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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Village of New Straitsville Perry County PO Box 220 New Straitsville, Ohio 43766

To the Village Council:

#### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental and proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and related notes of the Village of New Straitsville, Perry County, Ohio (the Village).

#### 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) 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 Village'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 Village'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.

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Village of New Straitsville Perry County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

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

As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the Village prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D), 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 Village 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) 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 Village, as of December 31, 2020 and 2019, and the respective changes in financial position or cash flows thereof 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 and proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and related notes of the Village, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 2.

#### **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 14 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Village. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements, the Village has suffered recurring losses from enterprise operations and has a negative fund balance in the Water Operating Enterprise Fund at December 31, 2020 and 2019. Note 13 also describes management's evaluation of the events and conditions and their plans to mitigate these matters. Our opinion is unmodified regarding this matter.

Village of New Straitsville Perry County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 30, 2021, on our consideration of the Village'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 Village's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

December 30, 2021

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Perry 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

	General	Special Revenue	Totals (Memorandum Only)
Cash Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$26,501	\$60,204	\$86,705
Intergovernmental	20,312	112,453	132,765
Charges for Services	24	61,097	61,121
Fines, Licenses and Permits	1,503	0	1,503
Earnings on Investments	435	69	504
Miscellaneous	443	7,178	7,621
Total Cash Receipts	49,218	241,001	290,219
Cash Disbursements			
Current:	0	01 240	01 240
Security of Persons and Property Leisure Time Activities	$0 \\ 0$	81,349 2,317	81,349
	0	2,317 23,401	2,317
Transportation General Government	51,710	29,498	23,401 81,208
Debt Service:	31,/10	29,498	81,208
Principal Retirement	0	1,683	1,683
Frincipal Retirement		1,085	1,083
Total Cash Disbursements	51,710	138,248	189,958
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(2,492)	102,753	100,261
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In	0	8,250	8,250
Transfers Out	(8,250)	0	(8,250)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	(8,250)	8,250	0
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(10,742)	111,003	100,261
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	40,257	149,089	189,346
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$29,515	\$260,092	\$289,607

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Perry County

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis) Proprietary Fund Type For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Enterprise
<b>Operating Cash Receipts</b>	
Charges for Services	\$338,270
Total Operating Cash Receipts	338,270
<b>Operating Cash Disbursements</b>	
Personal Services	71,847
Employee Fringe Benefits	11,153
Contractual Services	165,687
Supplies and Materials	34,061
Other	2,506
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	285,254
Operating Income	53,016
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
Intergovernmental	14,194
Proceeds of Loans	118,071
Miscellaneous Receipts	2,889
Capital Outlay	(69,430)
Principal Retirement	(100,463)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	(50,396)
Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	(85,135)
Income (Loss) before Capital Contributions, Special	
Item, Extraordinary Item, Transfers and Advances	(32,119)
Transfers In	92,400
Transfers Out	(92,400)
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	(32,119)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	101,144
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$69,025

Perry County
Statement of Additions, Deductions
and Change in Fund Balance (Regulatory Cash Basis)
Fiduciary Fund Type
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Custodial
Additions Fines, Licenses and Permits for Distribution	\$1,665
Total Additions	1,665
<b>Deductions</b> Distributions to Other Governments	1,881
Total Deductions	1,881
Net Change in Fund Balances	(216)
Fund Cash Balance, January 1	216
Fund Cash Balance, December 31	\$0

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### **Note 1 - Reporting Entity**

The Village of New Straitsville, Perry County (the Village), is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides general government services, street maintenance and repair, water and sewer utilities, park operations, and police, fire and emergency medical services.

#### Joint Ventures, Jointly Governed Organizations, Public Entity Risk Pools and Related Organizations

The Village is affiliated with the New Straitsville-Coal Township Union Cemetery. The Village of New Straitsville and Coal Township appoint the Board of Trustees of the Union Cemetery. Taxes levied by the Village for cemetery maintenance are collected by Perry County, and distributed to the Union Cemetery. The Union Cemetery is a legally separate entity that prepares and files its own financial statements. The financial activity of the Union Cemetery is not included in the accompanying financial statements. The Auditor of State performs independent audits of the Union Cemetery.

The Village participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. This organization is:

#### Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Village belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) a non-assessable, unincorporated nonprofit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members").

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

#### **Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Village'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 statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary fund types and a statement of additions, deductions and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all fiduciary fund types which are all organized on a fund type basis.

#### Fund Accounting

The Village 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 Village 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 Village for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

**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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Street Construction Maintenance and Repair The street construction maintenance and repair fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax and motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for construction, maintenance, and repair of streets within the Village.

*Fire Department Fund* This fund receives property tax money and contracted services revenue to provide fire protection and maintain fire equipment.

**Police Fund** This fund receives property tax money to provide police protection.

*Enterprise Funds* These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

*Water Fund* The water fund accounts for the provision of water treatment and distribution to the residents and commercial users located within the Village.

*Water Construction Fund* The water construction fund receives grants and loans for the waterline replacement phase 2 project.

**Sewer Fund** The sewer fund accounts for the provision of sanitary sewer services to the residents and commercial users within the Village.

*Fiduciary Funds* Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement meeting certain criteria.

