonds were issued at discount and pay interest at 5.5% and fully mature on December 1, 2053. While the Finance Authority was the issuer on these bonds, Butler County is the third-party obligor on the bonds, and Butler County is also part of the same reporting unit as the Finance Authority since the Finance Authority is a component unit of Butler County. Accordingly, at December 31, 2023, the Finance Authority recorded the above debt as an obligation (as opposed to conduit debt) and recorded an offsetting intergovernmental receivable from Butler County for the amount of the outstanding bonds payable.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
December 31, 2023

Principal and interest requirements to retire the bonds payable, as of December 31, 2023, are as follows:

Bonds Payable			
Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 305,000	\$ 848,010	\$ 1,153,010
2025	320,000	833,750	1,153,750
2026	340,000	818,800	1,158,800
2027	355,000	803,045	1,158,045
2028	370,000	786,485	1,156,485
2029-2033	2,110,000	3,679,863	5,789,863
2034-2038	2,475,000	3,343,515	5,818,515
2039-2043	3,160,000	2,676,338	5,836,338
2044-2048	3,945,000	1,912,327	5,857,327
2048-2053	5,130,000	758,741	5,888,741
Total	\$ 18,510,000	\$ 16,460,873	\$ 34,970,873

Conduit Debt Obligations

One of the Finance Authority's main functions is to provide Butler County companies and organizations with the ability to issue debt at a tax-exempt rate. These companies may use the Finance Authority's tax-exempt status for such offerings by issuing conduit debt obligations, backed by reimbursement agreements with the Finance Authority and trustee.

A conduit debt obligation is debt issued in the name of the issuer (the Finance Authority) benefiting a third party that is liable for repayment of the debt, also known as a third-party obligor. The Finance Authority, as issuer, has not made any commitments in connection with these conduit debt obligations that would require reporting an obligation under GASB 91. As such, the aggregate amount of conduit debt obligations outstanding at December 31, 2023, with the Finance Authority as issuer, was approximately \$223 million, is not being recorded in the Finance Authority's financial statements.

6. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Litigation

From time to time, the Finance Authority may be subject to various lawsuits and/or claims over which litigation has not yet commenced. Although the outcomes of any such matters are not presently determinable, in the opinion of management, the resolution of these matters will not have a materially adverse effect on the financial condition of the Finance Authority.

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
(A Component Unit of Butler County)
December 31, 2023

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Finance Authority has implemented the following Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statements:

- *GASB 94, Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships (PPP) and Availability Payment Arrangements (APA)*
- *GASB 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*
- *GASB 99, Omnibus 2022*

The implementation of these GASB Statements did not have an effect on the Finance Authority's 2023 financial statements.

8. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Finance Authority evaluated the effects subsequent events would have on the financial statements through the date of the auditor's report.

**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With
*Government Auditing Standards***

Butler County Finance Authority
Butler County
130 High Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

To the Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Director:

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, the financial statements of the Butler County Finance Authority, Butler County, Ohio, a component unit of Butler County, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Butler County Finance Authority's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 21, 2024.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Butler County Finance Authority'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 Butler County Finance Authority's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Butler County Finance Authority'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 Butler County Finance Authority's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Butler County Finance Authority

Butler County

Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters

Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Butler County Finance Authority'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*.

Butler County Finance Authority's Response to the Finding

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

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Butler County Finance Authority'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 Butler County Finance Authority's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Julian & Grube, Inc.

June 21, 2024

**BUTLER COUNTY FINANCE AUTHORITY
BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND RESPONSES
DECEMBER 31, 2023**

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS	
Finding Number	2023-001

Material Weakness – Financial Statement Presentation

Accurate financial reporting is required to provide management and other members of the Board with objective and timely information to enable well-informed decisions.

Certain audit adjustments were made to correct misstatements identified in the audit of the Finance Authority’s financial statements. These adjustments were necessary to properly state activity related to the Finance Authority’s long-term obligations, which affects both short-term and long-term intergovernmental receivable and bonds payable on the statement of net position. This adjustment also affects intergovernmental revenue and interest expense on the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position. Lastly, these adjustments required changes to the statement of cash flows. In 2022, the Finance Authority refunded its outstanding 2014 bonds, but did not account for these changes within its financial statements (see note 5).

In addition, certain disclosures were updated to more accurately reflect the activity of the Finance Authority.

A lack of proper policies and procedures for control and monitoring activities associated with the period-end financial reporting process could lead to financial statement and note disclosure adjustments, which if uncorrected, could lead to a misrepresentation of the Finance Authority’s activity.

We recommend the Finance Authority implement additional control procedures that enable management to more timely prevent or detect and correct potential misstatements in the financial statement prior to presenting it to the auditors. Additionally, we advise the Finance Authority to examine the adjustments identified during the audit and include them in subsequent reports, particularly in periods where there is new debt activity.

Client Response: Management agrees with the finding and wishes to provide additional context to this item by emphasizing that this item relates solely to the assembly of the accrual-based financial statements at year-end and does not relate, nor does it impact, the daily record-keeping and cash-basis records of the Finance Authority. Additionally, the adjustment that was proposed in connection with this item ultimately did not change the Finance Authority’s opening net position, ending net position, and change in net position.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BUTLER COUNTY FINANCE AUTHORITY

BUTLER 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 9/10/2024

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

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