

BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP

HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020





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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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(800) 282-0370

Board of Trustees
Blanchard Township
PO Box 34
Dunkirk, OH 45836

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Blanchard Township, Hardin County, prepared by Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc., for the audit period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. 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. Blanchard Township is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

June 10, 2022

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**BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP
HARDIN COUNTY
Regular Audit
For the Years Ended December 31, 2021 and 2020**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditors’ Report - For the Year Ended December 31, 2021.....	1-3
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2021.....	4
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2021	5-11
Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> - For Year Ending December 31, 2021	12-13
Independent Auditors’ Report - For the Year Ended December 31, 2020.....	14-16
Combined Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) - All Governmental Fund Types - For the Year Ended December 31, 2020.....	17
Notes to the Financial Statements – For the Year Ended December 31, 2020	18-24
Independent Auditor’s Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i> - For Year Ending December 31, 2020	25-26

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
201 North Main Street
Dunkirk, OH 45836

To the Township Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Blanchard Township, Hardin County, Ohio (the Township), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, 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 year ended December 31, 2021, 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, 2021, or the changes in financial position 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 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.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 12 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 opinions regarding this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Township's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 2, 2022, on our consideration of the Township's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
June 2, 2022

**BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP
HARDIN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - REGULATORY CASH BASIS
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 24,903	\$ 44,051	\$ 68,954
Intergovernmental	16,522	192,080	208,602
Licenses, Permits and Fees	800	11,599	12,399
Earnings on Investments	263	130	393
Miscellaneous	11,947	7,510	19,457
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>54,435</u>	<u>255,370</u>	<u>309,805</u>
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
General Government	55,653	-	55,653
Public Works	-	77,881	77,881
Health	-	79,669	79,669
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>55,653</u>	<u>157,550</u>	<u>213,203</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	(1,218)	97,820	96,602
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>147,892</u>	<u>394,485</u>	<u>542,377</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 146,674</u>	<u>\$ 492,305</u>	<u>\$ 638,979</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Blanchard Township, Hardin County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township also has an elected fiscal officer. The Township provides general governmental services, road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance.

Jointly Governed Organization

The Township participates in three jointly governed organizations and is associated with Blanchard Dunkirk Washington Joint Ambulance District, Northern Hardin County Fire District, and Hardin County Regional Planning Commission. Note 10 the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides 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, which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Cemetery Fund This fund is used to receive money and fees from the sale of lots, grave openings and grave closings for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Township cemeteries.

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 disbursements 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 disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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.

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

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

A summary of 2021 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. The Township did not hold any investments.

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.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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.

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 The 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 11.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2021 follows:

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 51,907	\$ 54,435	\$ 2,528
Special Revenue	250,252	255,370	5,118

2021 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 164,500	\$ 55,653	\$108,847
Special Revenue	514,200	157,550	356,650

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2021
Demand deposits	\$175,777
STAR Ohio	\$463,202
<i>Total Deposits</i>	\$638,979

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, 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.

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2021, the Township is holding no unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

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 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 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

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: (the latest information available)

	<u>2020</u>
Cash and investments	\$36,348,066
Actuarial liabilities	10,894,146

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

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

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. 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, 2021.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0% during calendar year 2021. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2021.

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township is a defendant in a lawsuit. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of the suit, management believes that the resolution of the matter will not materially adversely affect the Township’s financial condition.

Note 10 - Jointly Governed Organizations

Blanchard Dunkirk Washington Joint Ambulance District

A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Blanchard Township, the Village of Dunkirk, and Washington Township. The District provides emergency medical and ambulance services within the District. Financial information can be obtained from Kathy Schroeder, Clerk at P.O. Box 95 Dunkirk Ohio 45836.

Northern Hardin County Fire District

A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. These subdivisions are Blanchard Township, the Village of Dunkirk, and Washington Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District. Financial information can be obtained from Kathy Schroeder, Clerk at 121 South Buckeye Street Dunkirk Ohio 45836.

Hardin County Regional Planning Commission

A Board consisting of Hardin County and municipalities and townships within the County governs the Commission. The degree of control exercised by any participating government is limited to its representation on the Board.