Custodial funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to report fiduciary activity that is not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Village's custodial fund accounts for Mayor's Court fines and forfeitures. The Village's Mayor's Court was inactive January 2017 through December 2020.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### **Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Village Council 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 Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Village did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2020 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

#### **Deposits and Investments**

The Village maintains all funds in a local checking account and a money market account in 2020.

#### Capital Assets

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

#### Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

#### Fund Balance

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

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

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

*Committed* Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends the resolution.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

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 Village 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.

#### **Note 3 - Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio law, budgetary expenditures exceeded appropriations authority in the Village's General, Fire, Police, Water Operating, and Sewer Operating funds in the amounts of \$184, \$940, \$1,218, \$34,455, and \$8,531, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2020. Also contrary to Ohio law, at December 31, 2020, the Water Operating fund had a cash deficit balance of \$23,117. In addition, contrary to Ohio law, at December 31, 2020 the Village's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the Budget Commission in the Police, Water Operating, and Sewer Operating funds by \$9,375, \$11,162 and \$254, respectively.

#### **Note 4 - Budgetary Activity**

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

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	Budgeted	Actual		
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance	
General	\$48,119	\$49,218	\$1,099	
Special Revenue	216,454	249,251	32,797	
Enterprise	472,817	565,824	93,007	
Agency	0	1,665	1,665	
Total	\$737,390	\$865,958	\$128,568	

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

2020 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

2020 Bungston ist Hottom Bungston j Busis Emponatorios					
	Appropriation	Budgetary	_		
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance		
General	\$60,455	\$59,960	\$495		
Special Revenue	139,950	138,248	1,702		
Enterprise	426,674	597,943	(171,269)		
Agency	0	1,881	(1,881)		
Total	\$627,079	\$798,032	(\$170,953)		

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 5 – Deposits

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

	2020
Demand deposits	\$358,632

#### **Deposits**

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

#### Note 6 - Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

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

#### Note 7 – Risk Management

#### Risk Pool Membership

The Village belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. The OPRM is also participated in a property primary excess of loss treaty. This treaty reimbursed the OPRM 30% for losses between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

The reimbursement is based on the amount of loss between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. Effective November 1, 2019, the OPRM's property retention increased from 30% to 33%, while the casualty treaty remains unchanged and still assumes 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Effective November 1, 2020, the OPRM's property retention increased from 33% to 55%, while the casualty treaty remains unchanged and still assumes 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. OPRM had 771 members as of December 31, 2020.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2020.

Assets \$ 18,826,974 Liabilities (13,530,267) Members' Equity \$ 5,296,707

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

#### Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Village 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 Village contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2020.

#### **Note 9 - Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2020.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 10 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Sewer System Mortgage Bond 92-01	\$957,000	3.25%
Sewer System Mortgage Bond 92-03	194,000	3.25%
OWDA #3939 - Elevated Storage Tank	77,115	3.25%
OWDA #6246 - Waterline and Meter Replacement	299,640	3.45%
OWDA #6284 - Generator Installation	16,364	1.50%
OWDA #7954 - Waterline Replacement Phase 2	426,041	0.00%
OWDA #8600 - Sewer System Evaluation Study	5,267	0.00%
OPWC #CR04C - Water Storage Tank Replacement	3,329	2.00%
Peoples National Bank - Polaris Ranger	417	5.00%
Total	\$1,979,173	

The sewer system mortgage revenue bonds were issued in 1999 to refund sewer system temporary revenue bonds that were issued in 1997 as interim financing for the sewer system construction project. The Village has pledged sewer system revenue to pay the mortgage revenue bonds. Payments are made from the Sewer Payment Fund.

The OWDA Elevated Storage Tank loan was issued in August of 2003 with semi-annual payments of \$3,394 from the Water Fund and was for the purpose of constructing an elevated storage tank.

The OWDA Waterline & Meter Replacement loan relates to the Village's waterline & meter replacement project with semi-annual payments of \$8,159 payable from the Water Fund.

The OWDA Generator Installation loan relates to the Village's generator installation project with semiannual payments of \$438 payable from the Sewer Fund.

The OWDA Waterline Replacement Phase 2 loan relates to a new waterline project that began in 2016. The project and loan is still ongoing as of December 31, 2020, therefore an amortization schedule and repayment terms were not available.

The OWDA Sewer System Evaluation Study loan was issued in 2020. The project and loan is still ongoing as of December 31, 2020, therefore an amortization schedule and repayment terms were not available.

The OPWC Water Storage Tank Replacement loan relates to a water storage tank project with semi-annual payments of \$487 payable from the Water Fund.

The Village entered into a loan agreement in January 2016 for the purchase of a Polaris Ranger with monthly payments of \$419 for 5 years. The Ranger collateralized the loan. Payments are made from the Street Construction Maintenance and Repair, Water and Sewer Funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### **Amortization**

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

			Waterline &		Water Storage	
Year Ending	USDA Bonds	Elevated	Meter	Genrator	Tank	Polaris
December 31:	92-01	Storage Tank	Replacement	Installation	Replacement	Ranger
2021	81,408	\$3,394	\$8,159	\$438	\$975	\$419
2022	81,977	6,789	16,317	876	975	
2023	82,483	6,788	16,317	876	975	
2024	82,922	6,789	16,317	876	574	
2025	82,298	6,788	16,317	876		
2026-2030	410,520	33,943	81,585	4,380		
2031-2035	411,063	20,366	81,585	4,380		
2036-2040	327,992		81,585	4,380		
2041-20444			57,109	2,190		
Total	\$1,560,663	\$84,857	\$375,291	\$19,272	\$3,499	\$419

