



***BUCKSKIN TOWNSHIP
ROSS COUNTY***

Regular Audit

**For the Years Ended
December 31, 2023 and 2022**

J.L. UHRIG
AND ASSOCIATES INC.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

Board of Trustees
Buckskin Township
110 Edgington Rd
South Salem, OH 45681

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Buckskin Township, Ross County, prepared by J.L. Uhrig and Associates, Inc., 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. The Buckskin Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

July 16, 2024

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BUCKSKIN TOWNSHIP, ROSS COUNTY
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Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Trustees
Buckskin Township, Ross County
110 Edgington Rd
South Salem, Ohio 45681

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 Buckskin Township, Ross 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 1.

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.

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

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by 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 1 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.

Board of Trustees
Buckskin Township, Ross County
Independent Auditor's Report

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.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 9 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

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 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.

J. L. Uhrig and Associates, Inc.

J. L. UHRIG AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
Chillicothe, Ohio

June 21, 2024

BUCKSKIN TOWNSHIP, ROSS COUNTY
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Cash Balances
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Governmental Fund Types			Totals
	General	Special Revenue	Capital Projects Fund	
<u>Cash Receipts:</u>				
Local Taxes	\$78,810	\$51,169	\$0	129,979
Intergovernmental	59,972	176,763	20,000	256,735
Earnings on Investments	11,379	15,037	0	26,416
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	2,084	3,200	0	5,284
Other Revenue	4,310	20,896	0	25,206
Total Cash Receipts	156,555	267,065	20,000	443,620
<u>Cash Disbursements:</u>				
<i>Current:</i>				
General Government	115,184	16,187	0	131,371
Public Works	9,400	181,409	20,000	210,809
Health	0	31,858	0	31,858
Other	0	237	0	237
Capital Outlay	742	27,093	0	27,835
Total Cash Disbursements	125,326	256,784	20,000	402,110
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	31,229	10,281	0	41,510
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	217,023	439,270	0	656,293
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$248,252	\$449,551	\$0	\$697,803

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Buckskin Township, Ross County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, and cemetery maintenance. Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by through the jointly governed Paint Creek Joint Fire and EMS District. Note 8 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

B. 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 receipts, disbursements and changes in fund-balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary and fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

C. Accounting Basis

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(D). 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(D) permit.

D. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively. The Township deposits all available funds in an interest bearing checking account at a local commercial bank.

E. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1. General Fund

The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

2. 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads.

3. 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.

Public Works Commission Project Fund – the Township received an Issue I grant (administered by the Ross County Engineer) from the State of Ohio to pave a section of Wisecup Hill Road.

F. Budgetary Process

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

1. 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. Appropriations lapse at year-end.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are cancelled and re-appropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of budgetary activity for 2023 appears in Note 3.

G. 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:

1. Non-spendable

The Township classifies assets as non-spendable when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Assigned

Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as assigned unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

5. 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.

H. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

	<u>2023</u>
Demand deposits	\$397,803
Certificates of Deposits	<u>300,000</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u><u>\$697,803</u></u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$134,922	\$156,555	\$21,633
Special Revenue	217,589	267,065	49,476
Capital Projects	20,000	20,000	0
Total	\$372,511	\$443,620	\$71,109

2023 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$349,500	\$125,326	\$224,174
Special Revenue	655,237	256,784	398,453
Capital Projects	20,000	20,000	0
Total	\$1,024,737	\$402,110	\$622,627

4. PROPERTY TAX

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 homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31st. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31st and the second half payment is due the following June 20th.

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

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's Firefighters belong to the Volunteers Firefighters Dependent Fund. All other 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 includes postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

6. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Both 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 2.0 percent during calendar year 2022, and 1.0% during calendar year 2023.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Buckskin 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 (local entity'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:

	<u>2023</u>
Cash and Investments	\$43,996,442
Actuarial Liabilities	\$19,743,401

8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Paint Creek Fire and EMS District provides fire protection and Emergency Management Services to Buckskin Township and various other surrounding Villages and Townships. The Township has a representative on the board of the Fire District. The Fire and EMS District levies property taxes within the district to cover operating costs.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

9. COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During 2022, the Township did receive 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 funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