The Commission makes studies, plans, recommendations and reports concerning the physical, environmental, social, economic, and governmental characteristics, functions and services of the County. Each participating government may be required to contribute an assessment per capita, according to the latest federal census, in any calendar year in which the revenue is needed. Financial information can be obtained from Mark Doll, Director, One Courthouse Square, Suite 130, Kenton, Ohio 43326.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the Township had no encumbrances.

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

Note 12 – COVID-19

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

Note 13 – Subsequent Event

The Township and their Board of Trustees have an agreement for 2022 to purchase land in the amount of \$73,704 for the purpose of extending the cemetery.

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

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
201 North Main Street
Dunkirk, OH 45836

To the Township Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 and the related notes to the financial statements of Blanchard Township, Hardin County, (the Township) and have issued our report thereon dated June 2, 2022, wherein we noted the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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


Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Township's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

However, we noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 2, 2022.

Purpose of This Report

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



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
June 2, 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
201 North Main Street
Dunkirk, OH 45836

To the Township Trustees:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type and related notes of Blanchard Township, Hardin County, Ohio (the Township) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these 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; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the Township's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the Township prepared these financial statements using 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), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the Township does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

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* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above 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, 2020, and changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental fund type and related notes of the Blanchard Township, Hardin County, Ohio, as of December 31, 2020, for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit, described in Note 2.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 12 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements, the Township made several changes to its reporting model. We did not modify our opinions regarding these matters.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 2, 2022, 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. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
June 2, 2022

**BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP
HARDIN COUNTY**

**COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - REGULATORY CASH BASIS
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020**

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>			Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	
Cash Receipts				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 26,194	\$ 46,015	-	\$ 72,209
Intergovernmental	20,831	148,328	\$ 58,724	227,883
Licenses, Permits and Fees	700	10,848	-	11,548
Earnings on Investments	2,196	1,081	-	3,277
Miscellaneous	10,587	9,013	-	19,600
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>60,508</u>	<u>215,285</u>	<u>58,724</u>	<u>334,517</u>
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
General Government	39,768	-	-	39,768
Public Works	-	123,113	-	123,113
Health	-	97,484	-	97,484
Capital Outlay	-	-	58,724	58,724
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>39,768</u>	<u>220,597</u>	<u>58,724</u>	<u>319,089</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Cash Balances</i>	20,740	(5,312)	-	15,428
<i>Fund Cash Balances, January 1</i>	<u>127,152</u>	<u>399,797</u>	-	<u>526,949</u>
<i>Fund Cash Balances, December 31</i>	<u>\$ 147,892</u>	<u>\$ 394,485</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 542,377</u>

The notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 1 – Reporting Entity

The constitution and laws of the State of Ohio establish the rights and privileges of Blanchard Township, Hardin County, (the Township) as a body corporate and politic. A publicly elected three-member Board of Trustees directs the Township. The Township also has an elected fiscal officer. The Township provides general governmental services, road and bridge maintenance and cemetery maintenance.

Jointly Governed Organization

The Township participates in three jointly governed organizations and is associated with Blanchard Dunkirk Washington Joint Ambulance District, Northern Hardin County Fire District, and Hardin County Regional Planning Commission. Note 10 the financial statements provide additional information for these entities.

Public Entity Risk Pool

The Township participates in the Ohio Township Association Risk Management Authority (OTARMA), a public entity risk pool. Note 6 to the financial statements provides 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, which is organized on a fund type basis.

Fund Accounting

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

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

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

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

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Cemetery Fund This fund is used to receive money and fees from the sale of lots, grave openings and grave closings for the purpose of maintaining and operating the Township cemeteries.

Capital Project Funds These funds account for receipts restricted to acquiring or constructing major capital projects. The Township had the following capital projects fund:

Paving of Township Roads 155, 60 and 40 This fund received an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant for paving portions of three Township Roads (155, 60 and 40). The Township was required to pay matching 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 disbursements 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 disbursements (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the 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.

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

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

A summary of 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 3.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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 did not hold any investments.

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.

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.

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 The 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.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

For regulatory purposes, limited disclosure related to fund balance is included in Note 11.