#### Note 11 – Transfers

During 2020 the following transfers were made:

	Transfers-In	Transfers-Out
General Fund	\$	\$ (8,250)
Police Fund	8,250	
Sewer Fund		(91,700)
Sewer Payment Fund	84,000	(700)
Sewer Reserve Fund	8,400	
	\$ 100,650	\$ (100,650)

The Village transferred \$7,000 per month from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Payment Fund per the agreement with USDA for January through December. The Village transferred \$700 each month from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Reserve Fund to build reserves for the annual debt payment. The Village also transferred \$8,250 from the General Fund to the Police Fund to eliminate the deficit in the Police Fund. Transfers were deemed allowable and in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code.

#### **Note 12 – Contingent Liabilities**

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Village are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

#### Note 13 – Financial Difficulties

The Village expenses for the Water Operating fund have exceeded revenues in past years due to expenses incurred from the Waterline Replacement Phase 2 project. In 2020, the Sewer Operating fund had a negative net change in fund cash balance due to transfers out to pay for sewer debt payments. The General Fund and the Police Fund also had a negative net change in fund cash balance for 2020. All other funds have had total receipts exceeding total disbursements.

While the Village is in a positive cash balance position overall, a significant portion of the cash is in the Special Revenue Fire and Street Funds and the Proprietary Sewer Reserve Fund. The use of these funds is limited either by statue, levy ballot language or debt covenant agreement and therefore, the Village is not permitted to use these monies to remedy the deficit balance.

Based on information currently available, the Village has begun a long-term plan to reduce losses in the Water Operating Fund. The Village Council is also looking into new and enforcing policies regarding expenditure, internal controls, vendor selection, grants, outstanding receivables reviews, etc.

The Auditor of State has various remedies available to it, the most severe of which include placing the Village on fiscal watch or fiscal emergency. The Village does not know if such action will be taken.

#### **Note 14 – 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 may impact subsequent periods of the Village. The Village'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. In addition, the impact on the Village's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

#### Note 15 - Fund Balances

Included in fund balance are amounts the Village cannot spend, including the balance of unclaimed monies which cannot be spent for five years and the unexpendable corpus of the permanent funds. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year end, the Village had no Unclaimed Monies or Outstanding Encumbrances.

The fund balance of special revenue funds is either restricted or committed.

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Perry County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements
and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Governmental Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Communi	Special	Totals (Memorandum
Cash Danists	General	Revenue	Only)
Cash Receipts Property and Other Legal Toyog	\$24,447	\$45,737	\$70,184
Property and Other Local Taxes Intergovernmental	\$24,447 22,285	39,724	62,009
Charges for Services	22,283	35,609	35,614
Earnings on Investments	2,397	33,009 276	2,673
Miscellaneous	152	152,175	152,327
Miscenalieous	132	132,173	132,327
Total Cash Receipts	49,286	273,521	322,807
Cash Disbursements			
Current:			
Security of Persons and Property	0	223,065	223,065
Leisure Time Activities	0	7,009	7,009
Transportation	0	33,405	33,405
General Government	36,280	11,237	47,517
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	0	1,697	1,697
Total Cash Disbursements	36,280	276,413	312,693
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	13,006	(2,892)	10,114
Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)			
Transfers In	0	100	100
Transfers Out	(100)	0	(100)
Total Other Financing Receipts (Disbursements)	(100)	100	0
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	12,906	(2,792)	10,114
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	27,351	151,881	179,232
Fund Cash Balances, December 31			
Restricted	0	149,089	149,089
Unassigned (Deficit)	40,257	0	40,257
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$40,257	\$149,089	\$189,346

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Perry County
Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis) All Proprietary and Fiduciary Fund Types For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Proprietary Fund Type	Fiduciary Fund Type	Totals
	Enterprise	Custodial	(Memorandum Only)
Operating Cash Receipts	****		****
Charges for Services	\$345,415	\$0 240	\$345,415
Fines, Licenses and Permits	0	240	240
Total Operating Cash Receipts	345,415	240	345,655
Operating Cash Disbursements			
Personal Services	65,591	0	65,591
Employee Fringe Benefits	10,459	0	10,459
Contractual Services	117,752	0	117,752
Supplies and Materials	32,522	0	32,522
Other	2,131	0	2,131
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	228,455	0	228,455
Operating Income (Loss)	116,960	240	117,200
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)			
Intergovernmental	78,353	0	78,353
Proceeds of Loans	67,238	0	67,238
Miscellaneous Receipts	4,362	0	4,362
Capital Outlay	(110,376)	0	(110,376)
Principal Retirement	(68,097)	0	(68,097)
Interest and Other Fiscal Charges	(48,375)	0	(48,375)
Other Financing Uses	0	(24)	(24)
Total Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	(76,895)	(24)	(76,919)
Income (Loss) before Capital Contributions, Special			
Item, Extraordinary Item, Transfers and Advances	40,065	216	40,281
Capital Contributions	3,000	0	3,000
Transfers In	92,400	0	92,400
Transfers Out	(92,400)	0	(92,400)
Net Change in Fund Cash Balances	43,065	216	43,281
Fund Cash Balances, January 1	58,079	0	58,079
Fund Cash Balances, December 31	\$101,144	\$216	\$101,360

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

#### **Note 1 - Reporting Entity**

The Village of New Straitsville, Perry County (the Village), is a body politic and corporate established to exercise the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. A publicly-elected six-member Council directs the Village. The Village provides general government services, street maintenance and repair, water and sewer utilities, park operations, and police, fire and emergency medical services.