BUCKSKIN TOWNSHIP, ROSS COUNTY
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Cash Balances
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Totals</u>
<u>Cash Receipts:</u>			
Local Taxes	\$70,930	\$46,038	116,968
Intergovernmental	57,389	271,181	328,570
Earnings on Investments	1,846	2,737	4,583
Licenses, Permits, and Fees	936	7,200	8,136
Other Revenue	2,507	63,149	65,656
	<u>133,608</u>	<u>390,305</u>	<u>523,913</u>
<u>Cash Disbursements:</u>			
<i>Current:</i>			
General Government	109,885	225,720	335,605
Public Works	0	67,990	67,990
Health	0	55,847	55,847
Capital Outlay	34,458	22,000	56,458
	<u>144,343</u>	<u>371,557</u>	<u>515,900</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>144,343</u>	<u>371,557</u>	<u>515,900</u>
Total Cash Receipts Over/(Under) Cash Disbursements	(10,735)	18,748	8,013
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	<u>227,758</u>	<u>420,522</u>	<u>648,280</u>
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	<u><u>\$217,023</u></u>	<u><u>\$439,270</u></u>	<u><u>\$656,293</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of the Buckskin Township, Ross County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township provides general government services, road and bridge maintenance, and cemetery maintenance. Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided by through the jointly governed Paint Creek Joint Fire and EMS District. Note 8 to the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

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

B. Basis of Presentation

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C. Accounting Basis

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(D). 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(D) permit.

D. Deposits and Investments

The Township's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively. The Township deposits all available funds in an interest bearing checking account at a local commercial bank.

E. Fund Accounting

The Township uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments that are restricted as to use. The Township classifies its funds into the following types:

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

1. General Fund

The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

2. 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:

Gasoline Tax Fund - This fund receives gasoline tax money to pay for constructing, maintaining, and repairing Township roads. The fund received an insurance settlement payment of \$55,682 from PERSO for tornado damage to the township salt barn located at 2961 Stewart St, in South Salem.

Coronavirus Relief Fund – The Township elected to use the revenue loss option and the funds were applied to paving projects on Irwin Lane and Fout Road – the total expenditures were \$208,308.

F. Budgetary Process

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

1. 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. Appropriations lapse at year-end.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2. Estimated Resources

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

3. Encumbrances

The Ohio Revised Code requires the Township to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are cancelled and re-appropriated in the subsequent year.

A summary of budgetary activity for 2022 appears in Note 3.

G. 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:

1. Non-spendable

The Township classifies assets as non-spendable when legally or contractually required to maintain the amounts intact.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Assigned

Assigned fund balances are intended for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. Governmental funds other than the general fund report all fund balances as assigned unless they are restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by Township Trustees or a Township official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

5. 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.

H. Property, Plant, and Equipment

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

2. EQUITY IN POOLED DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

	<u>2022</u>
Demand deposits	\$256,293
Certificates of Deposits	<u>400,000</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u><u>\$656,293</u></u>

Deposits: Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation and collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

3. BUDGETARY ACTIVITY

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$130,101	\$133,608	\$3,507
Special Revenue	373,851	390,305	16,454
Total	\$503,952	\$523,913	\$19,961

2022 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Expenditures	Variance
General	\$357,800	\$144,343	\$213,457
Special Revenue	793,958	371,557	422,401
Total	\$1,151,758	\$515,900	\$635,858

4. PROPERTY TAX

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 homestead and rollback deductions. The financial statements include homestead and rollback amounts the State pays as Intergovernmental Receipts. Payments are due to the County by December 31st. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31st and the second half payment is due the following June 20th.

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

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

5. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS

The Township's Firefighters belong to the Volunteers Firefighters Dependent Fund. All other 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 includes postretirement healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

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

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

6. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Both 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 2.0 percent during calendar year 2022.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

Buckskin 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 (local entity'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:

	<u>2022</u>
Cash and Investments	\$35,207,320
Actuarial Liabilities	\$10,519,942

8. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Paint Creek Fire and EMS District provides fire protection and Emergency Management Services to Buckskin Township and various other surrounding Villages and Townships. The Township has a representative on the board of the Fire District. The Fire and EMS District levies property taxes within the district to cover operating costs.

Buckskin Township
Ross County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

9. COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June, 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During 2022, the Township did receive 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 funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required By *Government Auditing Standards***

Board of Trustees
Steve Wisecup, Fiscal Officer
Buckskin Township, Ross County
110 Edgington Rd
South Salem, Ohio 45681

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type of the Buckskin Township, Ross County, Ohio (the Township), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 21, 2024, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures that will impact subsequent periods of the Township.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Township's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Township's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or 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 weakness or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Board of Trustees
Buckskin Township, Ross County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required By *Government Auditing Standards*

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Township's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express 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.

J. L. Uhrig and Associates, Inc.

J. L. UHRIG AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
Chillicothe, Ohio

June 21, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BUCKSKIN TOWNSHIP

ROSS COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 7/30/2024

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