Note 3 – Budgetary Activity

Budgetary activity for the year ended December 31, 2020 follows:

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts			
Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	\$ 48,988	\$ 60,508	\$ 11,520
Special Revenue	220,968	215,285	(5,683)
Capital Projects	58,724	58,724	-

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Disbursements			
Fund Type	Appropriation Authority	Budgetary Disbursements	Variance
General	\$ 163,000	\$ 39,768	\$123,232
Special Revenue	529,200	220,597	308,603
Capital Projects	58,724	58,724	-

Note 4 – Deposits and Investments

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

	2020
Demand deposits	\$ 79,553
STAR Ohio	\$462,824
<i>Total Deposits</i>	\$542,377

Deposits

Deposits are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation, collateralized by securities specifically pledged by the financial institution to the Township, 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.

The Township does not use a separate payroll clearing account. The expenditures included in the accompanying financial statements reflect net payroll plus all remitted payroll withholdings. At December 31, 2020, the Township is holding no unremitted employee payroll withholdings.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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 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 31. If the property owner elects to pay semiannually, the first half is due December 31. The second half payment is due the following June 20.

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

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

Note 6 - Risk Management

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:

	<u>2020</u>
Cash and investments	\$ 36,348,066
Actuarial liabilities	10,894,146

Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Township’s 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 healthcare and survivor and disability benefits.

The Ohio Revised Code also prescribes contribution rates. For 2020, 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, 2020.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 8 – Postemployment Benefits

OPERS offers a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement, and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the traditional pension plan and combined plan was 0% during calendar year 2020. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the member-directed plan was 4% during calendar year 2020.

Note 9 – Contingent Liabilities

The Township is a defendant in a lawsuit. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of the suit, management believes that the resolution of the matter will not materially adversely affect the Township’s financial condition.

Note 10 - Jointly Governed Organization

Blanchard Dunkirk Washington Joint Ambulance District

A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. Those subdivisions are Blanchard Township, the Village of Dunkirk, and Washington Township. The District provides emergency medical and ambulance services within the District. Financial information can be obtained from Kathy Schroeder, Clerk at P.O. Box 95 Dunkirk Ohio 45836.

Northern Hardin County Fire District

A three-member Board of Trustees governs the District. Each political subdivision within the District appoints one member. These subdivisions are Blanchard Township, the Village of Dunkirk, and Washington Township. The District provides fire protection and rescue services within the District and by contract to areas outside the District. Financial information can be obtained from Kathy Schroeder, Clerk at 121 South Buckeye Street Dunkirk Ohio 45836.

Hardin County Regional Planning Commission

A Board consisting of Hardin County and municipalities and townships within the County governs the Commission. The degree of control exercised by any participating government is limited to its representation on the Board.

The Commission makes studies, plans, recommendations and reports concerning the physical, environmental, social, economic, and governmental characteristics, functions and services of the County. Each participating government may be required to contribute an assessment per capita, according to the latest federal census, in any calendar year in which the revenue is needed. Financial information can be obtained from Mark Doll, Director, One Courthouse Square, Suite 130, Kenton, Ohio 43326.

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Note 11 – Fund Balances

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilities effective cash planning and control. At year end, the Township did not have any outstanding encumbrances.

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

Note 12 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township. The Township's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined.

Note 13 – Change in Accounting Principle

For 2020, the Township has made changes to their cash basis reporting model. These changes include modifications to the definition of fiduciary funds, and removing the fund balance classifications from the combined statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) – all governmental fund types. There was no effect on the beginning fund balance.

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

Blanchard Township
Hardin County
201 North Main Street
Dunkirk, OH 45836

To the Township Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for each governmental fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and the related notes of Blanchard Township, Hardin County (the Township), and have issued our report thereon dated June 2, 2022, wherein we noted that the Township followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the ensuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Township and several changes to its reporting model.

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 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 may exist that have not been identified.

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 that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

However, we noted certain matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the Township's management in a separate letter dated June 2, 2022.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Township's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Township's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Charles E. Harris & Associates, Inc.
June 2, 2022

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BLANCHARD TOWNSHIP

HARDIN 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 6/23/2022

88 East Broad 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