#### Joint Ventures, Jointly Governed Organizations, Public Entity Risk Pools and Related Organizations

The Village is affiliated with the New Straitsville-Coal Township Union Cemetery. The Village of New Straitsville and Coal Township appoint the Board of Trustees of the Union Cemetery. Taxes levied by the Village for cemetery maintenance are collected by Perry County, and distributed to the Union Cemetery. The Union Cemetery is a legally separate entity that prepares and files its own financial statements. The financial activity of the Union Cemetery is not included in the accompanying financial statements. The Auditor of State performs independent audits of the Union Cemetery.

The Village participates in a public entity risk pool. Note 7 to the financial statements provides additional information for this entity. This organization is:

#### Public Entity Risk Pool:

The Village belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) a non-assessable, unincorporated nonprofit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members").

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

#### Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### Basis of Presentation

The Village'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.

#### Fund Accounting

The Village 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 Village 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 Village 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 Village had the following significant Special Revenue Funds:

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

Street Construction Maintenance and Repair The street construction maintenance and repair fund accounts for and reports that portion of the State gasoline tax and motor vehicle license registration fees restricted for construction, maintenance, and repair of streets within the Village.

*Fire Department Fund* This fund receives property tax money and contracted services revenue to provide fire protection and maintain fire equipment.

**Police Fund** This fund receives property tax money to provide police protection.

**Enterprise Funds** These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Village had the following significant Enterprise Funds:

*Water Fund* The water fund accounts for the provision of water treatment and distribution to the residents and commercial users located within the Village.

*Water Construction Fund* The water construction fund receives grants and loans for the waterline replacement phase 2 project.

**Sewer Fund** The sewer fund accounts for the provision of sanitary sewer services to the residents and commercial users within the Village.

*Fiduciary Funds* Fiduciary funds include private purpose trust funds and agency funds. Trust funds account for assets held under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments, which are note available to support the Village's own programs.

Agency funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to hold resources for individuals, organizations or other governments. The Village disburses these funds as directed by the individual, organization or other government. The Village's agency fund accounts for Mayor's Court fines and forfeitures. The Village's Mayor's Court was inactive January 2017 through December 2019.

#### Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follow the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 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 § 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(D) permit.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

#### **Budgetary Process**

The Ohio Revised Code requires that each fund (except certain agency funds) be budgeted annually.

Appropriations Budgetary expenditures (that is, disbursements and encumbrances) may not exceed appropriations at the fund, function or object level of control, and appropriations may not exceed estimated resources. The Village Council 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 Village to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are canceled, and reappropriated in the subsequent year. The Village did not encumber all commitments required by Ohio law.

A summary of 2019 budgetary activity appears in Note 4.

#### **Deposits and Investments**

The Village maintains all funds in a local checking account and a money market account in 2019.

#### Capital Assets

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

#### Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

#### Fund Balance

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

*Nonspendable* The Village 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** Council can *commit* amounts via formal action (resolution). The Village must adhere to these commitments unless the Council amends 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.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

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 Village Council or a Village official delegated that authority by resolution, or by State Statute.

*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 Village 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.

#### **Note 3 - Compliance**

Contrary to Ohio law, appropriation authority and appropriations exceeded estimated resources in the Police and Water Operating funds by \$904 and \$87,708, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2019. Also contrary to Ohio law, at December 31, 2019, the Water Operating fund had a cash deficit balance of \$26,068. At December 31, 2019, contrary to Ohio law, the Village's Parks, Fire, Police, and Sewer Operating funds had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$388, \$995, \$757, and \$11,049, respectively.

#### **Note 4 - Budgetary Activity**

Budgetary activity for the year ending December 31, 2019 follows:

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

	Budgeted	Actual	
Fund Type	Receipts	Receipts	Variance
General	\$25,575	\$49,286	\$23,711
Special Revenue	199,163	273,621	74,458
Enterprise	441,400	590,768	149,368
Agency	0	240	240
Total	\$666,138	\$913,915	\$247,777

2019 Budgeted vs. Actual Budgetary Basis Expenditures

	Appropriation	Budgetary	
Fund Type	Authority	Expenditures	Variance
General	\$45,257	\$37,060	\$8,197
Special Revenue	282,292	278,370	3,922
Enterprise	459,096	575,568	(116,472)
Agency	0	24	(24)
Total	\$786,645	\$891,022	(\$104,377)

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

#### Note 5 – Deposits

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

	2019
Demand deposits	\$290,706

#### **Deposits**

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

#### Note 6 - Taxes

#### **Property Taxes**

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

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

#### Note 7 – Risk Management

#### Risk Pool Membership

The Village belongs to the Ohio Plan Risk Management, Inc. (OPRM) (the "Plan"), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio governments ("Members"). The Plan is legally separate from its member governments.

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the plan provides property, liability, errors and omissions, law enforcement, automobile, excess liability, crime, surety and bond, inland marine and other coverages to its members sold through fourteen appointed independent agents in the State of Ohio.

OPRM coverage programs are developed specific to each member's risk management needs and the related premiums for coverage are determined through the application of uniform underwriting criteria addressing the member's exposure to loss. Effective November 1, 2017, the OPRM retained 47% of the premium and losses on the first \$250,000 casualty treaty and 30% of the first \$1,000,000 property treaty. The OPRM is also participated in a property primary excess of loss treaty. This treaty reimbursed the OPRM 30% for losses between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

The reimbursement is based on the amount of loss between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000. Effective November 1, 2018, the OPRM the property retention remained unchanged, however, the Plan assumed 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. Members are only responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member. Effective November 1, 2019, the OPRM's property retention increased from 30% to 33%, while the casualty treaty remains unchanged and still assumes 100% of the first \$250,000 casualty treaty. OPRM had 776 members as of December 31, 2019.

The Pool's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and equity at December 31, 2019.

Assets \$15,920,504 Liabilities (11,329,011) Members' Equity \$4,591,493

You can read the complete audited financial statements for OPRM at the Plan's website, www.ohioplan.org.

#### Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plan

#### Ohio Public Employees Retirement System

The Village 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 Village contributed an amount equaling 14%, of participants' gross salaries. The Village has paid all contributions required through December 31, 2019.

#### **Note 9 - Postemployment Benefits**

OPERS offers cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment plans, which include multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage, deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and Medicare Part B premium reimbursements, to qualifying benefit recipients. The portion of employer contributions allocated to health care for OPERS members in the Traditional Pension Plan and Combined Plan was 0 percent during calendar year 2019.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

#### Note 10 – Debt

Debt outstanding at December 31, 2019 was as follows:

	Principal	Interest Rate
Sewer System Mortgage Bond 92-01	\$993,000	3.25%
Sewer System Mortgage Bond 92-03	201,000	3.25%
OWDA #3939 - Elevated Storage Tank	85,437	3.25%
OWDA #6246 - Waterline and Meter Replacement	314,822	3.45%
OWDA #6284 - Generator Installation	17,296	1.50%
OWDA #7954 - Waterline Replacement Phase 2	342,463	0.00%
OPWC #CR04C - Water Storage Tank Replacement	3,775	2.00%
Peoples National Bank - Polaris Ranger	5,290	5.00%
Total	\$1,963,083	

The sewer system mortgage revenue bonds were issued in 1999 to refund sewer system temporary revenue bonds that were issued in 1997 as interim financing for the sewer system construction project. The Village has pledged sewer system revenue to pay the mortgage revenue bonds. Payments are made from the Sewer Payment Fund.

The OWDA Elevated Storage Tank loan was issued in August of 2003 with semi-annual payments of \$3,394 from the Water Fund and was for the purpose of constructing an elevated storage tank.

The OWDA Waterline & Meter Replacement loan relates to the Village's waterline & meter replacement project with semi-annual payments of \$8,159 payable from the Water Fund.

The OWDA Generator Installation loan relates to the Village's generator installation project with semiannual payments of \$438 payable from the Sewer Fund.

The OWDA Waterline Replacement Phase 2 loan relates to a new waterline project that began in 2016. The project and loan is still ongoing as of December 31, 2019, therefore an amortization schedule and repayment terms were not available.

The OPWC Water Storage Tank Replacement loan relates to a water storage tank project with semi-annual payments of \$487 payable from the Water Fund.

The Village entered into a loan agreement in January 2016 for the purchase of a Polaris Ranger with monthly payments of \$419 for 5 years. The Ranger collateralized the loan. Payments are made from the Street Construction Maintenance and Repair, Water and Sewer Funds.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

#### **Amortization**

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

			Waterline &		Water Storage	
Year Ending	USDA Bonds	Elevated	Meter	Genrator	Tank	Polaris
December 31:	92-01	Storage Tank	Replacement	Installation	Replacement	Ranger
2020	81,805	\$6,789	\$16,317	\$876	\$487	\$5,028
2021	81,408	6,789	16,317	876	975	419
2022	81,977	6,789	16,317	876	975	
2023	82,483	6,789	16,317	876	975	
2024	82,922	6,788	16,317	876	574	
2025-2029	411,360	33,942	81,585	4,380		
2030-2034	409,365	27,154	81,585	4,380		
2035-2039	411,147		81,585	4,380		
2040-2044			73,427	3,066		
Total	\$1,642,467	\$95,040	\$399,767	\$20,586	\$3,986	\$5,447

#### Note 11 - Transfers

During 2019 the following transfers were made:

	Trans	sfers-In	Tran	sfers-Out
General Fund	\$		\$	(100)
State Highway Fund		100		
Sewer Fund				(92,400)
Sewer Payment Fund		84,000		
Sewer Reserve Fund		8,400		
	\$	92,500	\$	(92,500)

The Village transferred \$7,000 per month from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Payment Fund per the agreement with USDA for January through December. The Village transferred \$700 each month from the Sewer Fund to the Sewer Reserve Fund to build reserves for the annual debt payment. The Village also transferred \$100 from the General Fund to the State Highway Fund to eliminate the deficit in that fund. Transfers were deemed allowable and in compliance with Ohio Rev. Code.

#### **Note 12 – Contingent Liabilities**

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Village are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2019

#### Note 13 – Financial Difficulties

The Village expenses for the Water Operating fund have exceeded revenues in past years due to expenses incurred from the Waterline Replacement Phase 2 project. In 2019, the Sewer Operating fund had a negative net change in fund cash balance due to transfers out to pay for sewer debt payments. There were also several Special Revenue funds (including Parks, Delyn, and Fire funds) that had a negative net change in fund cash balance for 2019.

While the Village is in a positive cash balance position overall, a significant portion of the cash is in the Special Revenue Fire Fund and the Proprietary Sewer Operating and Sewer Reserve Funds. The use of these funds is limited either by statue, levy ballot language or debt covenant agreement and therefore, the Village is not permitted to use these monies to remedy the deficit balance.

Based on information currently available, the Village has begun a long-term plan to reduce losses in the Water Operating Fund. The Village Council is also looking into new and enforcing policies regarding expenditure, internal controls, vendor selection, grants, outstanding receivables reviews, etc.

The Auditor of State has various remedies available to it, the most severe of which include placing the Village on fiscal watch or fiscal emergency. The Village does not know if such action will be taken.

#### Note 14 – Subsequent Event

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 may impact subsequent periods of the Village. The Village'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. In addition, the impact on the Village's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency 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

Village of New Straitsville Perry County PO Box 220 New Straitsville, Ohio 43766

#### To the Village Council:

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 for each governmental and proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type combined total as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and for each governmental, proprietary and fiduciary fund type as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and related notes of the Village of New Straitsville, Perry County, Ohio (the Village), and have issued our report thereon dated December 30, 2021, wherein we noted the Village followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(D) permit. We noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the Village. We also noted the Village is experiencing financial difficulties.

#### Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Village's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Village'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 Village'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 internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Therefore, unidentified material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings that we consider material weaknesses. We consider findings 2020-001 through 2020-003 and 2020-005 and 2020-006 to be material weaknesses.

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

Village of New Straitsville
Perry County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

#### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Village'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 financial statement. 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as items 2020-001 through 2020-004.

#### Village's Response to Findings

The Village's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings. We did not subject the Village's responses to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

#### 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 Village's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Village's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

December 30, 2021

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-001**

#### **Noncompliance and Material Weakness**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(I) requires that money paid into any fund shall be used only for the purposes for which such fund is established.

Therefore, a negative fund cash balance in any fund indicates that money from another fund or funds has been used to pay the obligations of the fund carrying the deficit balance.

The Water Operating Fund had a deficit fund balance of \$23,117 at December 31, 2020 and a deficit fund balance of \$26,068 at December 31, 2019. There were also negative fund balances noted throughout both years in the following funds: Police, Water Operating, Water Construction, and Sewer Payment.

Negative fund balances could result in the use of restricted receipts for unallowable purposes. Procedures and controls, such as the Fiscal Officer and Council's periodic review of reports that show cash fund balances, and budgeted versus actual receipts and disbursements, should be implemented to identify those funds that may potentially develop a negative balance.

Advances or transfers should be made for these funds or appropriations modified to prevent a negative cash balance. The Village should refer to Ohio Compliance Supplement (OCS) Chapter 1 and/or Auditor of State Bulletin 97-003 for information regarding the accounting treatment and approval process for advances.

Officials' Response: Refer to the additional information in the Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-002**

#### **Noncompliance and Material Weakness**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 provides that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total of the estimated revenue available for expenditure there-from, as certified by the county budget commission. No appropriation measure shall become effective until the county auditor files a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund, taken together with all other outstanding appropriations, do not exceed such official estimate or amended official estimate. For purposes of this section of the Ohio Revised Code, estimated revenue is commonly referred to as "estimated resources" because it includes unencumbered fund balances.

At December 31, 2020, the Village's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Police, Water Operating, and Sewer Operating Funds by \$9,375, \$11,162 and \$254, respectively. At December 31, 2019, appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Police and Water Operating Funds by \$904 and \$87,708, respectively.

Failure to limit appropriations to the amount certified by the budget commission due to deficiencies in the Village's compliance monitoring policies and procedures could result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 (Continued)

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

#### FINDING NUMBER 2020-002 (Continued)

#### **Noncompliance and Material Weakness (Continued)**

The Village should draft, approve, and implement procedures to compare appropriations to estimated resources and, if adequate resources are available for additional appropriations, the Village should submit an amended certificate of estimated resources to the budget commission for certification. If the resources are not available to cover the appropriations, an amendment to the appropriation resolution should be passed by the Village Council to reduce the appropriations.

Officials' Response: Refer to the additional information in the Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-003**

#### **Noncompliance and Material Weakness**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority unit from making any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Due to inadequate policies and procedures in approving and reviewing budget versus actual information, the Village's General, Fire, Police, Water Operating, and Sewer Operating Funds had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$184, \$920, \$1,218, \$34,455, and \$8,531, as of December 31, 2020, respectively. As of December 31, 2019, the Village's Parks, Fire, Police, and Sewer Operating Funds had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$388, \$995, \$757, and \$11,049, respectively.

Failure to have adequate appropriations in place at the time expenditures are made could cause expenditures to exceed available resources, further resulting in deficit spending practices.

The Village Council should closely monitor expenditures and appropriations and make the necessary appropriation amendments, if possible, to reduce the likelihood of expenditures exceeding appropriations. Additionally, the Fiscal Officer should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations when appropriations are inadequate to cover the expenditures.

**Officials' Response:** Refer to the additional information in the Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-004**

#### **Noncompliance**

Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D)(1) provides that no orders or contracts involving the expenditure of money are to be made unless there is attached thereto a certificate of the fiscal officer certifying that the amount required for the order or contract has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury or in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrances. Every such contract made without such a certificate shall be void and no warrant shall be issued in payment of any amount due thereon.

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 (Continued)

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-004 (Continued)**

#### **Noncompliance (Continued)**

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

- 1. "Then and Now" certificate If the chief fiscal officer can certify both at the time the contract or order was made ("then"), and at the time the fiscal officer is completing the certification ("now"), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collections, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the Village Council can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The Village Council has thirty days from the receipt of the "then and now" certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.
  - Amounts less than \$100 in counties and less than \$3,000 in all other subdivisions may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the "then and now" certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the Village.
- 2. Blanket Certificate The auditor or fiscal officer may prepare "blanket" certificates for a certain sum of money, not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority, against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
- 3. Super Blanket Certificate The Village Council may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel oil, gasoline, food items, roadway materials, utilities, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. This certification is not to extend beyond the current fiscal year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

Due to deficiencies in internal controls, five of six or 83 percent of the transactions tested at year-end were not certified by the Fiscal Officer at the time the commitment was incurred, and there was no evidence the Village followed the aforementioned exceptions. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

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

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

Officials' Response: Refer to the additional information in the Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 (Continued)

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-005**

#### **Material Weakness**

Sound accounting practices require accurately posting estimated receipts and appropriations to the ledgers to provide information for budget versus actual comparison and to allow Village Council to make informed decisions regarding budgetary matters. The appropriation resolution and subsequent amendments establish the legal spending authority of the Village and the appropriation ledger provides the process by which the Village controls spending, it is therefore necessary the amounts appropriated by Village Council are precisely stated and accurately posted to the appropriation ledger. The original certificate and amendments establish the amounts available for expenditures for the Village and the receipts ledger provides the process by which the Village controls what is available, it is therefore necessary the amounts estimated by the County Budget Commission are posted accurately to the receipts ledger.

The Village did not have procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The approved Certificate of Estimated Resources and/or amendments thereof was not posted correctly to the accounting system.

At December 31, 2020, estimated receipts approved by the Budget Commission did not agree to the Village's ledgers for the following funds:

	Approved		
Fund	Amount	UAN Amount	Variance
General	\$48,119	\$50,137	(\$2,018)
Fire Department	63,577	77,052	(13,475)
Police	22,635	32,017	(9,382)
Water Operating	207,851	219,108	(11,257)
Sewer Operating	168,657	180,800	(12,143)

At December 31, 2019, estimated receipts approved by the Budget Commission did not agree to the Village's ledgers for the following funds:

	Approved		
Fund	Amount	<b>UAN Amount</b>	Variance
Fire Department	162.243	13.300	148.943

Failure to accurately post the appropriations and estimated resources to the ledgers could result in overspending and negative cash balances. In addition, this could lead to inaccurate reporting of the budgetary information in the financial statements.

To effectively control the budgetary cycle and to maintain accountability over receipts and expenditures, the Village should post to the ledgers, on a timely basis, estimated resources as certified by the budget commission and appropriations approved by the Village Council. The Village should then monitor budget versus actual reports to help ensure amended certificates of resources and appropriations have been properly posted to the ledgers.

**Officials' Response:** Refer to the additional information in the Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 (Continued)

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-006**

#### **Material Weakness**

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; 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 as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Furthermore, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54 defined how fund balances were to be classified and was codified as follows: GASB Cod. 1800.168-169 requires reporting funds whose revenue has external legal constraints as Restricted. GASB Cod. 1800.170-172 requires reporting funds whose revenue had constraints imposed by the Board, which could not be changed without Board approval, as Committed. Auditor of State Bulletin 2011-004 requires local governments which prepare cash basis financial statements to implement these fund balance classifications and governmental fund type definitions.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020, the following misstatements were noted:

- Homestead and Rollback receipts were incorrectly allocated among funds resulting in receipts being overstated in the General Fund by \$921 and the Street Construction Maintenance and Repair Fund by \$261 while being understated in the Fire Fund by \$548 and the Police Fund by \$634. Additionally these receipts were recorded as Property Taxes rather than Intergovernmental.
- Fire contract receipts were incorrectly posted in the Fire Fund as Miscellaneous and Property Taxes receipts in the amounts of \$9,751 and \$14,750, respectively, rather than as Charges for Services.
- EMS contract receipts were incorrectly posted in the EMS fund as Property Taxes receipts in the amount of \$7,235 rather than as Charges for Services.
- A receipt from the Ohio Dept. of Commerce for \$5,750 was recorded as Special Assessment rather than Intergovernmental in the Water Construction Fund.
- Loan proceeds on OWDA Loan #7954 were incorrectly recorded as Charges for Services and Miscellaneous receipts in the amounts of \$44,612 and \$730 rather than as Loan Proceeds in the Water Operating Fund. Additionally for this loan, \$59,320 of proceeds were not recorded therefore Loan Proceeds and Capital Outlay were understated.
- Loan proceeds on OWDA Loan #8660 were incorrectly recorded as Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$8,874 rather than as Loan Proceeds in the Sewer Operating Fund.
- Loan proceeds on OWDA Loan #8306 were incorrectly recorded as Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$4,535 rather than as Loan Proceeds in the Water Operating Fund. Additionally for this loan, principal forgiveness was not recorded therefore Principal Retirement and Intergovernmental receipts were understated by \$4,535.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2019, the following misstatements were noted:

- Homestead and Rollback receipts were incorrectly allocated among funds resulting in receipts being overstated in the General Fund by \$890 and the Street Construction Maintenance and Repair Fund by \$151 while being understated in the Fire Fund by \$327 and the Police Fund by \$714. Additionally these receipts were recorded as Property Taxes rather than Intergovernmental.
- Fire contract receipts were incorrectly posted in the Fire Fund as Property Taxes receipts in the amount of \$12,000 rather than as Charges for Services.
- EMS contract receipts were incorrectly posted in the EMS fund as Property Taxes receipts in the amount of \$3,250 rather than as Charges for Services.

#### SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 (Continued)

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

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2020-006 (Continued)**

#### **Material Weakness (Continued)**

- The Parks and Street Construction Maintenance and Repair funds fund balances of \$3,107 and \$28,610, respectively, were incorrectly reported as Committed rather than Restricted.
- A receipt from the Development Services Agency for \$72,888 was recorded as Special Assessment rather than Intergovernmental in the Water Construction Fund.
- Loan proceeds on OWDA Loan #7954 were incorrectly recorded as Special Assessment receipts in the amount of \$13,941 rather than as Loan Proceeds in the Water Construction Fund. Additionally for this loan, \$24,692 of proceeds were not recorded in the Water Construction Fund therefore Loan Proceeds and Capital Outlay were understated.
- Loan proceeds on OWDA Loan #7954 were incorrectly recorded as Charges for Services and Miscellaneous receipts in the amounts of \$4,259 and \$18,881 rather than as Loan Proceeds in the Water Operating Fund.
- Loan proceeds on OWDA Loan #8306 were incorrectly recorded as Miscellaneous receipts in the amount of \$5,465 rather than as Loan Proceeds in the Water Operating Fund. Additionally for this loan, principal forgiveness was not recorded therefore Principal Retirement and Intergovernmental receipts were understated by \$5,465.

Additionally, we noted the Village's footnotes had the following errors:

- Adjustments were necessary for actual receipts and budgetary expenditures in the Budgetary Activity Note due to the adjustments noted above in both years and in 2019 Budgeted Receipts did not agree to the Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources.
- The demand deposit totals were reported as \$102,059 and \$366,073 rather than \$358,632 and \$290,706 in the Deposit Notes for the years ended December 31, 2020 and 2019, respectively. Additionally the deposit notes failed to include information about the deposits being collateralized through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS).
- Material corrections were made to the Debt Notes outstanding balances and amortization tables.

Audit adjustments, with which management has agreed, are reflected in the accompanying financial statements and notes.

Management should refer to the Village Officer's Handbook for proper classification and take additional care in posting transactions to the Village's ledgers and annual financial report in order to ensure the Village's year-end financial statements reflect the appropriate sources and uses of the Village's receipts and disbursements. Additionally, management should utilize the Auditor of State website to access resources to assist in accurate completion of the notes to the financial statements.

Officials' Response: Refer to the additional information in the Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings.



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John S Roberts, Mayor

# SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2018-001	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (I) for having deficit fund balances.	Not Corrected	Budgets are a weakness to the FO and struggles with control. No assistance from Village Mayor & Council (because they do not understand how it works) to establish budget—left to FO to do on own. FO needs training to "practice" in order to learn the proper procedure.
2018-002	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 for appropriations exceeding estimated resources.	Not Corrected	FO is having problems with setting up the Temporary and Permanent budgets. Resources such as Gas tax is unpredictable. Levies are passed and County Auditor gives the total to be collected and FO enters those figures into the Revenue Budget but not all property tax (levy) monies are paid, so we fall short. FO is very willing to take training and would prefer to be off site because of the constant interruptions. One-person office to handle all depts at once.
2018-003	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B) for expenditures exceeding appropriations.	Not Corrected	Some expenditures don't have any prior approval before the FO receives them. Difficulty stopping unapproved expenditures (old habit from prior years). Obligations are created and village must pay.
2018-004	Noncompliance with Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(D) for not properly encumbering.	Not Corrected	Super BC and Regular BC—FO has not been able to use. Consistent obligations such as purchased water, electricity, gas and telephone should be set up as BC's (Super or regular), the FO understands concept but can't seem to implement.
2018-005	Material Weakness for approved estimated receipts and appropriations not agreeing to those posted in the Village's accounting system.	Partially Corrected	FO enters what the County sends as estimated revenue but doesn't submit timely (to County) any additional funds until the end of the year, which makes some funds in the deficit. Projects like the Fire House expansion, and the future ODOT Downtown enhancement project had expenditures before funding was received and reported to county auditor. FO seeks off site training in order to fully understand and utilize.

#### SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2019 (Continued)

2018-006	Material Weakness regarding errors noted in the financial statements and footnotes.	Not Corrected	FO still struggles with some of the information for the footnotes. FO works in a very busy, 1 person does it all, office. Taking the time to watch the training video's is impossible—too many interruptions. FO is understanding the UAN more and more but still struggles. LG
			assistance was very helpful in the past but
			due to COVID, has been reduced.



#### **VILLAGE OF NEW STRAITSVILLE**

#### **PERRY 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 1/13/2022

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